

## **A DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020

### **Joel 2:12-17; Matthew 6:16-18, 9:15; Acts 13:2-3, 14:23**

A Day of Prayer and Fasting is a call from your elders for us all to come and ask the Lord for growth, help, and grace for the coming year. Fasting adds seriousness, urgency, and strength to our prayers. Fasting in Scripture is always for spiritual purposes, such as seeking God's guidance (Judges 20:26), expressing grief over events or sin (2 Samuel 1:11-12), seeking deliverance or protection (2 Chronicles 20:3-4), expressing repentance or remorse (1 Samuel 7:6), humbling oneself before God (1 Kings 21:27-29), expressing concern for the work of God in the church (Nehemiah 1:3-4), or expressing love and devotion for God (Luke 2:37).

Fasting can be complete (nothing but water), absolute (nothing at all), or partial (leaving off a meal or meals, or particular foods or portions). With a partial fast, *all of us* can participate Thursday in some fashion, even with medical or dietary restrictions.

Set aside some time on Thursday for prayer for the Church and the New Year. We encourage you to pray with someone sometime during the day. The sanctuary will be open through the side doors from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. *From 12:05-12:30 p.m. all are invited to gather in the front of the sanctuary for a brief time of group prayer.*

We ask you to include the following in your prayers:

1. Pray for yourself, that you would grow in grace and truth this year. Pray that you might know the "near, signal" presence of God in your life. Pray for a heart filled with the Spirit and longing to reach out to others. Pray for your family in their particular needs. Pray for your extended families.
2. Pray for the church. Pray that we sense a greater commitment to our identity in Christ as a body (1 Peter 2:9-10). Pray for our public worship services, that we may sense awe and joy. But also remember to pray that near presence to be felt in our services. Pray for a greater commitment by our members to gathering together on Sunday for worship and Sunday School.
3. Pray for our leaders, that they might grow in the grace and truth and be known in the congregation as faithful leaders. For the Elders, pray they become examples in having spiritual priorities. Pray also for our Deacons, that they may keep a servant's heart and be faithful to watch over the physical needs of the church. Pray for the new WIC officers and the ministry center chairpersons. Pray for the elder elections this month and the deacon nominations and training in the fall.

*(continued on back)*

4. Pray for our pastors, Randy and Scott, to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). Pray for their focus on the Word, that they may teach and preach it with clarity. Pray for them to have a deep devotional life. Pray for Scott's final ordination process.

5. Pray we might be serious about our calling of proclaiming the excellencies of Christ. Pray for your witness and ask that God would involve more of us in daily outreach than ever before in our church. Pray that God would continue to add to our numbers.

6. Pray for the young covenant children, that they may be converted to the Lord and be saved. Pray for the word to sink deep into children's hearts through Wednesday night and Sunday morning programs. Pray for Corey Lanier, our part time Director of Teen Ministries, that he may be faithful and encouraged. Pray for more lay volunteers in youth ministry.

7. Pray for all our staff. Pray for Dinie Stone, our Music Director, for her carpal tunnel operations and her general health. Pray for Brian Beck, our organist and choir accompanist, that he may be given stamina and zeal in his full and busy life. Pray for our Church Secretary, Marcia Alexander, that she may continue to be blessed and a blessing. Pray for Thomas Jones, our Sexton, that he might have strength to keep up with the needs of our buildings and grounds.

8. Pray for families. Pray for marriages, that they may grow and mature and resist the temptations of the world. Pray for parents to reflect on how best to Biblically rear their kids.

9. Pray for the ministry centers to have active chairman this year and for all the church to be involved some way in ministry.