

September 2024 Worship Guide

CHERRYVALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 709 CHERRY HILL DR, STAUNTON VA - 540 885 0098

This booklet contains the outline for each worship service during the month of September 2024.

As of the time of going to print, Sunday worship is in person, online and broadcast on the radio (you can listen in your car on FM 87.9, in the church parking lot). If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch online on our website and YouTube channel. Even if we are not worshipping in the same building, we are still one body, one family, we are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Look up the scriptures referenced in the following pages; pray the words, and claim the promises for you and your family. - Pastor Jonathan

What Should I Pray For?

Do you ever find yourself struggling to know what to pray for? You want to make prayer part of your daily routine, but you feel like you are repeating yourself. You want to freshen things up. You are not alone. For many Christians, prayer can sometimes feel dry or stale. Prayer is talking with someone who loves you deeply and knows you intimately, so it might be hard to admit or deal with when the conversation has seemed to dry up. Part of the problem can also be the temptation to see prayer as talking to God rather than talking with Him. But everyone goes through times when praying feels like walking uphill. Here is a list of things you can pray for when you need a little inspiration. Each item on the list comes with a verse from the Bible to shape your thinking and an example of how you might pray in response.

1. Praise God for Who He Is

What the Bible says: - "For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)

How you might pray: - God, You are incredible. You are the source of everything good in life and the creator of a beautiful world. I praise You for being who You are. Thank you for creating all things, including me, for Yourself.

2. Thank God for What He Has Done

What the Bible says: - "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

How you might pray: - Thank You, God, that You loved the whole entire world. Thank You that You loved me before I loved You and You were willing to demonstrate Your love by making the ultimate sacrifice for me — Your death on a cross. Thank You for giving me the gift of eternal life.

3. Pray that You Remember God's Love and Grace for You

What the Bible says: - "Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. ... As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love." (John 15:4-5, 9-10)

How you might pray: - Jesus, help me to remember that You love me and that I need You and Your love every day. Thank You that who I am and how You feel about me is based on who You are and Your love for me. Thank You that I cannot earn Your love and acceptance, but because of what Jesus has done for me and the faith You've given me in Him, I have it. Help me to live differently because I am perfectly loved by You.

September Worship

Sept 1, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Song of Sol 2:8-13; Ps 45 or Ps 72; Jas 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-23

Call to Worship

Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. Those who despise deliberate sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever. The Lord of all makes us worthy to enter God's presence through Jesus Christ, as we become hearers and doers of the word. We raise our sacrifice of praise!

Prayer of Confession

God of justice and righteousness, your call beckons to us: to live faithful lives, to turn from wickedness, and to walk in your ways. Yet, it is so easy to turn aside: to speak a thoughtless word, to ignore those in need, to strike out in anger, and to forget your ways. We allow the busyness of our lives to erode the intentions of our hearts. Our personal agendas take precedence over reaching out to others. We keep putting off being more active "doers of the word." Forgive us. Plant your word in our hearts, and cleanse us from all evil. By the power of your love, save our souls, that we might faithfully serve you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Generous, giving God; we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. We offer our gifts to you in gratitude for all the blessings you rain down upon us. Your sunshine warms us, your earth feeds us, and your word nourishes us. More than these gifts of money, we give ourselves—our time and our energy—that we might be doers of your word and not just hearers only. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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**Sept 8, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps 125 or Ps 124; Jas 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

