

Mundelein Chapel Family, during week 4 of our prayer journey, our focus is to pray for the global Church. We will start by praying for our pastors and church leadership. We have examples where Paul and Timothy asked for prayers from the believers they disciplined. Let's unite and contend for churches and church leadership everywhere. Let's pray that our Pastoral team stays deeply in love with Jesus, rooted in the Word of God and not swayed by cultural pressures and trends. Let's ask the Lord to give them wisdom, direction, and protection, while boldly teaching the Kingdom of God without compromise. Let's pray that the church will be ignited for Christ and will rally together in raising the name of Jesus high in their communities. Let's believe for a church that focuses on the unity we have in Christ rather than the things that divide us. Pray for revival in our churches, and let's ask God to continue to awaken us to His activity and His invitation to participate. We want to see God's Kingdom come.

Thank you, Pastor Bryan

****My prayer for you:** Father God we come before you giving you all thanks, all honor, and all glory. You alone are worthy. Lord, you created the church, and you care so deeply about us. Father, we have failed you in how we have focused on the things that bring us glory instead of bringing you glory, and we ask for forgiveness. Thank you for being able and willing to forgive and to encourage and teach us to love the things that you love. Lord, protect and bless those that you have called to Shepherd your people. Give them great wisdom, deep understanding of your Word and faithfulness in it all. Holy Spirit rest upon our pastors, rest upon your church. We want you to be welcomed in all spaces. Your presence is everything. Lord let our hearts and minds be open to you and aware of how you are moving and what you are doing in the church. Let it be as clear as the air we breathe. Lord prompt us to move in rhythm with you. Expand and increase your church for name's sake. Let us be a part of this, In Jesus's Name. Amen*

Latoya Conners Gray

Day 1 – Praying for our pastors

Today we are praying for our pastors. The weight that our pastors carry is heavy. As they shepherd our church, they need our prayers and our support. At times pastors may seem like superheroes and larger than life, but they are humans seeking to fulfill a holy call on their life. Even if our pastors are not struggling, they still need prayer. Our pastor's spiritual life directly affects their ability to minister. Our pastors are not immune to temptation, to doubt or any potential sin. Let's ask the Lord to protect them, to bless them, to inspire them and in their times with God to deeply connect and gain wisdom. Let's ask the Lord to give our pastors an ongoing deep experience of the gospel so they continue to make it known to others. Together we stand and affirm that all our pastor's needs are met. That they lack nothing. Let's ask the Lord to bless our pastors with authenticity and authority in everything they do for God's glory.

Read: Day 1 – James 3:17, Romans 15:13, Eph 6:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:25

Reflect: When was the last time you prayed for your pastor? As you think about your pastor, what are several things that you can pray for them?

Let's Pray: Father God, we ask you to be with our pastors. Lord, remind them of your great love for them. Remind them that perfection is in you and not them. Reassure them where there are insecurities. Provide for them where there is anything lacking. Give them peace, increase their confidence and their hope. Holy Spirit, minister deeply to them like never before. Lord, we pray for them as they prep for their sermons. Give them great wisdom and power. Work out all the hard and rough spaces in their lives. Lord, protect them from the evil one. Keep their mind and heart on you. Increase their hope and joy. Confirm things that you may have spoken to them long ago and remind them of your great faithfulness. Lord Jesus – cover and stay near to those that Shepherd us so well. In your powerful name we pray.
Amen

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.

Day 2 – Praying for our pastors’ families and relationships

We have the honor of praying for our pastors’ families and for all their relationships. Ministry is a beautiful thing, but the moments of deep beauty are also moments where sacrifices in schedules and commitments must be made. We know that God honors these but the burden that family members bear can be impactful. Today we pray for our pastors’ families as they minister individually or as a family. We pray for the boundaries that need to be established or renewed/revisited. We pray for healthy relationships in the family and in church. We pray for safe havens for our pastors and their families – people and places that bless and give life to them. Let’s contend with God for this aspect of our pastors’ lives.

Read: Day 2 – Col 4:6, 1 Timothy 3:2-6

Reflect: Last week we prayed about the family unit. This week we have the opportunity to pray for our pastors’ families and associated relationships. Think about your own family, where have you prayed for healing and reconciliation? Where do you need the Lord to show up? Pray the same things for your pastors. Pray for children who may be struggling, pray for spouses who are not content, pray for extended relationships where time might be an issue. Pray for their deepest family desires to be fulfilled and for God to meet every need. Pray for God to move mountains in their family units.

Let’s Pray: Abba Father, thank you for hearing our hearts cry. Father, we lift up our pastors’ families to you right now. Lord, meet each one right where they are. Lord, you are faithful and more than able to keep the things dearest to us. Lord, heal broken relationships. Lord, give peace where there is strife. Lord, we ask for provision mentally, physically, and emotionally in these spaces. God bless our pastors with healthy dynamics. Thank you, God, for seeing this part of their life, for caring so deeply and for being more than willing and able to do great things! We love and trust you. Amen.

