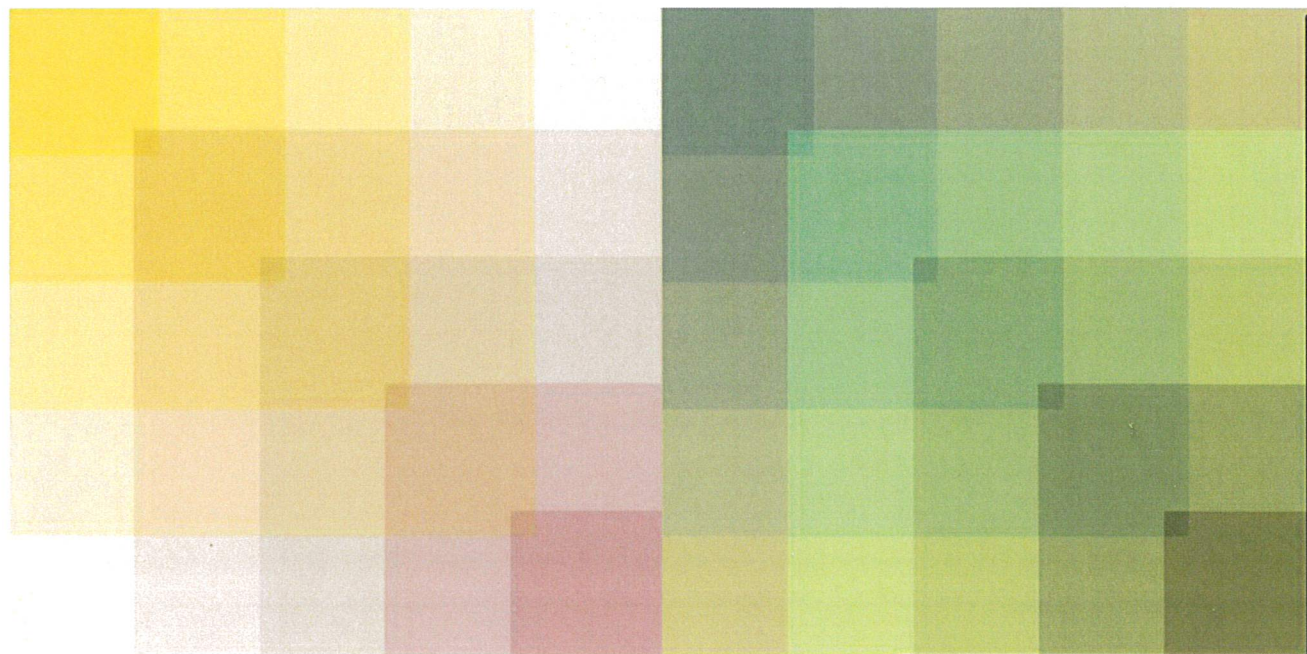


40-Day Prayer Guide

Easter 2024



Easter 2024 40-Day Prayer Guide

On Wednesday evening, March 1, 2023, our church body gathered to pray collectively and intentionally for our church, community, and the Easter Sunday services at 9:30 and for the relaunch of our 11:00 service, now simply called The Eleven. One of the immediate and outward answers to that prayer service was seen in the decisions that were made for Christ. In the three months prior to that prayer service, we had thirteen additions to our church family. In the three months following that prayer time, we saw 42 additions. Over the past 11 ½ months, the Lord has led 117 people to become part of our FBC family, and 68 of those decisions have been professions of faith.

In addition to these new members, the Lord has blessed us with provision through His people. At the time of our prayer service, our church debt was \$750,000. The Lord led us to focus on debt retirement rather than adding the next phase to this campus due to high construction costs when the project bids came in. At the time, no one could have foreseen that the Lord would enable the full debt to be retired in under one year.

We give thanks for all those things and more, and we recognize that it all has come as a grace gift from our Heavenly Father, who wants to use us to glorify Him and to work with Him as He builds His Kingdom. In Jeremiah 33:3, He says, "Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things that you do not know." God delights to show Himself strong on behalf of His people. All that He has done before is just a small taste of what He desires to do in and through us in the days ahead. Therefore, we are once again coming into a 40-day season of prayer as we look toward Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, on March 31st. Use this prayer guide and consider what Paul wrote in 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."

Your Pastor by His Grace,

Bill Skaar

Day 1

February 21

Jesus was asked, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:36-39)

Pray that the love of God will be expressed in all we do in worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and evangelism.

