

The Covenant Church Week of Prayer 2009

During this week of prayer we are seeking God's will for 2009 - for ourselves, for our church, for our city, for our nation, for our world. If we are obedient, this exercise can be a life-changing experience for The Covenant Church and you!

Prayer is a conversation with God. You share yourself with God and he shares himself with you. Speak to him as you would your best friend. He IS your BEST FRIEND! Don't worry about impressing him. He knows you better than you know yourself. Give him time to respond. Read Scripture and think about it. Spend time in silence during your prayer time, waiting and listening for what God may have for you. Throughout the day, think about what you read in Scripture or what God may have given you to think about in your silence. He may speak in terms of something for you as an individual or for the congregation. Write down any sense of God speaking to you that you might have.

This booklet will guide our church through this week, that we will all be praying for the same thing on the same day. As you pray each day, spend some time praying specifically for the topic of the day listed in this guide. Scriptures are listed for you to read and ponder as you pray and listen to God. There is also an indication of which names in our church directory to pray for. Space prohibited listing them all in the guide, but we have tried to add any names that are not in the directory. We have given suggestions for prayer, but these are not all-inclusive; feel free to add to them. God may lead you to pray for specific people or circumstances. Go for it! This is the great thing about prayer: you aren't praying alone, the Spirit helps you to pray! Let him.



"We cannot all be top-flight theologians, but we can all pray;
we cannot all be leaders, but we can all be pleaders;
we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric, but we can all be prevalent in prayer."

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Sunday

Read Acts 4:23-31

For Ourselves

Commit yourself to hearing and obeying God in 2009

For our Church

To keep in step with the Spirit.

Church Leadership to know and follow God's will; have God's vision and lead others

That God would guide us in our preparations for the future

That we grow as a community devoted to biblical teaching

Church chair, vice-chair: Jamie McClurg, Joe Kwiatkowski

For our Community

That Cheboygan would begin to experience revival

For hearts to be open to the message of the gospel in the midst of difficult times

For health and blessings upon our city leaders

For protection for fire, ambulance and police

For the Church around the world

For spiritual, emotional and physical health for missionaries around the world

For unity, holiness and Biblical teaching to be the standard

For pastors everywhere for faithful and powerful preaching

For our nation

For president elect Barack Obama

For unity in our country

For revival across the country

For the world

For peace among nations

That world leaders would do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God

For wisdom in dealing with current economic conditions

That justice would be done in terms of economic disparity

What did God say to me today?

Monday

Love God

Read Psalm 42

For Ourselves

Growth in love for God and closeness to Him
Desire for to spend time with God
Be aware of His love and delight in us
Feel joy and delight in knowing God and doing His work.

For our Church

That we grow as we enthusiastically introduce non-believers to Christ
For our Worship and Music Ministries
For unity in worship
For a heart of worship that focuses on giving to God
For deeper relationship with God
That our love for God would lead to greater obedience
People with last names A-C; + Michelle Beaudin

For our Community

More people would come to know God and love Him (pray by name)
For people addicted to drugs and/or alcohol and for their families
That people would find joy and peace in God and not seek it in
drugs/alcohol

For the Church around the world

For the persecuted church that God would sustain them and bring glory to
himself through the trials
More people in prayer
A greater desire for God and His will
Deeper relationships with Christ
Increased reading and understanding of Bible

For our nation

That people would turn from greed and consumerism
For wisdom among our nations leaders in dealing with the many problems
we are facing as a nation
For purity and morality in our leaders at all levels

For the world

That nations of the world would begin to recognize the King of Kings

What did God say to me today?

Tuesday
Love Others

Read 1 John 3:11-24

For Ourselves

That we grow in our love for others, not simply with words but with actions and in truth

That we stretch beyond what is comfortable

That we begin by loving those closest to us with the love of Christ

For our Church

That our families and all relationships reflect the love of Christ

Unity in the congregation.

Fellowship Ministries

That people might see our love for each other and be changed

Forgiveness and reconciliation for wrongs and hurts

People with last names D-H; + Tony & Gina Eustice, Barb Gedman

For our Community

That people would recognize and honor the institution of the family that God has established

Marriages – servant love would be the model

Singles – strong relationships, direction, purity, peace

For single parent homes

Youth & Children – purity, understanding of identity in Christ, respect

For the Church around the world

That love for others would be the mark of the church

For our nation

That people would recognize the gift of sex and live by the guidelines that God has given

For those involved in pornography – those addicted to using it, those exploited by the industry and those who run the industry

That racism, and all other forms of discrimination would end

That people would recognize and honor the institution of the family which God has established.

For the world

Understanding between nations

For the victims of human trafficking and the world's response

What did God say to me today?

