CROSSROADS
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

2026 Prayer Booklet

CHURCH-WIDE

40-DAY PRAYER JOURNEY

Preparation Week: November 15 – November 21

40 Days: November 22 – December 31, 2026

Seeking His Heart.

Listening for His Voice.

Praying for His Provision.

Schedule:

November 15: Kick off our Prayer Journey as a family!
Sunday morning Worship @ 10 am.
Town Hall Meeting & Prayer & Worship: 4:30 pm

November 15-22: PART 1: Preparation Week.
Follow the readings and prayer prompts in the Prayer Booklet for Part 1. Part 1 prepares you personally and prayerfully for our upcoming 40-Day Journey.

November 22: PART 2: 40-Days of Prayer begins.
Follow the readings and prayer guide suggestions in the Prayer Booklet for each hour you pray – both in the daytime and in the nighttime. Thanks for joining us on this 40-day journey!

WELCOME, CROSSROADS FAMILY!

What might happen if our entire church committed to seeking God together every day? What if, throughout every hour of the day and night, someone from Crossroads intentionally came before the Lord, listened to His Word, and prayed for His provision?

That is the heart behind Crossroads 2026: A Church-Wide 40-Day Prayer Journey.

Our church needs more than our own plans, abilities, opinions, and efforts. We need God's wisdom. We need His direction. We need His provision. Most of all, we need His presence.

During this prayer journey, we will focus on the following: provision for our church, our pastors and leaders, our ministries, our church family, and the people He has called us to reach. We will ask Him to strengthen our unity, deepen our faith, reveal areas where we need to grow, and show us where He is leading.

First things first! Before we ask God to do something through our church, we must first consider an essential question:

Are we making time to be with God Himself?

This prayer journey is not simply about getting more people to pray for more hours. It is about becoming a people who know God more intimately, recognize the importance of His Word, and are willing to listen and follow when He leads.

Our desire is to finish 2026 having intentionally sought the Lord and to enter 2027 with hearts that are surrendered to Him! Let's begin…

PART 1: A week of personal preparation!

Day 1: Sunday, November 15

LEADING FROM INTIMACY

From the book The Essential Presence, by Bill Elliff

Our Time with God Must Come First

In his book, Bill Elliff directs our attention to Jesus' life and the importance of His intimacy with the Father. Jesus' earthly ministry was characterized by His dependence on the Father. He did not act independently of the Father's purposes. He spoke according to what the Father had given Him and carried out the work He had been sent to do.

This reading points us toward an essential truth:

Our work for God must grow out of our relationship with God.

We can become so busy doing things for the Lord that we neglect spending time with Him. We can fill our days with church activities, ministry responsibilities, good intentions, and prayers about important needs without slowing down long enough to listen.

Yet our greatest need is not simply to do more. It is to draw nearer to Him.

Jesus modeled a life of intimate dependence on the Father. If we want our church to follow God's direction, each of us must cultivate our own relationship with Him. We cannot depend entirely on someone else's prayer life, understanding of Scripture, or sense of God's leading.

Each of us must be willing to come before the Lord personally.

Why Your Individual Prayer Time Matters

When you pause your day to meet with God, you do more than fulfill a commitment on a schedule. You are making room for the Lord to work in your heart. You are learning to quiet distractions, surrender your expectations, listen to His Word, and allow Him to shape how you think and pray.

You may come to your prayer time with a list of needs for Crossroads. Those needs matter. *But first, take time to remember who God is*. Ask Him to search your heart. Read His Word carefully. Let Scripture direct your thoughts. Then pray for our church with a heart that is becoming more attentive to Him.

We are not asking God simply to bless the plans we have already made. We are asking Him to show us how to pray, what we need to surrender, where we need His wisdom, and how we can follow His direction.

Prayer Is More Than Talking

Prayer is our opportunity to come before God in worship, confession, thanksgiving, dependence, and petition. It is also a time to become still before Him and allow His Word to challenge and guide us.

