

Forty Days of Prayer

Beginning Summer 2019



Grace Church Elizabethtown

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20, 21

As we begin our search for a pastor, nothing is more vital for the flourishing and direction of our church than prayer. The committee seeks wisdom and guidance. To receive these things, we need our search to be focused and powered by prayer. As we seek God's plan for us, let us seek Him together in prayer each day, basing our prayers on the promises and principles of God's Word.

DAY 1 Scripture Reading: Psalm 33 (entire Psalm, focusing on verses 20-22) ²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. ²¹For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Pray for:

- Our church family to praise God for His faithfulness and provision to GCE since our founding.
- Our church family, as well as the Search Committee members, to trust in God, to keep our soul waiting on Him, to rest in God's steadfast love for us, to keep our hope in Him throughout the search process.

DAY 2 Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Pray for:

- The church to wholeheartedly trust the Lord while searching for a pastor.
- The Search Committee to "lean not on our own understanding" but to trust the Lord to direct our path throughout the search process.

DAY 3 Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:2-3 Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it—the LORD is his name: ³Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Pray for:

- A burden for deep and urgent prayer to permeate the church not only as we seek God's will for a pastor, but also as we seek God's vision and direction for our church.
- The Search Committee to be faithful - together and individually - to seek the Lord in prayer.

DAY 4 Scripture Reading: James 1:5-8 ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Pray for:

- The church to ask God for wisdom in this process. To be wise in waiting for God's timing and in supporting and trusting the Search Committee.
- The Search Committee to ask in faith, without any doubting, for God to give them wisdom in finding and evaluating candidates as they search for our next shepherd.
- The church and the Property Search Committee to have wisdom in decisions concerning our building.

DAY 5 Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Pray for:

- Unity and peace in the church while searching for a pastor.
- A strong sense of unity, humility, and gentleness among the Search Committee as they review and discuss potential pastoral candidates.

DAY 6 Scripture Reading: Psalm 91: 1-2, 14-16 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."¹⁴ "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Pray for:

- David and Lynn in this time of transition. That God would give them peace, hope, and joy. That He would build their trust in Him as their refuge and fortress.
- The church to show our love and support to David and Lynn during this time. That we would commit to pray for them and could find practical ways to give them help and support.

DAY 7 Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Pray for:

- Church members to continually abide in Christ and produce much fruit that glorifies the Father.
- Members of the Search Committee to remain close to Christ - to "abide in the vine" - being fully assured that "apart from Him, we can do nothing".

DAY 8 Scripture Reading: John 15:9-15 ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Pray for:

- Church members to abide in the love of Christ and love one another with the love of Christ. For church members and Search Committee members to keep God's commandments and have fullness of joy.
- God to bond the church and future pastor together in love.

DAY 9 Scripture Reading: John 15:16-17 ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Pray for:

- A season of fruitful ministry as the church prepares for her next pastor.
- The church and Search Committee to be blessed with answered prayers.

DAY 10 Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13 ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Pray for:

- The Search Committee and the church to hope in God and seek Him wholeheartedly with the realization that he is in control of the church's future.
- The church and the Search Committee to stay committed to corporate and private prayer - for each other, for our future pastor, for patience and persistence in waiting for and finding God's will.

DAY 11 Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-13 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Pray for:

- The understanding that searching for a pastor is primarily a spiritual process, so spiritual warfare will be present.
- God's protection on the Search Committee and the church. Each members' strength in the Lord as they put on the armor of God.

DAY 12 Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:9-10 ⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Pray for:

- Our future pastor and his family to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, being prepared to transition to a new field of ministry.
- Our future pastor, and us, to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to bear fruit in every good work, and to increase in the knowledge of God.

DAY 13 Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:11-12 ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Pray for:

- The church and the Search Committee to be strengthened with all power - according to God's power.
- This power to give us endurance and patience with joy.
- All of us to have an attitude of thankfulness

DAY 14 Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Pray for:

- The Search Committee and the church to be obedient to Christ's command to love one another just as He has loved us.
- The church's Christ-like love to be seen by the people we come into contact with every day.

DAY 15 Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:20-21 ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Pray for:

- Us to believe that God is able to do far more abundantly in our church than all that we ask or think.
- The power of Christ to be known in and through the church and that all glory would be given to Him throughout the pastor search process.

DAY 16 Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Pray for:

- Our future pastor to faithfully and powerfully preach the Word of God.
- The Lord to give our church a hunger for the Word of God and to make us all receptive to the sermons we hear each week.

DAY 17 Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:9 ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Pray for:

- Everyone to follow and honor God's Word, seeking to meditate it on it day and night.
- Each member of the Search Committee to have an overwhelming sense of God's presence and guidance as they work through the steps of the pastor search process - knowing He is with us wherever we go.

DAY 18 Scripture Reading: Proverbs 2:2-6 (Entire chapter, focusing on verses 2-6) ...Make your ear attentive to wisdom and incline your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding...

