

DAY OF PRAYER



**LAFAYETTE CHURCH OF CHRIST
JUNE 24-25, 2011**

WELCOME TO THE DAY OF PRAYER

Thanks for coming to our Day of Prayer. *As we seek God's vision for the future of our church family, I can't think of any better way than by seeking God in prayer.*

Here are a few hints on how this Day of Prayer and the Day of Prayer workbook work.

1. Please maintain silence in the lobby and worship center (auditorium).
2. When you get into your seat in the worship center, please begin working your way through the Day of Prayer workbook.
3. The workbook consists of six sections — praise, confession, thanksgiving, spiritual growth, unity, and intercession.
4. Please do not rush the process. Try not to look at your watch. Remember the Psalmist's words, "Be still and know" and Jesus' words, "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray."
5. As you read the pages of the workbook, you will notice passages, devotional thoughts, prayer suggestions, or prayer requests on every page.
6. Please prayerfully read this material. Please take time to pray as you read. Stop as often as you like and pour out your heart to God.
7. Of course, you may think of many things to pray about which are not written in the workbook.
8. Please return the workbook to the table in the lobby when you have finished.
9. One of the hardest things at something like this is to get people to be quiet. So again, I ask you to be quiet. Whispers only in the lobby, absolute silence in the worship center.
10. If someone is loud and disruptive, allow them to teach you patience and forbearance.

Thanks again for coming to the Day of Prayer. May your heart be encouraged!

To God be the glory!

Bob Clark

PRAISE



PRAISE GOD!

As you read these scriptures, let the descriptions of God lead you into a time of praise!

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!*

Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?’

Who has ever given to God,

that God should repay him?’

For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Jude 1:24-25

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

PSALM 95:1-11

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.*

*For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.*

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.*

*Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as you did at
Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the desert,
where your fathers tested and tried me,
though they had seen what I did.
For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, "They are a people whose hearts
go astray,
and they have not known my ways."
So I declared on oath in my anger,
"They shall never enter my rest."*

THOUGHTS

God deserves our praise for who God is — the Rock of our Salvation!

God deserves our praise for what God has done — look at all God created — God is our salvation!

God is worthy of praise — even submitting ourselves to God (bowing and kneeling) because we belong to God!

To praise God we need to keep our hearts tender — listening to God's voice and obeying God's Word.

PSALM 23:1-6

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

he restores my soul.

*He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

THOUGHTS

Praise God for your
relationship with God —
for God's feeding you
and protecting you!

for God's healing your soul

for God's guidance

for God's constant presence

for God's protection and
providence

for God's preparing a place
for you!

PSALM 139:1-24

*O Lord, you have searched me
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O Lord.*

*You hem me in--behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

THOUGHTS

Praise God for God's
knowledge of you and your life!

Praise God for God's constant
presence!

Praise God for God's always
being there for us — when all
else fails!

Praise God for being
everywhere!

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you because
I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the
earth,
your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

*How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake,
I am still with you.*

*If only you would slay the wicked, O God!
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!
They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord,
and abhor those who rise up against you?
I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.*

*Search me, O 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.*

Praise God for God's creative ability! God created us in our mothers' wombs!

Praise God for being with us, caring for us, even when we sleep! Praise God for God's knowledge — greater than any computer could hold.

Praise God for allowing us to talk to God about everything — even the hatred we have for our enemies.

Give God honor and praise by asking God to examine your heart and life.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

THOUGHTS

Submit yourself to God — acknowledge God as your Father.

Thank God for God's riches and the strength God provides.

Thank God for the stability God brings to our lives! Thank God for God's love and ask God to help us grasp the fullness of it!

Thank God for God's power that we can hardly comprehend. Ask God to unleash that power in our lives to forgive us and help us be the holy people God wants us to be.

CONFESSION



CONFESSION

Psalm 139:23-24

*Search me, O 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.*

Prayerfully look at the sins listed in the passages below. Ask God to search your heart and convict you of sin that is in your heart. Confess those sins and thank God for God's forgiveness. Are there specific sins that you acknowledge to be especially difficult to overcome?

