

# Growing the Mission



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## **40 Days of Prayer**

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We have kept it simple to accommodate the busy lifestyles of many of you. Join your entire family in these daily prayers. Thank you especially to Jenny Stickel who created the preliminary guide. All scripture is from NIV unless otherwise noted.

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## March 6-12

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**Day 1. Psalm 127:1** Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

Father, we commit this building project to Your care and keeping. You know our future needs and the needs of future generations, so we commit this project to You for Your guidance.

**Day 2. II Corinthians 9:6** Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Lord, we ask that you help us to be generous givers to our church's future.

**Day 3. II Corinthians 9:7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.

Lord, help us to be cheerful givers of our time, talents and treasures.

**Day 4. II Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things at all times, having all you need you will abound in every good work.

Lord, bless our future work in this church.

**Day 5. II Corinthians 9:10-11** Surely He says this for us, doesn't He? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you,?

God, we pray that you would enlarge a harvest of righteousness and increase our generosity that would in turn lead to thanksgiving to You.

**Day 6. I Peter 1:22** Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Lord, we pray that our giving to the future would be out of love, love for each other and love for future generations that will attend our church.

**Day 7. Romans 15:5-6** May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, we pray that we would have endurance and encouragement with the attitude of Christ as we consider this building project. Let God be glorified in our building, in our people through Jesus Christ.

## March 13-19

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**Day 8. Colossians 3:14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Lord, let love and unity bind us together as we head forward.

**Day 9. Colossians 3:15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Father, Let the Peace of Christ rule in our hearts as we plan and build. We are thankful for Your provision Lord.

**Day 10. Matthew 6:13** Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, as we proceed with our plans keep us from temptation, and keep our church sheltered under your wings, away from all evil.

**Day 11. Mark 11:17** Is it not written: My house will be called a house of prayer.

Lord, let our church be a house of prayer. Prayer is a vital way to be in relation with you. Help us not just to bombard you with our requests, but let us come to you in thanksgiving and praise. Help us to remain still that we may hear your voice.

**Day 12. Romans 12:13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Lord, you know the importance of hospitality in our church. May we be a safe haven for those in need. Give us wisdom regarding our kitchen facilities and other areas of hospitality.

**Day 13. Leviticus 19:34** You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

Lord, help our building and grounds to be welcoming to others. Show us how to love the marginal as Jesus did.

**Day 14. Psalm 32:8** Instruct us and teach us in the way to go, counsel us with your loving eye upon us.

Lord, watch over the Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton and guide us in all our decisions and plans. May the plans we make be fully in line with your plan.

## March 20 – 26

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**Day 15. Jeremiah 32:39** I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for their children after them.

Lord, we ask for our church to focus on your purposes and plans so that the children and their children will be blessed. Show us how we are to prepare to be the hands and feet of Jesus for years to come.

**Day 16. Proverbs 7:2** Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.

Lord, help us to keep your commands and live, today and in the days to come always seeking to be in your will.

**Day 17. I Timothy 4:12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Lord, let this building be a place where youth gather and grow in their love for You and for Your Word. Help us to remember to be a church where we value people of all ages and backgrounds and that we can learn much from our youth and children.

**Day 18. Psalm 127:3** Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.

Father, help us to nurture and love the children and youth who come to us. Let this physical space be a source of joy and fun for all ages, but especially for our youth and vacation bible school participants.

**Day 19. II Corinthians 4:1** Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

Lord, we trust that you will sustain and lift up our congregation through this difficult time of COVID and in the future. Let our church be a place of service for our members and an encouragement for the community.

**Day 20. I Corinthians 4:2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Lord, You have entrusted us with much. Let us be faithful with all that you have blessed us with. Help us as we seek to prepare for the future of the church and the ministries that you have planned in advance for us.

**Day 21. I Timothy 5:17** The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.

Lord, we pray for our leaders in our church to direct us in your paths. Give them open hearts and minds to hear your still small voice.

## March 27 - April 2

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**Day 22. Acts 2:46-47** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Lord, let this expansion of our building bring praise to you and add to the number of people who know you as their Savior. May we continue to meet together, sharing in your supper, worshipping and praising you.