In John 14:9–10, Jesus explains His relationship with the Father and describes the Father's work through Him. This is the kind of dependence we want to cultivate as a church.

We want our words, plans, decisions, ministries, and prayers to be shaped by God's truth rather than merely by human reasoning. We want to become people who seek the Lord before acting, turn to Scripture for

direction, and remain willing to obey even when His leading challenges our preferences.

As we pray, the Holy Spirit may bring a Scripture to our attention, deepen a burden for a particular need, reveal an attitude that needs to change, or direct our attention toward an area of ministry.

We want to become attentive to these things and respond faithfully.

At the same time, we must remain grounded in God's written Word. Not every thought, feeling, or impression is necessarily a message from God. We will prayerfully test what we sense against Scripture, seek wisdom, and share with humility. Our goal is not to elevate our own ideas. Our goal is to seek God's heart together.

Why Every Person Matters

You may wonder what difference your individual prayer time can make.

Your participation matters because the church is one body, made up of many members. Each of us has a part to play in the spiritual life of our church.

You do not need to be a pastor, ministry leader, or experienced prayer warrior to participate. You simply need a willing heart and a commitment to spend time with God.

Some days your prayer time may be five minutes. Other days, you may feel led to spend much longer in prayer. Some days you may sense a particular burden for our church. Other days you may simply need to sit with Scripture, praise God, confess your sins, and remember His faithfulness. Don't compare your prayer life with someone else's. Be faithful to the time you have committed to the Lord.

As each person seeks God individually, we will also learn to seek Him collectively. We will share what we are learning, encourage one another, and pray together for what God is doing in and through Crossroads.

Imagine what could happen if our entire church became more attentive to God's Word, more intentional about prayer, more willing to listen, and more ready to obey.

We are not simply organizing a schedule for people to prayer. We are inviting our church into a deeper life of intimacy with God.

Write a short prayer below that reflects your commitment to this church-wide 40-Day Prayer Journey.

PART 1: LET SCRIPTURE SPEAK

Read. Reflect. Pray. Respond.

In his book, Bill Eliff references several passages in the Gospel of John that help us understand Jesus' dependence on the Father. Read each passage in your Bible. Take your time. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word and apply it to your life as you prepare to pray for Crossroads during our 40-day journey.

PART 1 Day 2: Monday, November 16

READ John 5:30

- Focus: Jesus seeks the Father's will rather than acting independently.

REFLECT

- What does this passage reveal about God and your relationship with Him?

- How can this passage help shape how you pray for Crossroads?

- Write down a word or phrase that reveals a truth that stands out to you.

PRAY for Crossroads

- Ask God to help our church seek His will above personal preferences, familiar traditions, or individual plans. Pray for wisdom for our pastors, leaders, and church family.

RESPOND

- Am I seeking God's direction, or am I asking Him to approve what I have already decided?

PART 1 Day 3: Tuesday, November 17

READ John 8:28–29

- Focus: Jesus speaks according to what the Father teaches Him and seeks to please the Father.

REFLECT

- What does this passage reveal about God and your relationship with Him?

- How can this passage help shape how you pray for Crossroads?

- Write down a word or phrase that reveals a truth that stands out to you.

PRAY for Crossroads

- Ask the Lord to make our church dependent on Him, faithful to His Word, and committed to carrying out His purposes.

RESPOND

- How can I become more attentive to God's Word and more willing to obey Him?

PART 1 Day 4: Wednesday, Nov 18

READ John 8:42–43

- Focus: Jesus explains His relationship with the Father and challenges His listeners to understand and receive His words.

REFLECT

- What does this passage reveal about God and your relationship with Him?

- How can this passage help shape how you pray for Crossroads?

- Write down a word or phrase that reveals a truth that stands out to you.

PRAY for Crossroads

- Pray that our church will grow in love for Jesus, spiritual understanding, and a faithful response to His Word.

RESPOND

- Am I receiving God's truth with humility and a willingness to change?