Romans 1:29-31			
Wickedness	Evil	Greed	Depravity
Envy	Murder	Strife	Deceit
Malice	Gossip	Slander	God-haters
Insolent	Arrogant	Boastful	Disobey Parents
Senseless	Heartless	Faithless	Ruthless

Galatians 5:19-21			
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Debauchery	Idolatry
Witchcraft	Hatred	Discord	Jealousy
Fits of rage	Selfish Ambition	Dissensions	Factions
Envy	Drunkenness	Orgies	

Colossians 3:5-10			
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Lust	Evil desires
Greed (which is idolatry)	Anger	Rage	Malice
Slander	Filthy Language	Lying	

Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:3-5			
Falsehood	Angry (when sun goes down)	Stealing	Unwholesome Talk
Not Building Others Up	Grieving the Holy Spirit	Bitterness	Rage
Anger	Brawling	Slander	Malice
Sexual Immorality	Impurity	Greed	Obscenity
Foolish Talk	Coarse Joking		

Proverbs 28:13

*People who cover over their sins will not prosper.
But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.*

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 32:1-6, NLT

*Oh, what joy for those whose rebellion is forgiven,
whose sin is put out of sight!
Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of sin,
whose lives are lived in complete honesty!
When I refused to confess my sin,
I was weak and miserable,
and I groaned all day long.
Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.
My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.
Finally, I confessed all my sins to you
and stopped trying to hide them.
I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."
And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.*

PSALM 51:1-19

For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

*Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*

*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.*

*Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

THOUGHTS

When we have sinned and feel dirty — we can go to God. God will allow us to approach God and seek forgiveness — whatever we have done.

Have you ever been overwhelmed with sin — to the point where you wonder if you can ever be forgiven? You can — just ask God!

Ask God to cleanse you and to let you know the joy of salvation!

Beyond just asking for forgiveness — ask God to create a clean heart in you.

*Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God,
the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.*

*In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then there will be righteous sacrifices,
whole burnt offerings to delight you;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.*

Ask God to help you tell others
about God.

Commit to God your life as an
offering of worship to God.

After confessing our sins, we are in a good position to pray for the forgiveness of others. After all, we are to forgive others as God has forgiven us in Jesus (Colossians 3:13). What better time could there be to pray for others than right after we have asked for forgiveness for our own sins. Take time to read the following on forgiveness from the pen of Lewis Smedes. Is there someone in particular you are having trouble forgiving?

KEYS TO FORGIVING

Lewis B. Smedes

How do you know that you have truly forgiven someone?
—Holly Beran, Aurora, Colorado

Jesus was unequivocal on this point: As his followers, we are required to forgive those who sin against us (Matthew 6:15). But what if we don't feel like we've forgiven them? How do we know, then, if we have truly forgiven? The Holy Spirit, thank God, often enables people to forgive even though they are not sure how they did it. But forgiving, and knowing that we've truly forgiven, comes easier when we understand the realities of forgiveness:

1. *Forgiveness is a redemptive response to having been wronged and wounded.* This is simple but important. Only those who have wronged and wounded us are candidates for forgiveness. If they injure us accidentally, we excuse them. We only *forgive* the ones we blame.

2. *Forgiveness requires three basic actions.* First, we surrender our right to get even. Every victim is sure that the victimizer deserves to suffer at least as much as he made us suffer. But that is not necessarily so. "The wages of sin (wronging God) is death" (Romans 6:23), but the payment was made through the death of God's own Son. The blood of Christ covers all of our sins, but each of us must do personal business with God in order to experience his forgiveness. When we forgive, therefore, we place the outcome of the matter in God's hands and often choose to live with the scales unbalanced.

Second, we rediscover the humanity of our wrongdoer. When we have been badly injured and clearly wronged, we make an instant caricature of the person who did it to us. We define him totally by the one wrong he did. If he betrayed us, his total being is reduced to his betrayal. When we forgive, we rediscover that the person who wronged us is a complex, weak, confused, fragile person, not all that different from us. This is what God does. Our sin hid our faces from him; now, forgiven, we shine like sparkling jewels before him.

And third, we wish our wrongdoer well. We not only surrender our right to revenge against him; we desire good things to happen to him. We bless him.