## **Call to Worship**

Lord, open our hearts this morning to hear your words of new life. Lord, help us to truly listen to you. Lord, open our spirits this morning to strengthen our faith. Lord, help us to work for you. Lord, make us ready to serve. Lord, make us ready to witness to your healing love that transforms our life and the life of the world, for our life is in you!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Holy God who transforms our lives, how casually we say we trust you, yet how quickly our fears silence our words. We say we have faith, but at times our faith lacks fruit. We find it hard to love our neighbor as ourselves. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries until they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love. Forgive us, O Lord, and do good to us when we have trouble doing good for others. Give us faith that is alive and shows forth your love.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Faithful God, we give of what we have so that people in our community and around the world may be clothed, fed, and cared for. We give to make our church a place where every person is welcome to have a seat at the table. We give as a commitment to put our faith into action. God of justice and mercy, thank you for calling us out of our complacency. Draw our faith into action for the sake of others, especially those we might not even realize that we are ignoring. Bless our gifts that we may use them to bless our community and the world through good works that reflect your love and grace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# September Worship

**Sept 15, 2024**

**Scriptures to read and meditate on**

Prov 1:20-33; Ps 19; Jas 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

## **Call to Worship**

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display God's craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. Come, let us join our voice and tongues with all creation to praise and bless the Lord!

## **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we have failed to be obedient to your Word, we have not done your will, and we have broken your law. Too often, our tongues have become weapons that have hurt others. Instead of speaking your Truth in love, we speak hate, lies, and tear others down. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people made in the likeness of God. This should not be. Forgive us gracious Lord and help us to tame our tongues to speak in love Your Truth.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Loving God, we give you thanks for the words of eternal life that you have spoken to us through your Son. You have shown us so much compassion despite our tongues. As we offer our monetary gifts to you this day, help us to recognize that you are the source of every blessing and that, through us, you are working to build up your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Send us out, empowered by your Spirit, to use our tongues, not only to bless you, but to bless others created in your image. Through the eternal word of the Father, Jesus the Son, we pray. Amen.

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Sept 22, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Prov 31:10-31; Ps 1 (UMH 738); Jas 3:13-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Call to Worship

Are you longing for more wisdom in your life? Do you face conflicts that need answers, tough situations that require special insight? Do you need more peace in your life? Do you long to bear good fruit in your life? YES! Draw near to God, the giver of wisdom, and God will draw near to you. Immortal and Invisible God, we humble ourselves before you as we worship your wise and holy name!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, Your word tells us that true wisdom comes from a life lived in a way that is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, and impartial. But we confess that we have not always followed this path. Forgive us for the times when we have let our tongues speak in anger and hatred, instead of using them to spread your love and grace. Forgive us for the jealousy and selfish ambition that has caused division and strife in our relationships. Forgive us for our prideful and arrogant attitudes, thinking we know better than your perfect plan. Help us to submit ourselves to you and resist the temptations of the world. Strengthen us by your grace to guide us in our journey of faith, knowing that only through your forgiveness can we truly become the wise and humble servants that you have called us to be.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Love and Mercy, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts, honoring your enduring guidance in our lives. Just as Wisdom works with willing hands and provides for those in need, may these gifts be used to nurture and uplift our community. Inspire us to follow your teachings of kindness and generosity. Transform our contributions into acts of love and justice, spreading your light in the world. May we always give credit to your divine wisdom and grace. In your holy and wise name, we pray. Amen.

September Worship

Sept 29, 2024

Scriptures to read and meditate on

Song of Sol 2:8-13; Ps 45 or Ps 72; Jas 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-23

Call to Worship

If it had not been God who was on our side: the troubles of our world would have swallowed us whole. If it had not been God who was on our side, the sorrows of our times would have swept us away. Are any among us suffering? Come and pray. Are any among us cheerful? Come sing songs of praise. Are any among us sick? Come and ask for healing. Our help is in our God, the One who made heaven and earth. The One that calls us from a world of care. In this sweet hour of prayer, we worship God's holy name. God is on our side.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess our sins to each other and pray for each other so that we may be healed. We confess that we often do not come to you in times of suffering, cheer, or sickness. We confess that we have failed to bring brothers and sisters who have wandered away from the truth, back to salvation. We confess that our sin often keeps us from full relationship with you and one another because of guilt and shame, or pride and jealousy. Free us from our bondage to sin. Empower us to pray for one another, even our enemy, through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious Lord, we join together in prayer to give you our thanks. We recognize that daily prayer impacts our spiritual health. Likewise, offering our tithes to you impacts our spiritual health. The acts of praying and giving unify our church community, and places our shared attention on you. As we offer ourselves through our gifts, we hope to draw even closer to you, as you draw us closer to one another. We pray in the name of Jesus who gives us friendship with God, and who bears all our sins and griefs in this life. Amen