PART 1 Day 5: Thursday, November 19

READ John 12:48–50

- Focus: Jesus teaches that His message comes from the Father and that the Father's command leads to eternal life.

REFLECT

- What does this passage reveal about God and your relationship with Him?

- How can this passage help shape how you pray for Crossroads?

- Write down a word or phrase that reveals a truth that stands out to you.

PRAY for Crossroads

- Ask God to keep Scripture at the center of our teaching, decisions, and ministries. Pray that our church will faithfully communicate His truth and live according to what He has revealed.

RESPOND

- Does God's Word have authority over my thoughts, decisions, and actions?

PART 1 Day 6: Friday, November 20

READ John 14:9–10 (NLT)

- Focus: Jesus reveals the Father and describes His intimate relationship with Him. His words and works reflect the Father's presence and activity.

REFLECT

- What does this passage reveal about God and your relationship with Him?

- How can this passage help shape how you pray for Crossroads?

- Write down a word or phrase that reveals a truth that stands out to you.

PRAY for Crossroads

- Pray that our church will grow in knowing Christ more deeply, reflect His character, and depend on God's work rather than human strength alone.

RESPOND

- Am I depending on God, or am I relying primarily on my own strength and understanding?

PART 1 Day 7: Saturday, November 21

WHY WE ARE PRAYING TOGETHER

1. We Want God's Provision for Crossroads

We need God's wisdom, strength, guidance, and provision. We want to seek Him about our church's needs and trust Him to direct us according to His purposes.

We are asking Him to provide what our church needs to fulfill the work He has called us to do.

2. We Want to Grow in Intimacy with God

Our prayer life should be more than a daily task. We want to know the Lord more deeply, pay closer attention to His Word, and develop a consistent habit of coming before Him.

As we spend time with God, we give Him room to shape our hearts, correct our attitudes, strengthen our faith, and teach us how to pray.

3. We Want to Become United as One Body

Each person has a part to play. Our schedules and prayer experiences may differ, but we are united in our desire to seek the Lord for our church.

As one person prays during the day and that same person prays again at night, we bridge our communication with God as we lift Crossroads before Him.

4. We Want to Listen for the Holy Spirit's Leading

We are asking the Holy Spirit to guide our prayer times through Scripture, deepen our understanding, and help us recognize where God may be calling us to pray, grow, or respond.

We want to share what we believe God may be bringing to our attention, test what we sense against His Word, and seek wisdom together.

5. We Want to bring in the New Year Ready

We do not know everything God has planned for Crossroads. That is why we pray.

Rather than deciding in advance what the answers must be, we want to place our church before the Lord and ask Him to direct us.

We want hearts ready to obey, hands ready to serve, and lives willing to follow wherever He leads.

Our desire is to enter 2027 having sought God's heart together and prepared ourselves to follow His direction.

HOW THE PRAYER JOURNEY WILL WORK

Twenty-four Hours. Prayer Around the Clock.

Each participant will choose one hour for the day and one hour for the night. Your commitment is to pray at your chosen hour both during the day and during the night.

Step 1: Choose Your Prayer Hour

- Prayerfully choose the hour you can commit to consistently pray both during the day and at night.
- Remember that the nighttime commitment is part of your chosen hour as well. We want every participant to understand the commitment before selecting a time

Step 2: Set Your Alarms

- Set a daily reminder for both your daytime and nighttime prayer times. *For example*: if you choose 12:00, you are committing to pray at noon and midnight every day. Or, if you choose 3:00 pm, you are committing to pray at 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. each day. This will require discipline to prepare to wake during the night.
- Choose your hour prayerfully and make a realistic plan to honor your commitment.

Step 3: Pause Your Day and Pray

- When your designated time arrives, stop what you are doing as your circumstances allow. Turn your attention to the Lord and pray for Crossroads.
- Some days will be quieter than others. Some days will be busy or difficult. Do your best to honor your commitment and return your attention to God.