Unnatural? Too much to ask of us? Perhaps. And yet, this is how God forgives us; he not only surrenders his right to see us punished, he graces us with whatever blessing is right for us.

3. *Forgiving takes time.* God can forgive in a single breath. But we need time. Just before he died, C.S. Lewis wrote: "I think I have *at last* forgiven the cruel schoolmaster who so darkened my youth. I had done it many times before, but this time I think I have really done it." Maybe, had he lived longer, he would have had to do it again.

4. *Forgiving does not require forgetting.* True, God said through Isaiah (43:25), "I am he who blots out your transgression...and I will not remember your sins." But does God have amnesia? Does God not remember that Peter denied his Lord? Or, does he treat Peter and all other forgiven people *as if* he cannot remember what they did? On a human level, it is futile to try to forget; the more we try to forget, the more we remember. But we can dethrone the memory; we can refuse to let it control our lives. We can detoxify the memory; we can purge its poison from our souls. But we do well not to worry about forgetting. Sufficient unto the day is forgiving.

5. *Ideally, forgiving leads to reconciliation.* But we often have to put up with less than the ideal. Sometimes the forgiven person will not want to be reunited with us; he may not care a fig for our grace. Besides, though he is forgiven, he may not be changed. If he is reunited with us, he is likely to clobber us again. Forgiving happens in our hearts. There *can be* no reunion without forgiving, but there can be forgiving without reunion. An offender who has violated a law will need to endure the just judicial consequences. But even as that happens, the offended person can pray and seek full reconciliation on the other side of justice.

6. *Forgiving comes naturally to the forgiven.* Nothing enables us to forgive like knowing in our hearts that we have been forgiven. This is probably why Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive us our debts, [but only] as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). Jesus implies that it is unthinkable for a forgiven person to refuse to forgive. If we do refuse, he says later, we have no claim on God's forgiveness. But remember, he does not expect *perfect* forgiving; he is the only expert at it. We are poor dufers trying to treat others as he treats us.

*Lewis B. Smedes is professor emeritus of theology and ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary and author of **The Art of Forgiving: When You Need to Forgive and Don't Know How** (Ballantine).*

THANKSGIVING



THANK GOD FOR JESUS!

At least seven times while on the cross Jesus spoke. What do these words reveal about Jesus' heart – what he was feeling? What was he thinking about? Give thanks for Jesus's willingness to die on the cross for our sins. Prayerfully meditate on these words, allowing Jesus to draw you to the Father.

Luke 23:34

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

Luke 23:43

I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.

John 19:26-27 NLT

When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, 'Woman, he is your son.'

And he said to the disciple, 'She is your mother.'

And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Matthew 27:46

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

'Eloi, Eloi, lama, sabacthani?' —

which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

John 19:28

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.'

With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Luke 23:46

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

When he had said this, he breathed his last.

GIVE THANKS...

For Jesus and all your spiritual blessings in Christ!

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For **he chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be **adopted as his sons** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will — to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has **freely given** us in the One he loves. In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the **riches of God's grace** that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”* Ephesians 1:3-8

For God’s rejoicing over you!

*“The Lord your God is **with you**, he is mighty to save. He will **take great delight in you**, he will **quiet you** with his love, **he will rejoice over you with singing.**”*
Zephaniah 3:17

For your family

For your friends (long-time and new)

For your church family

For your job

For this world God has allowed you to live in

For special people God has brought into your life

For times when you have felt especially close to God

For the Word of God

For the comfort and teaching of the Holy Spirit

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

THOUGHTS

Take time to remember people who have affected your life in the past.

Give thanks for your family and friends!

Ask God to bless your family and friends with wisdom so they may know God better.

Ask God to open our eyes to the power that is at work in our hearts!

MATTHEW 6:9-15

This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

*your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

*Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.'*

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.'

THOUGHTS

Thank God for teaching us how to communicate with God.

Thank God, we are God's children!

Praise God!

Ask God to reign in your heart so that God's will is done.

Ask God to provide your needs.

Ask God to help you be forgiving, and able to receive God's forgiveness.

Ask God to help you live for God!

