

# DEVELOPING A PRAYING CONGREGATION

## FOR JESUS, DAILY PRAYER WAS AS ESSENTIAL AS BREATHING!

Prayer enabled him to discern God's will for his life and find comfort and support to overcome the spiritual apathy, hypocrisy and injustice of his day.

As the resurrected and living Christ, Jesus promised he will be with us in our own daily struggles. The Spirit he placed in our hearts calls us to turn to God in prayer, and find comfort and support, rest and peace.

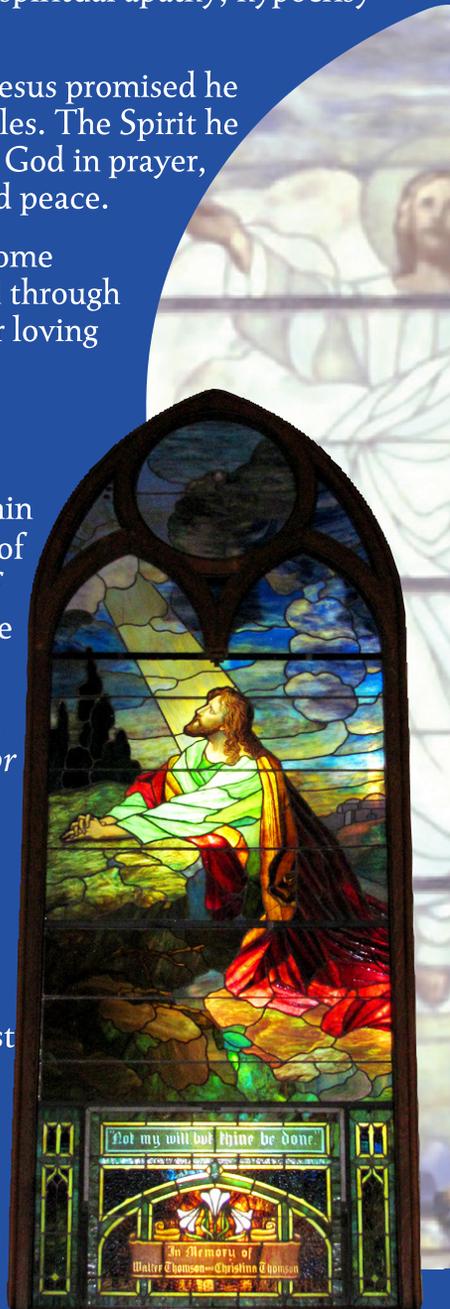
As Lord and Savior, Jesus calls us to come before our loving and just God, in and through prayer, so we might be empowered for loving service to a hurting and broken world.

## PRAYER MINISTRY'S PURPOSE

To encourage a passion for prayer within the congregational life and ministries of First Presbyterian so that the power of Christ's love is made manifest in all we are and do!

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The following is a partial list of prayer opportunities within the life of First Presbyterian Church. Our prayer is they will help you grow closer to Christ and to each other as a community of faith and hope, love and service.



# PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

## WHEREVER YOU ARE

God is always open to our prayers! It's as easy as *"Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name..."*

## FPC CARE AND CONCERN LINE

Call 222-2273 to both hear and offer requests for prayer. Requests are also available as a daily e-mail (see receptionist).

## FIRST CUP

"First Cup" readings include a prayer list for your daily use!

## PRIOR TO WORSHIP

Prior to worship: pray for the pastors and congregation that God's word of truth be proclaimed with boldness and clarity, and be received and acted upon with both faith and service!

## DURING WORSHIP

During worship: take the time to pray for self and others!

## AFTER WORSHIP

After worship: dedicated individuals are available to pray for and with you after each service!

## HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Monthly services for Healing and Wholeness are open to all!

## MISSIONS

Mission outreach activities, local and global in nature, depend on prayer for success in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of those being served!

## SESSION AND DIACONATE

Prayer is an integral part of Session, Diaconate and Stephens Ministry activities. Their members seek and value your daily prayers.

## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Prayer enriches staff and committee meetings, Presbyterian Women events and activities, Sunday School classes, weekday Bible studies, small groups, choir rehearsals, men's prayer breakfasts, Shawl Ministry, and more. Each group is encouraged to open and close with prayer, and to rely on prayer in discerning decisions and growing closer to Christ and to each other as a community of faith and hope, love and service!

## RETREATS AND GATHERINGS

Prayer is bedrock to staff and congregational retreats, and to family gatherings of all types and situations. These offer great opportunities to grow in faith and service through prayer!

## MAJOR LIFE DECISIONS

Prayer is always appropriate whenever major life decisions are being considered, whether they deal with personal and family life, employment issues, financial choices, health concerns and the list goes on. In all these situations, prayer is appropriate, beneficial, and always helpful!

## HELP EXPAND THIS LIST!

Offer your comments and suggestions to Rick Lane, Prayer Ministry Chair, at 210-826-8671.

Make prayer an everyday part of your life of faith. In doing so, individually and together we become more oriented to put "service above self" and find the true joy that comes from living to make Jesus visible!