Wednesday

Live Like Jesus

Read 2 Peter 3:14-18

For Ourselves

That God would show us the areas in our lives that need transformation

That we would commit ourselves to disciplines and activities that facilitate becoming more like Jesus

That we would grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus

For our Church

Christian Education and Discipleship Ministries

That we would find ways to teach everyone become like and live like Jesus

For wisdom in forming programs that would help people at all stages and ages to be radically devoted followers of Christ

For our all of our teachers and helpers

For leadership and direction in youth ministries

That we would grow in the understanding that discipleship is not an optional component of Christianity and we would commit to spiritual transformation

For people with last names I-N; + Justin & Holly Martinchek, Brian & Nancy Nowtizke,

For our Community

The elderly – for a deep relationship with God and a sense of purpose; for sense of belonging and feeling loved, to be treated with respect

For the Church around the world

That Christians around the world would grow in the fruit of the Spirit

That the church would preach AND live the gospel

For missionaries to have professional and personal purity

For our nation

That people would recognize the sanctity of life and work to protect both its beginning and end

For those suffering in these times of economic difficulties – that God would provide their needs and that they might recognize the one who supplies for their needs

For the world

That the nations might begin to seek the good of others and not merely seek their own selfish interests

That leaders would truly seek to be servants and not masters

What did God say to me today?

Thursday
Serve the World

Read Mark 10:42-45

For Ourselves

That God would show me how I have been shaped to serve and lead me into service for his kingdom

That God would show me how I might adjust my lifestyle to serve him and others better

That we might have the heart of God for the oppressed, poor and outcast

For our Church

Evangelism Ministries

Mission trips this year

That God would open our eyes to new ministry opportunities to serve Cheboygan and people would step forward to serve and lead

People with last names O-V; + Dennis & Sarah Olsen, Kris Safford, Pam Schulz, Fred & Nicole Smith

For our Community

Local missions: The Lord's Kitchen, The Food Pantry, Crisis Pregnancy Center, Habitat for Humanity, Northern Care Clinic; Northern Michigan Jail Orphans, widows and the homeless

For the Church around the world

For a growth in missions to serve the "least of these"

For ministries to those in prison

For our nation

Continued wisdom in times of economic challenges

For those who produce movies, write books and otherwise create culture

A reduction in crime

For the world

That people would begin to care for God's creation and protect the resources given by the creator, and understand that that caring for the earth is not worshipping it

That nations might share their resources and use them to help the poor and the oppressed; that economic injustice would end and justice roll down like a mighty water

What did God say to me today?

Friday

Read Philippians 4:14-20

For Ourselves

That we might understand and live as if nothing we have belongs to us, but that we are only stewards to use our time, talent, treasure and testimony for God's glory and the building of the kingdom

For wisdom in giving of our time, talent and treasure to the work of God's kingdom.

For our Church

Diaconate: John Hunt, Dave Peterman, Rose Roberson, Jan Tulk

That we would be good stewards of the resources that God gives to us: people, talents, money, facilities

That we would be stretched and pushed out of our comfort zones

That we would trust God to provide for our needs

For people with last names W-Z + College Students, Friends of Church, + Janet Wood, Dave & Julie Wilkinson

For our pastor as he leads us in our year of "Serve the World"

For our Community

Wisdom for those working to bring additional jobs to Cheboygan

For each and every business in Cheboygan. Mackinaw City and the rest of the area to prosper and be run with integrity and fairness

For the Church around the world

That the church might see in these times of turmoil not a time to "circle the wagons" but a time to reach out with the love of Christ and the offer of God's security

For our nation

That we would see the hurts and divisions of this recent election put aside and work, not just words, coming out of our leaders

For the world

That government policies would be fair and and we would see an end to injustice, particularly economic

That the nations would work together so that more people do not die needlessly due to solvable problems like unclean drinking water.

What did God say to me today?

Saturday

Speak, O Lord

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (See Revelation 2-3)

For Ourselves

What has God showed me about myself this week – that is pleasing or displeasing?

Where is God leading me?

When God looks inside my heart, what does he see?

How can I grow in my love for others?

Am I growing more like Christ each day?

How does God want me to serve the world this year?

For our Church

What has God said to me about our church this week – whether encouragement or chastisement?

Are all of our relationships based on servant love?

What can we do as a church to help people grow in their love for each other?

What ministries does God want us to start (or stop) this year?

What new opportunities to serve the world are there?

Should we be hiring new staff? Who? Do do what?

For our Community

What needs in our community can we as a church meet? How?

What ways can we demonstrate the love of God to our community?

For the Church around the world

How is God calling us to work with the church in our community and around the world?

For our nation

How can we be salt and light in our nation?

How can I better pray for our nation?

Is there a way that our church can influence this nation for Christ?

For the world

What does God want us doing to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth?

What is God saying to you? To us as a church?