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Day 3 – Church Reconciliation & Healing

God has called us to be holy and set apart. The Church has displayed significant moments of brokenness and division that have mirrored the world. Let's pray today for the Church. Let's pray for reconciliation in three specific areas: 1. *Reconciliation amongst the races* - that we would remember that God created all people; that there are none above or beneath. Where the Word of God was used to perpetuate division instead of truth, let's stand against it. 2. *Reconciliation in the church*. Let's pray that the church will be unified. Let's go to battle against the division that separates us and prepare for unity in the church. And 3. *Reconciliation for the brokenness that we have fostered as a body of believers*. Knowingly or unknowingly in ways that have misled those that would believe. Let's pray for the Church to not only display but lead in reconciliation and forgiveness.

Read: Day 3 – Matthew 28: 18-20, Philippians 4:2, Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:29-31, John 13:35, Philippians 1:19

Reflect: John Piper said, "Our pursuit of unity is designed to give us many opportunities to die to our own sin and bear with the sin of others. Our unity exalts Christ. Our division dishonors Christ.

Let's Pray: Lord Jesus, thank you for calling us to be set apart. To be holy and to be different. Lord, reconciliation, and healing are big topics and at times our human minds can't grasp it all. Lord, today in your word I pray that you give us more knowledge, wisdom and longing for this topic. Lord, help us to see and value everyone you have made, help us to pursue unity not comfort, help us to be reconciled to you first and then to others because there is not another way. Lord, let us acknowledge the division we sometimes cause and help us to turn from it regardless of what we've been taught. Help us to cling more dearly to what you teach. Thank you, Jesus, for fresh eyes, new grace every morning and the example of love where you ventured into uncomfortable spaces to share the good news. Let it be so with us. In your powerful name Jesus. Amen.

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Day 4 – Expect God to do great things

I love hearing children sing “Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty. There’s nothing our God cannot do.” These words are so powerful and so true. God is so big and his reach we cannot even imagine. He has told us that He has great things planned for us so great that no eye has seen, or ear has heard what is in store for those that love him; yet we still think small, pray small and choose to stay in our comfort zone.

God is calling the church to rise up. To step out in faith and trust that God cannot and will not fail. His plans will not be thwarted. Today let’s focus on expecting great things from a great God. He shows up every time. He’s never late and when God is present everything changes. Let our churches rallying cry be, “God was here, and he did amazing things!”

Read: Day 4 – Isaiah 54: 2-3, Luke 1:37, Matthew 28:20,

Reflect: What would you ask God to do if you knew he could not fail and would answer you? In regard to church and our spiritual journey, ask yourself the same question? The truth is God cannot and will not fail. His very nature is faithfulness. What is holding you back from asking God about the big things in our households, for our pastors/leaders, for our church? For other churches?

Let’s Pray: Father you are mighty. We proclaim your strength, your honor, and your character. We lift high that you are Alpha and Omega that you are the great I AM. Lord encourage our hearts and minds to grasp this truth and let us boldly put you to the test Lord. We ask that you show up in the lives of our leaders, in our churches and that you do the biggest things that we can only begin to imagine. Let boldness come to our prayer life, as you speak to our hearts and let us obey without hesitation. Lord, we trust you. We need you. We stand in awe of you. For your namesake we pray Jesus. Thank you. Amen

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Day 5 – There is only one Church

The reality is there is only one church yet many denominations and places to worship, but only one church. Many individual people but one body. When we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, we inherited not only forgiveness of sins and escape from the finality of death, but we inherited an entire church family. A group of people that we now call sister/brother – family. This unity transcends the nations and any barrier. May the reality and weight of this statement transform how we think about church, how we interact with other believers and most importantly our posture and heart towards others. It's so good, let's not keep it to ourselves we want this family to grow and expand so everyone can experience the goodness of God!

Read: Day 5 – Romans 12: 4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 3:6, Titus 2:11-14

Reflect: To be a Christian is to be part of something so much bigger. Where have you had the opportunity to embrace this reality? Where do you need to embrace it more? This would be a great topic to discuss in your small groups and around the dinner table.

Let's Pray: Father, thank you for the gift of salvation and the gift of the church body. Thank you for reminding us that we are not alone. We have brothers and sisters willing to walk us, carry burdens, rejoice together, and celebrate the good things that come from you. Lord, move our hearts and minds to embrace your truth of the church. Help us to live out being in the body of Christ and let it honor you and be a witness to the world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Write out your prayer to God. Lean into your praise and worship of God, be intentional about what you are asking of God and trust that He hears you, sees you and will respond on your behalf.