

BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BULLETIN

09/10/2023



It should not be the last, most desperate thing we do

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

(1 Thess. 5:16). When Nehemiah heard of a problem with the Jewish exiles and Jerusalem from Hanani, he acted without hesitation. Did he immediately ask his friends for counsel on the matter or rush off to Jerusalem? No, he did not. He did not even approach the king to ask for leave to go to Jerusalem. In fact, it would be four months before he went to King Artaxerxes concerning the matter. It may seem to some that he did not act at all for a time, but what he did was not only the best thing under the circumstances but a lesson for all of us. Not relying on his own wisdom for a solution, he decided to pray first. *“As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”* **(Neh. 1:4).**

In 1 Thess. 5:16, the Greek for “ceasing,” means to pray uninterruptedly and incessantly, without omission or intermission. In other words, prayer should be as automatic to a Christian as breathing is – not a thing we think about, but rather something that is done automatically. Prayer should be the first thing we do every morning and the last thing we do every evening, but even more so when we are confronted with a challenge. Too often, we pray for something, and then, when we do not get the answer we are looking for quickly enough, we throw our hands up in the air. In fact, we may even get mad at God for not listening. Sometimes we get tired of praying for it and simply quit, or other “more” important things come up, and we concentrate on them instead.

Did you know the average person thinks 12,000 to 60,000 thoughts a day? Now imagine if an eighth or even a sixteenth of those were dedicated to prayers.

Rom 12:12 also tells us to *“Be constant in prayer;”* and **Col. 4:2** has this to say, *“Continue steadfastly in prayer.”* Not convinced yet? **Phil. 4:6** reads, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”*, while **Eph. 6:18** begins with, *“Praying at all times in the Spirit....”* Notice the common theme among the aforementioned verses? Pray is not merely one of the instruments in our spiritual toolbox, it is the primary one, and we should use it before any other. Don’t be afraid that you will wear it out – you won’t.

PTO...

Don't be afraid that God will get annoyed by your constant "whining" and not answer your prayers. Jer. 29:12 tells us that when we approach God in prayer, He hears us. Prayer clearly cannot be worn out and does not have a limit attached to it. Don't give up on prayer because a persistent prayer makes an impression on God and proves that you trust His omnipotence and timing. Not praying has a dangerous and unintended consequence – relying on ourselves instead of God. When we become more satisfied with physical blessings than spiritual ones, we risk forsaking our Creator. We begin to think that we have the power to overcome any obstacle and stop relying on God for the answer. When we do that, our best-made plans can lead us to ruin.

Nothing is more ineffective in finding a solution than running into a situation unprepared. Nehemiah knew that and first asked God for direction before he acted. Asking God for help should be the initial thing we do, not the last and most desperate one. Prayer should be the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing at night. Pray in the shower, while running errands, watching TV, before eating, and whenever you can spare a few moments. All the greatest characters in the Bible, including Jesus Himself, prayed unceasingly. Praying that way also has unintended consequences. Doing so will connect you in a much deeper way to your God and will give you the power to go through life with confidence and peace - try it and see what happens.

<u>AM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>	<u>PM ORDER OF WORSHIP</u>
<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> - Cleve Stafford	<u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> - Cleve Stafford
<u>SONG</u> - 282 - I Know That My Redeemer Lives	<u>SONG</u> - 315 - I'll Live in Glory
<u>PRAYER</u> - Emmanuel Twumasi	<u>PRAYER</u> - Jeffery Tarmey
<u>SONG</u> - 544 - Redeemed	<u>SONG</u> - 348 - Jesus Is All the World to Me
<u>COMMUNION</u> - Isaiah 53:5 Douglas Roy	<u>SERMON</u> - The Most Dangerous Words: "I Spoke to the Man Upstairs"
<u>SONG</u> - 473 - O How I Love Jesus	<u>SONG</u> - 345 - It Is Well With My Soul
<u>SERMON</u> - The Impact of Grace on Our Lives	<u>COMMUNION</u> - Douglas Roy
<u>INV SONG</u> - 450 - Nearer My God to Thee	<u>INV SONG</u> - 351 - Jesus Is Coming Soon
<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Matt Brinckerhoff	<u>CLOSING PRAYER</u> - Dylan Stafford



ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS



Please silence your phone by placing it in airport mode.

We ask all visitors to please pick up a visitors card and fill it in.

- Bulletins are on the fireplace table and sermon notes are inside when available.
- Please put your offering in the provided envelope (don't write anything on it)..
- If you look on the back of the visitors card you will see space to right a prayer request if you have one - feel free to do that and hand it in to us so we can pray about it.
- Potluck Luncheon - 24 September following morning service, invite a friend and bring a dish to share (12 servings)
- Movie Night - 30 September at 6:30pm here at the church.
- Ladies Breakfast - 7 October at 10:30am here at the church. Invite a friend and bring a dish to share.



PRAYER REQUESTS



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- Continued Prayers for Melinda's mom Isabel du Toit who is still undergoing Chemotherapy.
- Our Prayers go out to Duchess County Church of Christ who lost one of their older ladies yesterday
- Safe Travels for Melinda and Nancy for their trip to the Gander Brook Ladies Retreat.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

- Praise God for our sponsors.
- Praise God for the privilege to worship in safety
- Praise God for the measure of health and wealth we enjoy

BIRTHDAYS / SPECIAL OCCASIONS



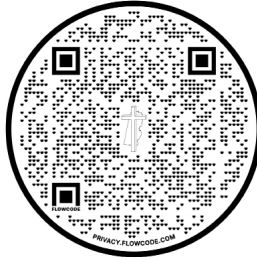
19 September - Stacey Tarmey

24 September - Sally Twumasi

Sunday morning Bible Class - 9:00AM
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 7:00PM
 Personal Bible Study (Convenient time)



Web Page



WiFi



Facebook

Word Search



Word List

CHARACTER	CHRIST	DEATH	ETERNAL
FAITH	FLESH	GLORY	GRACE
JUSTIFIED	LOVE	MERCY	MINDFUL
SIN	SON	THRONE	TRUTH
WAGES			