



# NEXT

PRAYER GUIDE

# 4 WEEKS LEADING UP TO COMMITMENT SUNDAY

## WEEK 1: November 10 - 16

### Prayer Emphasis: Purpose

II Corinthians 9:6

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

- Pray that God would keep us focused on His glory in our hearts and minds as we look to His plan for this building project.
- Pray that God would grant us the opportunity to see this building project used for His purposes and ministry, which is to make disciples.

## WEEK 2: November 17 - 23

### Prayer Emphasis: Wisdom

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*

- Pray for individual wisdom to see what God is calling you to do in this project.
- Pray for wisdom in your individual finances in general.
- Pray for wisdom for Peace Church to make the right decisions to stay in line with God's will for this building project and the ministries involved with it.

## WEEK 3: November 24 - 30

### Prayer Emphasis: Unity

I Corinthians 1:10

*I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

- Pray for our church family to be unified, having the same attitude of mind in order to bring praise and glory to God as we journey through this campaign together.
- Pray for our church family to be all in one accord, so together we can mature and grow spiritually, learn and love more, and enjoy the unified church family God designed us to embrace during the building campaign.
- Ask God to help us remain unified so that we display His love and service to our community as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Wilson.

## WEEK 4: December 1 - 7

### Prayer Emphasis: Spiritual Growth & Provision

II Peter 3:18

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.*

- Pray God grows you as an individual and us as a church through this campaign.
- Pray that we would see people become followers of Jesus and grow in their faith through this new building.
- Pray that God would provide the faith and willingness to trust Him as He leads us.
- Pray that as we obey, we will see and experience the hand of God doing more than we could imagine.

**Prayer Emphasis: Purpose**

*1 Corinthians 10:31*

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

One of the most important things we must remember as followers of Jesus is to stay focused on our purpose. Or as many say, “keep the main thing the main thing.” One of the scary things about human nature is we can often become successful at things that are not bad things but they aren’t the main thing. For example, I remember in college I was playing basketball and we were about to play a team that was incredibly unique in their strategy. They gave up an average of 110 points a game, but they also scored 121 points a game. Their strategy was to play as fast as possible and shoot as many shots as possible in order to wear down teams. They didn’t really focus much on defense but tried to get you to speed your game up to keep pace with them. So, we played them, and we ended up scoring 108 points which was by far the most points we had ever scored! It felt pretty great to score that much and many of our guys were getting pumped during the game to set their personal scoring record. The only problem? The other team scored 126 points. While we had personal “success” in scoring 108 points, we lost as a team by forgetting our purpose wasn’t just to score, but to play a complete game.

The truth is in our personal lives and as a church, we must not define success by any standard other than God’s. We must live with the purpose to do everything we can for God’s glory! So when we look to the future of Peace Church and this new building project, we must always remember our purpose for this building is to glorify God. We seek to do that through this building by providing more opportunities for people in our church and community to encounter God, experience life-change, and grow in love with God and extend that love to others.

Prayer: “God, please help me as an individual and us as a church to remember our purpose is to give you glory! As our church seeks to take this next step with the building, help us to always remember the purpose is not about expanding our church, but about expanding your kingdom by reaching more people and helping them love and follow you, all for your glory!



Prayer Emphasis: Wisdom

1 Kings 3:9

*Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?*

Solomon’s father, King David was a man after God’s own heart. He had amassed more wealth and become more powerful than any king before him, but he did not let his power or money go to his head. As he was handing the kingdom over to Solomon, David gave strict instructions to stay close to God and to obey the Law. Solomon could have done what many people in his situation do: he could have let his money and position replace God in his life. Instead, he asked God for wisdom to lead God’s people in a way that brought glory to God. Solomon built the temple with his resources and kept Israel focused on God.

You and I have the same opportunity as Solomon today. God has given each of us resources that we can use in one of two ways: (1) for our pleasure, or (2) for His glory. What is the right way for us to use our resources? How much time should we allocate to serving others? How are we supposed to steward the money that He has provided us? The answers to those questions are different for each of us and the only way to know is to ask God what He would have us to do. James, the brother of Jesus writes, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” Step out in faith today. Ask God what He would have you to do in this building project and be willing to step out in faith to see what He can do through all of us.