Day 2

February 22

"Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints." (Psalm 149:1)

Pray that both of our worship services (9:30 and The Eleven) will be filled with the manifest presence of God each week. Pray that the services will grow in number to see over 500 in attendance each week, along with those who tune in by the simulcast.

Day 3

February 23

Jesus 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. . . And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-16)

Pray for our ministry to children (infants through 5th grade) and their families. God wants to use us to reach hundreds of families with young children and lead them to be followers of Christ.

Day 4

February 24

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”
(Luke 2:52)

Pray for our ministry to youth and their families. Pray that the ministry will grow to more than 60 students in attendance each Sunday and Wednesday. Pray that The Eleven service will be used in a powerful way to reach many youth and their families for Christ.

Day 5

February 25

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’”
(Psalm 122:1)

Pray for our worship services today that people will sense the manifest presence of the Lord and that there will be response to the invitation.

Day 6

February 26

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Pray for our outreach efforts. FAITH, a seven-week training program for sharing Christ that incorporates visits in teams of three, will begin on March 10. Pray also for our FBC family members to give many invitations to come to services now and, especially, for Easter. Pray for people to receive Christ and follow Him in baptism.

“My food,” Jesus said, “is to do the will of Him who sent me and finish His work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:34-35)

There are thousands of people moving into apartments in our city. We have seen guests in our services who have moved into one of the nearby apartments. Pray that the Lord will draw many more and that the apartment fields will open for ministry.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Pray that our Sunday School/Bible Study departments and classes will be filled with people eager to learn and live out God’s Word. Pray for additional people to respond to the call to help start new classes or Home groups.

“Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians;” (Psalm 68:24-25)

Pray for Joel, Skip, our Praise Team, Choir, Orchestra, and Praise Band, who lead us each Sunday in lifting our voices in praise. Thank God for the talents of people that allow us to use the wide variety of music God gives to His people for worship.

Day 10

March 1

“Give each other the handshake of Christian love. Peace be to all who are in Christ.” (1 Peter 5:14 – TLB)

Pray for our Greeter Team as they help set the tone for people as they come to the campus each week for Worship and Bible Study. Pray for others to join the team to help us be the most inviting and welcoming church we can be.

Day 11

March 2

“The gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon and their associates, who kept watch at the gates.” (Nehemiah 11:19)

Pray for our First Impression Team (FIT), who watch over our campus and care for the safety and well-being of people and property.

Day 12

March 3

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

Pray that on this day of Worship and Bible Study that God’s people will get up and come to collectively worship and study His Word. Pray that people will respond to the invitation to follow Christ and find a church home.

Day 13

March 4

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go.” (Luke 10:1)

Pray that the Lord will bless us as we are intentional in our outreach efforts to share and spread the gospel. One way is through FAITH training/ outreach, which will begin next Sunday. Another is to encourage all our church family to be on mission for Christ in extending invitations to people in our community to come and be our guests in worship. Pray that many will receive Christ in the weeks ahead.

Day 14

March 5

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
(Proverbs 16:3)

Pray for the preparations being made for Easter for our 9:30 service and The Eleven. Pray that our Easter services will be used to glorify God and point everyone to Jesus.

Day 15

March 6

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

Thousands of people pass by our campus every day while driving or shopping. Pray that they will be drawn to look to the cross that sits atop our tower and that many will be drawn to come where they will hear the gospel.

Day 16

March 7

“He took a child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcome me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’” (Mark 9:36-37)

Pray for our First Kids Academy and After School Childcare ministry. Pray that as we care for children, we can also reach many new families for Christ.

Day 17

March 8

“. . . all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion.” (Nehemiah 8:3-4)

In the same way a platform enabled people to see and hear Ezra read and share from God’s Word, our audio/visual team works to enable people to see and hear clearly as we worship in person and over our simulcast. Pray for our team as they use the technology.

Day 18

March 9

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.” (Psalm 115:1)

Pray that God will receive glory through all we do in our church family to reach out for Christ and minister to people.

Day 19

March 10

“Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!” (Psalm 147:1)

Pray that as we gather in worship and Bible Study, our praise of God will be lifted up in the music and message and that people will respond to the Lord.

“‘ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’” (Malachi 3:10)

Pray that our FBC family will be faithful in stewardship and that we will see the promise of Malachi 3:10 manifest in a mighty way for God’s glory.

“Leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ They came out of the town and made their way toward Him.” (John 4:28-30)

Ask God to bring three friends to your mind right now who need to receive Christ and/or a church home. Begin specifically praying for those three, and over the next three weeks, extend an invitation for them to come to an Easter service.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Thank God for those whom God used to lead you to Christ. Pray that our ministries to children and youth will see many led to Christ and follow in baptism.

