

# 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting

PRAYER GUIDE



PRAYER AND WORSHIP NIGHTS

In the Commons from 6:00-7:00pm | 1410 N Main Street

AUGUST 16

AUGUST 23

AUGUST 30



I believe that the next great move of God in our church will be one birthed out of fervent prayer and humble service. God always seems to work in mighty ways when his people turn to him in humility, seek his divine leading, and follow him in obedience. I want to challenge you to join us on this journey over the next 21 days. As we prepare for the beginning of a new ministry season, we want to be united as a church in prayer. We believe that God wants to do some incredible things in and through Mercer Creek Church, but to do that we need to be a people committed to prayer.

Each day of this challenge you'll be given a unique prayer assignment. Set aside time throughout your day to pray for that day's specific purpose. Together we can anticipate God to transform our community, our church, and each of us individually. Enjoy the journey ahead!

Praying with you,

Dan Arnold

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14*

## FASTING

During these 21 days together, we are inviting you to commit to fasting with us in two ways. First, over the duration of these 21 days you are challenged to give something or multiple things up. Maybe you abstain from sugar, deserts, or meat. Perhaps you take a break from social media or another form of media. Whatever it may be, prayerfully choose to abstain from something for the duration of the 21 days as a way of consecrating this time to the Lord. Secondly, on each Wednesday of our three weeks in prayer we are inviting everyone who is physically able to (if you don't know please consult your physician) to do a full water or liquid only fast for whatever time period you are able to. If you can do 24 hours, great! Maybe start by just skipping breakfast, then try skipping lunch, etc. In place of those meals take time praying, reading scripture, and seeking the Lord.

There are so many references to fasting in the Bible. The article below references many of them. In Acts 13:2-3 we see a great reference to fasting in reference to a start of ministry:

*"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."*

Fast as you can. If this is all new to you, just take a few steps and trust God to lead you as far as He wants. There are many great resources available to learn more about fasting. Arthur Wallis's book "God's Chosen Fast" is a classic. This website from CRU has some great information for free:

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/fasting/biblical-fasting.html>

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP GATHERINGS

We will gather each Wednesday night for guided worship and prayer from 6 to 7pm in the Commons. Each night will have a different prayer focus:

### ***August 16 - Healthy Leaders***

We will be praying for the leaders of our church (our staff, our board, and our volunteers).

### ***August 23 - Loving God***

We will be praying about the first part of the Greatest Commandment, Jesus' call for us to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. On this night we will pray that God will take us deeper in our devotion to God as a church.

### ***August 30 - Loving Others***

We will be praying that God would increase our impact in our community and beyond. We will be praying that we would be a church who loves others well and that God would increase our passion for the lost and broken hearted; those in our neighborhoods, communities, and globally.

We would love to have you come and join us as we seek God together through worship and prayer!

# 21 Day Prayer Guide

## **Day 1, August 13th**

In Acts 1:14, we read that “They all joined together constantly in prayer...” Life and ministry as they knew it had changed. The followers of Jesus were trying to figure out, “what do we do now?,” in the uncharted land that they had found themselves. What do they do in the uncertainty of their moment? “They all joined together constantly in prayer...”

Today and in the days ahead, will you join us on this journey of seeking God? Moments like we are in as a church can become holy moments when they drive us to deeper desperation and dependance on God. Would you join us in praying that God would use this time of prayer and consecration over the next 21 days to draw us closer to Him, to align our church more with His mission, and to see more of His heart?

Pray also today this prayer from the psalmist:

*“Search me, oh God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” - Psalm 139:23*

Let’s make this our prayer both personally and for Mercer Creek. Invite God to consecrate you and prepare you for our journey ahead. God, we surrender this whole journey to you. Lead us closer to your heart.

## **Day 2, August 14th**

Would you pray today for the leaders that God has appointed for this season? Today we pray specifically for our pastors and staff. One of our strategic priorities in this season is “Healthy Leaders.” Our staff team has been through a lot during this past year. God has called them to lead us closer to Him, and this is a demanding task even under normal circumstances. As you pray today, would you pray for the healing of our staff team? Pray that God would unite and knit them together as they seek to follow Him and love each other well.