Prayer: “God, please be with me, Peace Church, and its members as we step out in faith on this building project. Grant us the wisdom to know how to use our time, talents, and treasures to further your Kingdom here in Wilson. Make it clear to me how I fit into this project and provide me with the resources I need to follow through with your call on my life. Help me to be wise in my stewardship, faithful in my service, and bold in proclaiming the Gospel. Amen.”



Prayer Emphasis: Unity

1 Corinthians 1:10

*I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.*

We may not realize it, but unity is not just a good thing, it's an essential thing. Jesus prays for our unity in John 17 says it's not only good for us but is a primary way those outside of the church would recognize God's power. The challenge of course is getting a group of people to be unified in the midst of various opinions, thoughts, and personalities. The good news is unity doesn't mean we won't have disagreements or differences of opinions on things. Unity means that even when we may disagree with another believer, we are willing to keep our focus on our purpose as a church and as individual followers of Christ so that disagreements don't lead to disunity. This is why in 1 Cor. 1:10, Paul emphasizes the need to be in agreement in what we say to one another and not allow divisions. In other words, we may disagree on the particulars of things at times, but when we are united on the vision and purpose of something, we learn to let that be our focus rather than our differences. That's not always easy, and takes grace and effort. But when we know our purpose and walk in wisdom, we will be led to value our unity more than focusing on where we disagree.

On a personal level, this means you and I must seek to be unified with our brothers and sisters in Christ! We will certainly have differences with our Christian friends and fellow church members, but our goal is to seek unity around our common purpose to glorify God rather than give into gossip, slander, or divisive speech. On a church level, as we seek God's direction about this new building project, we must seek and pray for unity. Anytime there are great opportunities for advancing ministry for God's glory, there's also opportunity for Satan to create division. So pray that we as a church would remain unified in our purpose and seek to move forward together so that the world may know of Jesus and His great love and power!

Prayer: "God, I ask that you help me to seek to live in unity with other believers in my life. Help our church to be unified throughout this building project and move forward together as you direct us. Protect us from divisiveness so that our testimony to Wilson and the world will be one that glorifies you!"



Prayer Emphasis: Purpose

2 Peter 3:18

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

One of the most difficult realities in life is that there is no growth without discomfort. In anything we want to see growth in, it will involve discomfort. If we want to lose weight and get in shape, we have to face the discomfort of changing what we eat and exercising when we'd rather not. If we want to pick up a new skill, we have to face the discomfort of practicing repeatedly and sticking with it in order to learn. If we want to start a new business venture, we must face the discomfort of unknowns and long days to get it started. No matter what it is, growth requires discomfort.

The same is true spiritually speaking. You see this in many cases in Scripture. Abraham was called to leave his family and move to an unknown territory. Moses was called to go back to Egypt and confront the most powerful ruler in the world. Joshua was called to take over leading Israel after Moses and go lead the Israelites into the promised land. David was called from being a shepherd boy to a king over an entire nation. Mary was called to give birth and raise Jesus who was God in the flesh. And the list could go on. All of these people were given tests of faith. And in every case where they stepped out in faith, they encountered God in new and fresh ways that led them to grow in spiritual maturity.

Individually, there will be times that God asks you to step out in faith. Maybe you're even there now. As challenging as that moment may be, when we step out in faith we can experience spiritual growth in ways we could never have imagined. As a church, this new building project will be a test of faith for all of us. Yet, if we are willing to step out in faith, whatever that may look like for each individual, we may have the opportunity to experience spiritual growth unlike ever before as a church. Not only that, with the opportunities for ministry this project provides, it will also allow us to see spiritual growth in those we reach.

Prayer: "God, help me to be willing to do what it takes to grow, including taking big steps of faith. Help our church to take whatever step of faith you lead us to in this building project so that we all may experience you more fully and see growth in our lives. Help us as a church to use this building to bring others to you and see them grow as well!"



## Prayer Emphasis: Provision

### *Ephesians 3:20-21*

*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*

If God calls us to something, He will provide for it. That sounds great, and even though it is true and we see numerous examples of that in Scripture, it is a hard truth to really believe. For some that may be due to fear, lack of faith, focusing on circumstances rather than God, or any number of reasons. But for me, it's hard to believe sometimes God will provide because that means I have to rely on someone outside of myself. I like to have the answers or figure out my problems, and to be provided for means I have to put myself in a vulnerable position where I can't do it by myself. Yet, when I do step out in faith, I get to experience God as He provides in ways I could never imagine.