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

THOUGHTS

Give thanks for your friends!

Pray for those with whom you work in doing the work of the Lord!

Ask God to finish the work in your life — and the lives of others!

Acknowledge those with whom you share God's grace — even someone who you have been tempted to give up on.

Thank God for being able to love brothers and sisters.

Pray this prayer for your children and our young people at church!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



HUNGER AND THIRST

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Matthew 5:6

Hunger and thirst are the body's way of telling us that we are "empty." Our natural response to physical hunger and thirst is to seek food and water to satisfy our need. Each Christian has an inner longing that only Christ's righteousness can satisfy. But we cannot be filled with righteousness if we are filled with self. Throughout the Scriptures God emphasizes that the one who longs for Him with all his heart will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13). As we crave righteousness, we will repent of our sin, and God will remove it from us. Our selfishness will be replaced by the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The Spirit makes us to be like Christ.

Righteousness is not to be taken lightly, nor is it easily attained. Holy God does not give His righteousness to people indiscriminately. He gives it to those who know they cannot live without it. Our desire for personal righteousness must be powerful, all-consuming, dominating everything we do. Pursuing righteousness means that we value the opinion of God far more than we treasure the opinions of people.

Righteousness is not merely an absence of sin. It is allowing God to fill us with His holiness (Romans 6:11). It is being like Christ. Jesus is our model of One who sought God's righteousness first, and then the Father glorified Him. We are not only to seek the kingdom of God, but we are also to pursue His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). If we will hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be satisfied!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Prayerfully consider the following passages that describe ways we need to be growing into the likeness of Jesus. Ask God to encourage you and strengthen you as you attempt to make these qualities part of your daily lifestyle. Are there certain areas in which you need to ask for special help? Are there certain areas where you can look back over your life and see growth?

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT Galatians 5:22-23		
Love	Joy	Peace
Patience	Kindness	Goodness
Faithfulness	Gentleness	Self-Control

CLOTHED WITH CHRIST Colossians 3:12-14		
Compassion	Kindness	Humility
Gentleness	Patience	Forbearance
Forgiveness	Love	Unity

THE CHRISTIAN GRACES 2 Peter 1:5-7		
Faith	Goodness	Knowledge
Self-Control	Perseverance	Godliness
Brotherly Kindness	Love	

ONE ANOTHER PASSAGES

Read each passage, asking God to help you be the kind of person who treats others in ways the passage suggests.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:16

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 13:8

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

Romans 15:7

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:14

I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

1 Corinthians 12:25

...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 16:20

All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12

Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Galatians 5:15

If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:26

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 5:19

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

1 Thessalonians 4:18

Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:13

Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Hebrews 3:13

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 13:1

Keep on loving each other as brothers.

James 4:11

Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

James 5:9

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

1 Peter 4:8-9

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 5:5

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:14

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1 John 3:11

This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

1 John 3:23

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:11-12

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

2 John 1:5

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.

ASK GOD
FOR GOD'S HELP
IN BECOMING THE PERSON
GOD WANTS YOU TO BE

GOD IS SHAPING ME!

Take time to reflect on how God has shaped you –

Through calling you out of your comfort zone

Through working you through your fears

Through family relationships

Through fulfilling promises in God's time

Through jealousy, family conflict, and betrayal

Through hardship or luxury

Through giving you a mission to accomplish

Through giving you people to work alongside

Through seeing God do mighty things

Through critics and enemies

Through times in the wilderness

Through the advice of others

Praise God for God's faithfulness!

Praise God for the mysterious ways God works!

Give thanks for God's interest in you!

Ask God to continue shaping you!

If and only if you are bold enough – invite God to do *whatever it takes* to make you into the image of Jesus (WARNING – this can be a dangerous prayer!).

It is easier to see how God is working in your life as you look over your shoulder at the years gone by. Try to begin living in the present with the knowledge that God is molding you each and every moment! Look for God's hand in your life each day!

UNITY



UNITY

Prayerfully read these passages that 1) describe how important unity among God's people is to our God and 2) give practical ways we can bring about unity in the family of God. Ask God to show you specific ways you can make a positive contribution to the unity of the Lafayette Church of Christ and to Christians at large.

