

Always Pray with Joy



Together we will focus on Prayer for the next two months. Using this guide, the whole congregation will pray for the same things, and in this way, we will lift our voices to God as one body, seeking the same discernment. Each week we will be asked to pray for a specific area of our church family life, with prompts and ideas for how we can pray in unity. Please commit to using this guide as part of your daily and weekly prayers!

October

Our focus will be to build up our ministry and committee work in wisdom, serving, inclusive hospitality and mentoring:

October 1-7: Nursery/CovKids/Cov56

We pray together for our youngest disciples of Jesus, for their faith to be nurtured, for church to be a safe place where they are welcomed and belong. We pray for the volunteers who cuddle and play with the smallest of Christ-followers; and who teach and lead with energy, love and commitment to our school aged disciples. We pray for more volunteers to help in this vital and faith forming time for children.

October 8-14: GEMS/Cadets

We pray the girls and boys who attend find friendships as they learn more about Jesus, and their own identities in Christ. We pray the leaders of these ministries enjoy these young disciples, and enjoy their work. We pray through GEMS and Cadets other kids would be welcomed and enfolded into God's family and they would meet Jesus.

October 15-21: Youth/ Teen

We pray for young people in our church family and our own families, who are in grades 7-12. We are mindful of the many pressures they face: school assignments, projects and exams; peer and social media pressure to "fit in"; pressure to succeed in academics, sports, music and other extracurricular activities; mental and emotional struggles. We remember in prayer that youth and teens feel uncertain about the future and often feel afraid they'll make the wrong decision. We pray encouragement, strength, good friendships, and protection for our youth and teens.



October 22-28: Youth/Teen

As a church family we decided to engage in the ministry experiment of hiring a Director of Teen and Youth. Prayerfully we wondered if this was a direction we were willing to take. We confess together we were not intentional as a faith family, in offering our encouragement, enthusiasm and support in this new direction. We confess together we failed in this experiment. Together we pray that God will help us discern where each of us fits into the ministry work of disciplining our youth and teens: as prayer supporters, as ministry encouragers, as mentors and spiritual friends for youth and teens, as volunteers to serve in this ministry, as support for parents and families of youth and teens, and as participants. We pray God would give us an eagerness to play whatever role the Holy Spirit gives us, for this discipleship ministry. We pray for the flourishing of our youth and teens, in their relationship with Christ and identity in Christ, their sense of belonging in our church family, and their friendships.

October 29-November 4: Fellowship Ministries

We pray for the gathering together of different small groups. We pray for the times of sharing and conversation and connection: that our words would be encouraging and we would build each other up. We pray our gatherings would be welcoming, we would have the courage to meet new people and open our friend groups up. We pray our gatherings for bible study, for fun evenings, for Care Group connections, for camping together, game nights and our gathering to share hobbies, would all be gracious spaces where we feel welcome and included, and we would joyfully invite neighbors and friends to join, knowing they too would be welcomed into our fellowship.

November

Our focus will be to build up our vision and mission:

November 5-11: Worship Ministry and Friendship Ministry

We pray for the Holy Spirit to lead our gathered worship on Sunday and our Friendship ministry worship on Monday. We pray each service would glorify God, build up and strengthen our faith, and teach us how to live daily. We pray our gathered worship times would set the tone for the six days we work, play and rest, and through our worship we would be taught how to live each day walking with the Lord. We pray we would gain godly wisdom, a renewed perspective and a greater sense of how we can be sent to serve in our world, through our worship.

November 12-18: Co-Impact Team, Serve trips, Community Gardens Ministry and Local Missions

We pray that we would become a Missionary Church and understand our calling from God as those who are sent with the Gospel in both word and deed. We pray for the ongoing work of the Co-Impact Team working with EduDeo Ministries: that their connections with those they have served continue and deepen and that the schools they build be places for the flourishing of generations, for God's glory.

We pray for the serve trips our youth and teen and others go on throughout the year. We pray these trips be faith forming and be a blessing to those whom we serve, that we would be salt and light wherever God leads us to be a good neighbour.

We pray our Community Gardens would continue to grow and flourish. We pray for our gardeners, that they would become part of our community and find deeper connection with us. We pray the Community Gardens would bless our community.

We pray for the work of Local Missions in our congregation as we make meaningful connections and partnerships in our community of Belmead. We pray for Belmead community, for the Community League, the Elementary School and for the people who live as our neighbors.

November 19-25: Council visioning and planning

We pray for each member of Council (by name); that they would be blessed with strength to do their work and wisdom in the Holy Spirit to lead well. We pray the Holy Spirit would pour out gifts on our Council, to lead and plan and sustain the ministry work we are given. We pray our congregation would support and bless Council, and Council would bless and support our congregation.

November 26-December 1: Communication and Cooperation

We pray God increase our sensitivity to each other. We pray for an increase in kindness, gentleness, patience, self control and humility among us, that we would grasp the love of Christ, and learn his love through our cooperation with each other that brings a deeper sense of belonging and unity. We pray our unity bear witness to the power of the Gospel.