Day 23

March 14

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Our FBC family has many ministry teams that provide opportunities for service to use the gifts and talents God has given. One ministry being relaunched is a ministry for women entitled LOFT (Ladies of First Together). Pray for this new team and all our others to be used to touch lives and reach new people for Christ.

Day 24

March 15

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ You are doing right.” (James 2:8)

Pray for our Welcome Center Team, who register first-time guests and help them find a Bible Study class for themselves and any members of their family.

Day 25

March 16

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

Thank God for the unity of our FBC family and our purpose to glorify Him and work with Him to build His Kingdom. Pray that our unity will be used to reflect Christ to our world and draw people to Him.

Day 26

March 17

“Young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.” (Psalm 148:12-13)

Our FBC family is a church made up of people of all ages. From the youngest children to the oldest adults, pray that our worship today will praise God in song, prayer, and response to His Word. Pray that those who need to receive Christ and/or find a church home will respond to the Lord’s invitation.

Day 27

March 18

“At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps, and lyres. The singers were also brought together. . .” (Nehemiah 12:27-28)

Pray for the preparations being made for Easter in music and visuals for both The Eleven and our 9:30 service. Pray for the choir, praise team, orchestra, and band, along with Joel and Skip, as they give leadership in music.

Day 28

March 19

“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lands and make them come in, so that my house will be full.’” (Luke 14:22-23)

Pray for God to draw people in response to our outreach and invitations and that both services will be filled on Easter and beyond.

Day 29

March 20

“... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” (Acts 2:46)

The First Taste Team serves coffee and refreshments in the Atrium each Sunday. Pray for the fellowship that occurs to be a draw to our guests and used in developing strong relationships among our FBC family.

Day 30

March 21

“Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip...with a request. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’ (John 12:20-21)

When people come on Sunday, they need to see Jesus through us. One way is through our service and greeting. We have a parking lot team that drives golf carts around to bring people from their cars to the doors. Pray that this service is used to show the love of Christ and prepare people’s hearts to hear God’s Word.

Day 31

March 22

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” (Psalm 67:1-2)

Pray that God will pour out His Spirit in a mighty way so we will see a harvest of souls for His Kingdom.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Mission 1335, named after John 13:35, is the ministry in our church family that engages and expands our focus on missions in our area and beyond. Pray for people to see Christ through our service in today's city-wide Big Event.

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the King of Israel!’” (John 12:12-13)

This is Palm Sunday. Pray that our worship today will show the energy of the day when Jesus entered Jerusalem in what is called the Triumphal Entry.

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. . . Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” (Romans 12:13-15)

Our FBC family has ministries that touch many needs, such as Overcomers (a ministry to widows), Grief Share, and others. We also give financial and volunteer service support to community ministries that meet physical and emotional needs. Pray that all we do will be used to share the compassionate love of Christ.

Day 35

March 26

“Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things that you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Pray that God will do mighty things as we gather on Easter Sunday. Pray for the worship center to be filled in both services. Pray for the preparations being made this week to exalt Jesus and call people to Him.

Day 36

March 27

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15: 10)

Invite everyone you can to be your guest this Sunday on Easter. Pray that there will be decisions for Christ and rejoicing in heaven.

Day 37

March 28

“When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 22:14-16)

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper in the Upper Room on the night He would be arrested, tried, and condemned to die on the cross. Tonight, we will have a special Lord’s Supper experience in the Worship Center that is come and go from 6:00-7:00 pm. Pray that this time to prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday worship and that the experience will be meaningful for individuals and families.

“Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull. Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.” (John 19:17-18)


Jesus died a death He didn't deserve, to pay the penalty for sin you owed but could not pay. He is the one in the middle, and everyone in the world will end up on one side of Him- the side of rejection or the side of reception. Pray that those who have not believed and received Jesus will come to Him and receive Him this Easter Sunday.

“Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” (Luke 18:16)

Pray the Lord will stir many young families who are not active in any church to be moved to come with their children to an Easter service. Pray for our children's ministries that we will have opportunities to engage these families and share the gospel with them and their children.

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.’” (Matthew 28:5-6)

He is risen! This is the day we have been praying for. Pray for God to move in a mighty way as we come together in worship at 9:30 and The Eleven. Pray that many who come today will respond to the invitation to believe and receive Christ. Today will be a great day in the Lord!



Pray continually.

1 Thessalonians 5:17