Psalm 133

*How wonderful it is, how pleasant,
when brothers live together in harmony!
For harmony is as precious as the fragrant anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe.
Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon
that falls on the mountains of Zion.
And the Lord has pronounced his blessing,
even life forevermore.*

John 17:20-23

I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father — that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me. "I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are — I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me.

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your arguments, dear brothers and sisters. Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul."

Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter," or "I follow only Christ." Can Christ be divided into pieces? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul?

Note: The following passage on love appears in the context of a passage addressing the disunity of a church, particularly over things going on in their worship assembly. Christians should respond to such disagreements with love.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Keeping unity requires effort, humility, gentleness, forbearance, and love. Ask God to help you contribute to unity at Lafayette and in the Christian community at large in these very ways.

Ephesians 4:1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Note below: The church at Philippi had been torn up by the disagreement between two women, Euodia and Syntyche. These women are urged to look at the good, noble, pure, etc. things about one another to bring about unity. Ask God to help you contribute to unity at Lafayette by helping you see the good things in others rather than just seeing their faults.

Philippians 4:2-9

I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

FAR BE IT FROM ME!

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and right way.

1 Samuel 12:23

It can be tempting at times to give up on God's people! They are so imperfect and can be so sinful, yet they are His people. Samuel had thoroughly warned the Israelites of the dangers in appointing a king over Israel. Yet they wanted to be like the nations around them, insisting that they were willing to pay any price. Almost as soon as the people were granted their desire, they recognized their sin. But it was too late. What was Samuel to do? They had ignored his warnings. Now they wanted him to continue to minister to them. It would seem appropriate for Samuel to abandon them and allow them to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Samuel knew, as Jesus knew, that God sends His servants to the sick, not the healthy (Matthew 9:12). Samuel did not take the people's response as a rejection of him but as an indication of their walk with God. Samuel was serving God, not the Israelites. When God commanded him to minister to them, he could do nothing else, despite their resistance to his message.

At times people will not respond as they should to the message God speaks through you. Don't become discouraged; it is a reflection of their relationship with God. You are God's servant; if Jesus spent His time with the spiritually needy, you can expect Him to ask you to do the same. Don't lose your patience with God's people. Keep in mind that God loves them as much as He loves you.

-- from Experiencing God Day by Day by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

PETITION



FATHER, HELP ME!

As you read the following passages of scripture, ask God to help transform you into a person with the qualities that are being described.

To be a loving person

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

To be filled with the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

To have the mind of Christ

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death--
even death on a cross!*

To be like Jesus in actions and attitude

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

JOHN 17:1-26

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

THOUGHTS

Pray God will be glorified through our lives!

Ask God to protect us.
Pledge all we have to God!

Ask God to fill us with joy!
Ask God to sanctify us
(set us apart) for God!

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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 have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Pray that we will be united together with all believers!

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Pray that we will make God known through the love we show!

INTERCESSION



INTERCESSION

LAFAYETTE MEMBERS

You should have received a copy of the Lafayette church family directory. Spend time “praying through” the directory. Below are just a few suggestions about things you can be praying for in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

In addition, pray for God’s vision for Lafayette to become our vision for who we can become!

Grief	Children starting school
Blended family issues	Middle School behavior challenges
Thanksgiving for model behavior or marriage	High School temptations
Scars from family problems	College Students’ special needs
Disease and illness	Addictions
Spiritual struggles	Entanglement in sin
Issues relating to raising children	Forsaking the church family
Spiritual growth and victories	Moral purity
Concern with adult children	Child custody problems
Business owners	Conceptions problems—childlessness
Work related issues	Adoption issues
Financial blessings/struggles	Foster care challenges
Issues related to aging	Shut-in at home or nursing home
Single parent needs	New marriages
Caring for aging parents	Childhood trauma
Offenses that need to be forgiven	Job safety
Personality traits that demand forbearance	In need of baptism
Attitude problems (bitterness/abrasiveness)	In need of restoration
Thanksgiving for how person has encouraged your walk with God	Grand-parenting
	New member assimilation
	Increasing discipleship