**Day 23. Colossians 1:28** He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

We pray, Lord, that this new addition would bring more opportunities to proclaim and teach Christ's wise ways so that we might all be grow and mature in Christ.

**Day 24. Ephesians 4:32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

O Father, we pray that the people of our congregation would offer comfort, compassion, and forgiveness to each other and to all who enter through our doors.

**Day 25. Leviticus 19:14** You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

Gracious Father, we pray that our facility would meet people's basic needs for restrooms, nursery facilities, handicap accessibility and ease of entry and exit.

**Day 26. Psalm 27:4** One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.

Lord, we pray that our facility would honor God with its beauty while remembering that the building is not the church, but that we, the congregation are the church. May we hunger and thirst for more of you, O Lord.

**Day 27. Exodus 23:14** Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me.

God, you mandated the Israelites so many years ago to come together to celebrate as a nation to give glory back to you. We pray that our property and its buildings would have all we need for major life events like weddings, and funerals. We ask that these times of celebration and memorial will be honoring to you.

**Day 28. Ephesians 6:7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people

Lord, help us to serve you wholeheartedly being good stewards of all that you have given us.

## April 3 - April 9

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**Day 29. Hebrews 13:15-16** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. <sup>16</sup> And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Lord, may we be a people that overflow with thanksgiving and praise that leads us generous sharing of our time and talents.

**Day 30. John 4:23** Yet, a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. Father, let us worship you in this building in Spirit and in truth.

**Day 31. Mark 10:13-16** People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Lord, Jesus, we know you love children. Let this building and grounds be well supplied and fit to serve them well. May we in this congregation love and nurture the children you bring to us.

**Day 32. Deuteronomy 4:9** Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Lord, we know you love all ages. Let our building serve all from infants, to preschool, to grade school, to middle school, to high school, to young adults, to middle aged adults, and to seniors. We pray you bless our families, our singles, and each one who comes in contact with our church, regardless of race or background.

**Day 33. Ephesians 4:32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Lord, be here in our place of worship and help us to be tender hearted with one another and loving to our community.

**Day 34. Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Lord, let our expansion be an area for community building. Bless us with an area where we can meet in large groups to celebrate you.

**Day 35. Proverbs 3:9** Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Father, May we honor you with all that we have, not just with our money but with our time and talents also. May our church building be a place where we can gather together to honor you.

## April 10 – April 14

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**Day 36. I Chronicles 28:12** (NASB) and the plan of all that he had in mind, for the courts of the house of the LORD, and for all the surrounding rooms, for the storehouses of the house of God and for the storehouses of the dedicated things

Lord, we read how you provided storehouses in the temple Solomon built for you. Father, we ask that you provide for our need for storage also. Let there be area to store supplies for education and cleaning. Let there be room for equipment. Let our electronic needs be provided for. We need to be able to store tables and chairs and a myriad of craft and other supplies for Happy Hands and children's ministries. Please provide abundantly.

**Day 37. Hebrews 10:25** Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging—all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Lord, your word mandates to gather together. Yet we often find our spaces too small for our growing numbers. We ask that you provide for our needs for space appropriate for all ages.

**Day 38. II Timothy 1:6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Father, fan the flames of the gifts of God that Your Holy Spirit might dwell here, and may that be evident to all who enter through our doors,

**Day 39. Daniel 10:6** His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Father, we read this passage and envision a day in the future where your voice is like the sound of a multitude. We do not have the vocal capacity to make our voices audible in large rooms. We are thankful for our audiovisual equipment that plays such a huge part in sharing your word. Lord let our sound system, and video system, as well as our music, honor you. Bless our volunteers who sacrifice of their time and talents to work these systems.

**Day 40. I Peter 4:10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Father, we pray Lord that you lead us and provide for our needs in regards to our future and all our building and facility needs that we might serve You, day in and day out. Lord we also pray as this facility undergoes construction and repair that You would safeguard and watch over each worker and everyone that goes in and comes out of the building.