Pray for:

- Our future pastor to seek God's wisdom in every area of life and decision making.
- The Search Committee to be attentive to the Lord's wisdom - to understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

DAY 19 Scripture Reading: James 4:1-12 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. ¹¹ Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the

law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Pray for:

- Church members to humble themselves before the Lord and seek His cleansing power in order for revival to come.
- The Search Committee to continually submit to God's will, to draw near to God, and to have the right motives as we pray for a pastor.

DAY 20 Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:21-23 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

Pray for:

- Our elders to be holy and blameless and above reproach, stable and steadfast, hopeful in the gospel.
- Our church to follow the leadership of the elders thankfully and joyfully.

DAY 21 Scripture Reading: Psalm 119 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ¹² Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! ¹³ With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Pray for:

- All of us to seek God with a whole heart, not wandering from His commandments, storing up His Word in our hearts.
- All of us to delight in God's Word and meditate on it.

DAY 22 Scripture Reading: Matthew 28: 18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Pray for:

- Our church to grow in the gospel every day and walk in a manner worthy of it.
- Our church to be a Great Commission Church that makes disciples.
- All of us to winsomely, and zealously declare the gospel to each other and the world around us.

DAY 23 Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12: 12-14 & I Peter 1:15-19 ² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

I Peter 1:15-19 ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Pray for:

- All of us to prize and pursue the holiness of God.
- Our church, and our future pastor, to strive every day for peace and holiness.

DAY 24 Scripture Reading: John 17:20-23 I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Pray for:

- The church to be unified so that the world will be impacted with the gospel and the Father will be glorified.
- The Search Committee to be unified in their decision making.

DAY 25 Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Pray for:

- God to bring us a pastor who is a worker approved to God, unashamed, and able to rightly handle the Word of God.
- The Search Committee to have discernment as they listen to sermons of potential pastoral candidates.

DAY 26 Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Pray for:

- Our next pastor to be a man who exhibits Christ-like character both publicly and privately.
- Our future pastor's family as God prepares them to transition to a new work.

DAY 27 Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-14 ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Pray for:

- Our church to grow in love toward one another.
- Unresolved conflict to be worked out and for reconciliation among any broken relationships in the church.

DAY 28 Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:15-17 ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Pray for:

- Us all to be filled with peace and thankfulness.
- The word of Christ to dwell in us, overflowing in worship and in doing everything in the name of Christ.

DAY 29 Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23 ¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are

the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Pray for:

- ❑ Our future pastor to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ - that he would have hope and the eyes of his heart would be enlightened.
- ❑ Our church to look to Christ as the Head of the body, trusting His rule and authority in all things.

DAY 30 Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:19-25 ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Pray for:

- ❑ The church to be committed to biblical worship, holding fast the confession of our hope without wavering..
- ❑ The Search Committee to be encouraged and confident in following God's will as they make decisions regarding our future pastor.

DAY 31 Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-5 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Pray for:

- ❑ Our elders and our future pastor to shepherd the church in a biblical and Christ- exalting manner.
- ❑ All of us to be subject to the elders and humble toward each other.

DAY 32 Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:5-7 ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Pray for:

- ❑ Mutual respect and humility between the Search Committee and the members of the church.
- ❑ The Search Committee to not be anxious but to see how much God cares for our church and to know He will provide for all our needs.

DAY 33 Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:8-11 ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen

Pray for:

- ❑ The Search Committee to be sober-minded and watchful as we examine candidates.
- ❑ The church to stand firm against the schemes of the devil, and to be restored, confirmed, strengthened, and established - for God's glory..

DAY 34 Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:15-17 ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Pray for:

- ❑ The Search Committee to make wise use of our time during and in between our meetings.
- ❑ The Search Committee, and the church, to understand what the will of the Lord is concerning our future pastor.

DAY 35 Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Pray for:

- ❑ The Search Committee and the church to seek the Lord diligently and have confidence that He is at work bringing the church and future pastor together.
- ❑ All of us to praise God and be thankful for His compassion and forgiveness.

DAY 36 Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:24-26 ²⁴And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Pray for:

- ❑ Discernment for the Search Committee to know if potential pastoral candidates possess the biblical qualities of a servant of the Lord.
- ❑ The church to affirm and pray for these qualities in our future pastor.

DAY 37 Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Pray for:

- ❑ Christ's attitude of humility and servanthood to permeate both the Search Committee and the church during the pastor search process.
- ❑ The church to have a kingdom perspective, looking forward to the day that everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

DAY 38 Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:7-16 ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

Pray for:

- All of us to seek to know Christ above all else.
- All of us to press on toward the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

DAY 39 Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:4-9 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your

reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Pray for:

- All of us to rejoice and to not be anxious about anything.
- All of us to continue in prayer and set our mind on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and excellent.

DAY 40 Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:9 ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Pray for:

- The Search Committee to not grow weary in our work.
- The Search Committee and the church to be able to see God's hand at work in bringing our future pastor in His perfect timing.