Pray that even in the final days of summer that they would find rest and refreshment. This time of year is always an important time of preparation for the next ministry year. Pray for efficiency and clarity as they gear up for the fall. As our ministry leaders recruit fresh volunteers, pray that God would raise up an overabundance of workers for the harvest, so much so that our ministry leaders would experience an abundance of encouragement. Lastly, pray today for the Holy Spirit’s refreshing and empowerment as our staff team enters into this ministry year. Pray that they would be led by the Spirit in ways that they haven’t experienced before.

### **Day 3, August 15th**

On this second day of praying for our leaders, we bring our prayer focus to our governing board. This is another important group that God called into leadership and oversight of our church. Their primary calling is to be listening to the Holy Spirit in discerning big picture decisions for our church and to provide accountability and oversight of our lead pastor.

This group has been through a lot this last year. Furthermore, three of the members are transitioning out of their role in October as we welcome three new board members. This is a time of significant transition for these leaders entrusted by God to do an important work. As our board enters into a new season and works with our staff team to clarify our calling in the season ahead, pray for unity and clarity. Pray God's protection over them as they face fiery darts. Pray that our board would be one of the healthiest leadership teams at our church.

*"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:19*

### **Day 4, August 16th**

*"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy." - Habakkuk 3:2*

In preparation for the PEAK assessment, some long-time Mercer Creekers shared about all the ways that they had seen God work through Mercer in past years. Today, make Habakkuk's prayer your prayer. We are so grateful for God's faithfulness through our 83 years of history, and yet, pray today that God would do even greater works in the season ahead.

### **Day 5, August 17th**

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." - Ephesians 6:18*

Jesus talked about the importance of a house of prayer. Today, we want to pray that we would grow to be a church marked by prayer. Pray that we would grow in prayer. Pray for prayer leaders, champions of the cause of prayer, intercessors, and for prayer team members. In every way, pray that God would raise the temperature of prayer in our church, that prayer would become one of our distinguishing priorities.

### **Day 6, August 18th**

Pray that each week, everyone who attends one of our worship gatherings would encounter God in a real and fresh way. Pray for Jojo Hahn, our Worship Pastor, and all of his team. Pray that God would use them to lead us weekly into the presence of God. Pray that each Sunday, we would be faithful to God's calling on us as a church. Pray that Pastor Dan and the preaching team would be empowered by God's Spirit as they proclaim the Word of God boldly. Pray that as people come to Mercer Creek Church, their lives would be transformed.

**Day 7, August 19th**

In John 17, Jesus prays that his church would be united. Verse 21 says,

*“that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you sent me.”*

We believe that intentional community is one of the greatest ways we live out this part of Jesus’ prayer. We want to see our small groups ministry thrive. Pray that the groups that exist would grow in health and impact. Pray for leaders, who have such a vital ministry, that God would guide them in the year ahead. Pray for new group leaders. We need God to raise up many more. Pray that we would have enough groups to minister to all who engage in our church in the year ahead. And pray that intentional community would be a place of transformation and healing to many.

**Day 8, August 20th**

Would you pray today for the men of our church? Pray that God would be working in the lives of men in a unique way this year. Pray that our men would grow in their hunger for the Lord. Pray for purity and freedom from sin. Pray for men to serve well. Please pray for our men’s ministry. Pray that in the year ahead that we would grow in our ministry to men and that all men at Mercer would find vital and intentional community to help them in their journey with God.

**Day 9, August 21st**

Take time today to pray for the women of our church. Pray that God would be working in the lives of women in a unique way this year. Pray for our Women’s ministry. We’ve seen God use this ministry to challenge and support women in powerful ways. This fall they’ll kick off new bible studies. Pray that those studies and small groups would minister to women. Pray that women who haven’t been connected to a small group would join one of these groups this fall and that they would find community and transformation in God’s word. Take time to pray for MOPS. This is a huge outreach opportunity in our church as moms invest in one another and continue to point each other toward Christ.

**Day 10, August 22nd**

Our Celebrate Recovery ministry is crucial in helping people who are struggling with hurts, habits, and hangups to find freedom with Christ in a healing community. Would you pray for this ministry? Pray for God’s ongoing protection and provision. Pray that more people in our church and community would find this important ministry and find breakthrough and support.