What Should I Pray For? Continued from front cover

4. Pray That You Would Love Your Neighbors

What the Bible says: - "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-38)

How you might pray: - Father, please help me remember Your great love for me. Show me how I can demonstrate and communicate my faith in You and Your love to the people I live, work and play alongside every day. But help me to also notice those people who are on the fringes of my community and world, and give me the courage to reach out to, learn from and love them in tangible ways.

5. Talk to God About Someone in Need

What the Bible says: - "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

How you might pray: - Father God, I know You care deeply about the people in my life. Right now _____ is struggling with _____. I want them to know You love them and are ready to help them through this time.

6. Pray for Someone Who Does Not Yet Know Jesus

What the Bible says: - "Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with His promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the End because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change." (2 Peter 3:8-9, The Message)

How you might pray: - Thank You, God, for pursuing me before I took You seriously. Please show _____ how much You love them in a way they can understand, and use me to invite _____ into a relationship with You. Show me how to care for them and show them Your love. Help me to trust in Your perfect timing, God, and not give up.

7. Pray That You Would Love Your Enemies

What the Bible says: - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45)

How you might pray: - Father, whether I'm aware of it or not, I know there are people in my life I feel angry toward or hurt by. Give me the humility I need to forgive them, love them and pray for them without expecting or needing anything in return.

8. Pray That You Would Give Your Time, Money and Energy

What the Bible says: - "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrew 13:16)

How you might pray: - Father, I want to offer You everything I have, but I find it hard sometimes. Show me clearly if I am holding something back or if there is a specific need You want me to meet.

9. Pray for Your Church or Christian Community

What the Bible says: - "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:4-5)

How you might pray: - God, I know that I cannot grow in my faith without the support of other believers. Please strengthen my church and our leaders so we can make a difference where you have placed us.

10. Pray for Your City, Nation and Civic Leaders

What the Bible says: - "The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live." (1 Timothy 2:1-3, The Message)

How you might pray: - Father, draw people in our community closer to You, and use me to change the community I am part of. Give the leaders in my city and my nation wisdom as they make decisions each day. Help me to become more conscious of the needs of Your people and to think beyond my own immediate community.

11. Pray for Kindness

What the Bible says: - "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

How you might pray: - Lord, create in me a heart brimming over with compassion and kindness.

12. Pray for Humility

What the Bible says: - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

How you might pray: - Jesus, please help me to be humble, especially when I feel like my pride has been hurt.

13. Pray for Teachability

What the Bible says: - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26)

How you might pray: - God, give me a teachable heart so that I am able to take on board everything you want me to know and believe.

14. Pray for The Ability to Forgive

What the Bible says: - "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

How you might pray: - Lord, give me a heart that's ready to forgive, and help me to receive your forgiveness when I don't think I deserve it.

15. Pray for Obedience

What the Bible says: - "In fact, this is love for God: to keep His commands. And His commands are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)

How you might pray: - Lord, may I be quick to listen to and obey You.

Sweet Hour of Prayer Word Search

Just for fun, or use as a teaching aide with your younger family members.