I think this is what Paul appeals to in Ephesians 3:20-21. These verses are the conclusion of a prayer Paul is praying over the churches in Ephesus. Prior to these verses, he prays that God would do the impossible by allowing the believers to personally experience and know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. By closing his prayer in v.20-21 the way he does, Paul seems to be speaking from personal experience that God truly can do more than anyone could ever ask or imagine. We should all long for our own faith to be like Paul's, so that when we pray, we can proclaim Eph. 3:20-21 with confidence over what we ask for.

As we look forward to this building project as a church, it will take a God-sized provision to make possible. It will take all of us being willing to step out in faith, seek God's direction for our own involvement, and most difficult: trusting God will provide what He leads us to do. May we all seek as a church to be willing to obey God's direction for each of us regarding this project, so that we all might experience God's provision in ways we could never imagine. At the end of this project, may we all say like Paul, we have seen God do more than we could ever ask or imagine!

Prayer: "God thank your for being our provider. Help me as an individual and our church as a whole to trust in your provision for this building project. May you guide us and lead us to what you desire us to do, and may we have the faith to obey. May you provide whatever you call us to do, and may we see you do more than we could ever ask or imagine!"





# Join us December 7th for a Church-Wide Day of Prayer

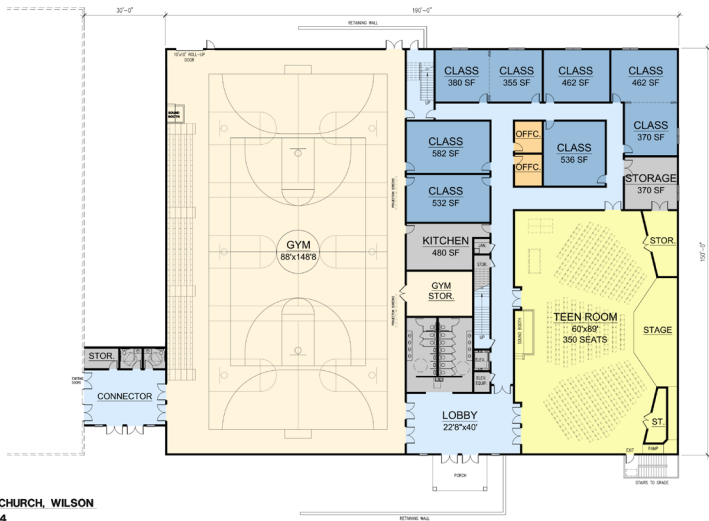
We are officially calling for a church-wide day of prayer on Saturday, December 7th. The purpose of this day is to spend focused time as individuals and as a family praying about the **NEXT** campaign.

On that day, there will also be a prayer walk available all day behind the gym where the new building would be located. For this prayer walk, there will be different stations with various prayer prompts to guide your time.

Also, we encourage you to consider fasting as you pray, for those who are able. You could fast one meal, 12 hours, or even 24 hours. If you choose to fast, remember the way this is practiced biblically is to pray during the time you would normally eat so that you are replacing eating with extended time in prayer.

Consider the following items of prayer during your time of prayer this day:

- Ask God to lead you as to how you might partner with the church for the **NEXT** campaign.
- Ask God specifically for what He might be leading you to contribute financially for this campaign over the next 3 years.
- Ask God to provide for the church as a whole, and for every individual who is contributing in ways greater than we could imagine.
- Ask God to use this building for His glory and to draw many people to Himself through the ministries it will provide.
- Ask God to use our church to reach the next generation for His kingdom.
- Ask God for protection over our leaders and the church as a whole as we step out in faith to pursue His plans.
- Ask God to help us to continue to reach Wilson and beyond with the Gospel and continue to see life-change happen.



PEACE CHURCH, WILSON  
1/11/2024

**FIRST FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE 1" = 20' 29,380 SF





PEACE CHURCH, WILSON  
1/11/2024

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE 1" = 20' 9,740 SF