**Day 11, August 23rd**

Take time to pray for our Grief Share ministry. This key ministry comes alongside those who are processing challenging grief. Pray that this group of people would form a strong community that supports one another well. As this ministry grows this year please pray that it would be an important resource to those who are suffering loss.

***Day 12, August 24th***

Our church is passionate about passing the baton of faith on to the next generation. Would you pray for our kids ministry today? Pray for Brenna Modine as she leads this team. Pray for the volunteers who serve faithfully each week. Pray for more volunteers and that we would be able to reach even more children and families this year.

***Day 13, August 25th***

Pray for our ministries to middle school and high school students today. Pray for Pastor Jon Coats as he leads these teams. Pray for more volunteers. Pray for this ministry that has been through so many transitions over the last few years, that they would find stability and strength. Pray that God would open the door for us to minister to even more students in the year ahead.

***Day 14, August 26th***

Pray for our young adults ministry, Salt, today. Our church has a long history of ministering to college students. Covid was tough on this ministry, but we are seeing it grow and find fresh life. Pray for Pastor Paul Stoeckl, Jo Ann Bentley, and their leadership team as they lead and serve this group. This year, would you specifically pray for God to open fresh doors with new students? Pray that our impact at CWU would grow. Pray that God would breathe fresh life into our ministry to college students. Pray also for their retreat later this fall.

***Day 15, August 27th***

Pray for Mercer Creek Child Care. Each weekday, tons of kids come into our building for child care. Some come from unchurched homes, some are foster kids, and some are kids with just one parent at home. Pray for the families of these kids. Pray that their families would consider visiting our church if they don't already have a church home. Pray for our child care staff that lead this significant ministry. Pray that God would empower them with everything that they need to minister to many kids with unique backgrounds. Pray the seeds of the Gospel would be planted in the life of every child and family who participate in this ministry.

***Day 16, August 28th***

Today, ask God to help you to identify two unbelieving friends, coworkers, or neighbors that you can be praying for as we go into this next year. As God leads you to these two, how specifically is He calling you to pray? In addition to this, pray for their salvation, for clarity on how you can love and serve them well, and for open doors to share your story in the year ahead. Make today be the beginning of an ongoing effort to pray for them throughout the year.

***Day 17, August 29th***

Pray that God would give our church and each Mercer Creeker a heart for the lost. Pray that we would become increasingly uncomfortable with how many people in our own community don't know Jesus. Pray for fresh opportunities to share your faith. Pray that we would become a church who makes an evangelistic impact in our community.

**Day 18, August 30th**

Please pray for our Pastoral Partner ministry. This team, led by Beth Paul, has an important job of serving individuals and families going through any number of crisis situations. Would you pray for more volunteers for this important ministry? Would you pray for God's protection and discernment as they sometimes step into messy or complicated situations? And pray that God would use this ministry to really love those who are hurting.

**Day 19, August 31st**

One of the areas we want to develop in the year ahead is our focus on local missions. Go to <https://www.mercercreek.org/community-partners> to learn more about our current community partners. Would you pray that God would give us a fresh vision for reaching our community? Pray for new serving opportunities. Pray that we as a church would have a growing heart to be missionaries to our valley. Pray for God's guidance as we step into fresh opportunities.

**Day 20, September 1st**

Would you pray that God would rekindle our burden for the nations? Pray that Mercer Creek would be a church that prays for, supports, and sends missionaries to the ends of the earth. Pray that God would use our church to have a Kingdom impact. Pray for our missionary partners. Go to <https://www.mercercreek.org/global-missions> to learn more about our current global partners. Join us in praying about other missionaries that we should partner with and support. And pray that God would raise up international missionaries from our church to go and share the Gospel.

**Day 21, September 2nd**

On this final day of prayer, you are invited to pray for all of our Mercer Creekers who are doing ministry in their workplace. We want to pray for the business owners, bankers, farmers, teachers, and anyone who has a marketplace ministry. Would you pray for those who are pointing people to Jesus through their words and actions everyday? Pray that this year would be a year of fresh effectiveness as they seek to honor God and love people. Pray that new doors would open for them to share their faith. Pray that each of our Mercer Creekers would see themselves as missionaries in their workplace.