M W C R S I E Q N O I T I T E P I L L E F F K Z Y W A V Y Q
I E V Q Y H J X S C D N B S B S F C D P S Q Q H O Z N P M O
Y Y W M L N P Y R S P D K V O W R K U X M M H S U E X Y C N
V A T F F R O R J X G K W Q S F F G N I E Q P U O O I J H Q
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K B O H M O D E Y N T K G P S D R U I S X O C L V J P O Y S
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S E N B J L S A S A S R N R K U E Z H Y N F R V T R V A M A
S G Y R L E K T J I R P I Q E V R W E U L R P Z E O V J I M
S W A I T I N G A Z O G Q E J T E T E I U P E G R I Q I H V
G A P W E I S O R T S U R T P W P P J V F D R D F V A S N J
A R O B K X E C R Z I A I Y F W R M E L H L O I P A T V O B
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F N O R Q H V N Y H I C T E Q A W V U X S N E U G N B B H L
E K F Q C E Y F M E A M W G H S U N E N O V B Z D L U E Q L
J B Y F C O Z T F H U O U Q W T D N O D I S T R E S S O S S
P L L W V M J Z F W R M S N I N A S D S V E Y C Z V R N E M
C F T E S E C X G L Z F S P X C A F J R L Z K P R A Y E R E
Z M Z M S Z Y T D B Q I S D R E F H E H X G I M H E Z P W C
N F V U O S W S D I B R G N S D D B K V N A G L A D L Y N I

Find the **41** Words from the hymn, Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of ***prayer!*** sweet ***hour*** of prayer!
that ***calls me*** from a ***world*** of care,
and ***bids*** me at my ***Father's throne***
make all my wants and ***wishes*** known.

In ***seasons*** of ***distress*** and ***grief,***
my ***soul*** has often found ***relief,***
and oft ***escaped*** the ***tempter's snare***
by thy ***return,*** sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
the ***joys*** I feel, the ***bliss*** I ***share***
of those whose ***anxious spirits*** burn
with ***strong desires*** for thy ***return!***

With such I ***hasten*** to the ***place***
where ***God*** my ***Savior*** shows his ***face,***
and ***gladly*** take my ***station*** there,
and ***wait for thee,*** sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
thy ***wings*** shall my ***petition*** bear
to him whose ***truth*** and ***faithfulness***
engage the ***waiting*** soul to ***bless.***

And since he bids me seek his face,
believe his ***word,*** and ***trust*** his ***grace,***
I'll ***cast on him*** my ***every care,***
and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

What Should I Pray For? Continued from page 5

16. Pray for Your Mind to Be Renewed

What the Bible says: - "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — His good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)

How you might pray: - God, please renew my mind so that I will know what You are calling me to do. Help me to do the right thing rather than the accepted or "normal" thing. As I read Your word, remind me of who I am, who You are and what my purpose here on earth is.

17. Pray for Purity

What the Bible says: - "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew 5:8)

How you might pray: - Jesus, I want my thoughts, words and actions to please You. Please search my heart and show me anything that offends you.

18. Pray for Responsibility

What the Bible says: - "So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." (Romans 14:12)

How you might pray: - God, You have given me time, talents, resources and relationships. Help me to make the best possible use of all these things, and teach me to withhold judgment on how other people use their own.

19. Pray for Hope and Courage

What the Bible says: - "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NIV)

How you might pray: - Father, you have given Jesus victory over death. Help all who suffer to know your mercy and kindness, including persecuted believers around the world. Give us the courage to face life's challenges, the hope to look beyond present circumstances and the faith to trust that You are good.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Weekly Lectio Divina & Prayer - starts Sept 4 - noon to 1pm

Lectio Divina, which translates to "divine reading" in Latin, is a Christian prayer practice that involves reading scripture in a meditative way.

The practice is intended to help people develop a closer relationship with God by listening to scripture with their whole selves, including their thoughts, images, memories, and desires.

Led by Pastor Jonathan - meet in the Simon Gilbert room.

Annual Block Party - Family Fun for ALL

Friday Sept 13 - 5-7 pm

Don't just invite neighbors and friends, invite the person you meet in the store, or while pumping gas, or walking the dog.

5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch &

Congregational meeting

Immediately following service, September 29, 2024