Step 4: Let the Holy Spirit Guide Your Prayer Time

- There is no required number of minutes. You may pray for five minutes, fifteen minutes, thirty minutes, or longer. You may feel led to spend an extended time in prayer.
- Do not measure the value of your prayer by the number of minutes you spend. Come with a willing heart, remain attentive to the Lord, and allow Him to guide your time.

Step 5: Use the Daily Prayer Guide

- Follow the prayer guide in this booklet to help you quiet your heart, praise God, seek forgiveness, read Scripture, pray for our church, and give thanks.
- Allow the guide to direct your attention without becoming a checklist you must rush through.

Step 6: Record and Share What You Learn

- Keep a journal of Scriptures, prayer burdens, encouragements, and insights.
- When you believe God may be bringing something important to our church's attention, share it with one of our Pastors at Crossroads.
- Include the Scripture that informed your prayer whenever possible. Share with humility, remain open to discernment, and allow the church family to pray together about what you have learned.

How We Will Respond to What We Learn

- As you continue through this prayer journey, pay attention to what stands out during your time with the Lord.
- You may find yourself returning to a particular Scripture. You may develop a burden to pray for a ministry, a person, a need, or an area of spiritual growth. You may sense that God is challenging you to change your own attitude or take a step of obedience.

Write it down.

- When you believe God may be bringing something to our church's attention, share it humbly and prayerfully.

- Include the Scripture that informed your prayer. Explain the truth or concern that stood out to you. Share how it is shaping your prayers for Crossroads.
- Remain open to the wisdom and discernment of other believers.
- We are not looking to create a collection of opinions or assume that every thought or feeling comes from God.
- We want to grow in our ability to distinguish our own ideas from what is consistent with God's revealed Word and character. We will listen to one another, examine Scripture, pray for wisdom, and seek the Lord together.
- Our desire is to become a church that listens carefully, tests faithfully, shares humbly, and follows obediently.
- We want to hear from God through His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit, and we want to respond together as one body.

You have completed Part 1 of the prayer booklet.

Congratulations! We pray this week of personal preparation, spiritual engagement, and prayerful attention to God's Word and God's heart has readied your heart for the work God wants to do for you and for our church over the next 40 days.

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Part II: 40-Day Prayer Journey

LET'S BEGIN OUR 40 DAYS WITH A COMMITMENT.

As a participant in this church-wide prayer journey, I commit to the following:

- I will set aside my two chosen prayer times each day.
- I will prioritize intimacy with God.
- I will allow Scripture to shape my prayers.
- I will let the Holy Spirit guide my prayer times.
- I will pray for God's provision, wisdom, direction, and purposes for Crossroads.
- I will share any insights humbly and prayerfully, grounded in Scripture.
- I will encourage others and remain faithful throughout this journey.
- I will seek God's will rather than simply asking Him to approve my plans.
- I will enter the New Year with a heart surrendered and ready to follow His direction.

We will not all pray in the same place or for the same length of time. But we can unite in one purpose: seeking God's heart for our church.

A Prayer to begin our 40-Day Prayer Journey:

Heavenly Father, draw us near to You. Teach us to pray.

Quiet our hearts so that we may hear and understand Your Word.

Guide us by Your Holy Spirit. Unite Crossroads in Your purposes, provide for our church according to Your will, and give us hearts that are ready to obey.

As we close this year and enter the next, help us trust You, follow You, and glorify Your name.

May our church be united in prayer and faithful in following Your direction.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Part II: 40-Day Prayer Journey

USE THE FOLLOWING STEPS AS YOUR DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

Let these steps guide your prayer time as you enter into prayer twice daily. You do not need to rush through the steps. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your time with the Lord.

1. FIND A QUIET PLACE

- Whenever possible, find a place where you can focus without interruption.
- Do your best within the realities of your daily schedule. Some days you may have a quiet room and plenty of time. Other days you may need to find a peaceful moment in the middle of a busy schedule.
- The goal is not to create a perfect setting. The goal is to give God your attention.

2. QUIET YOUR HEART

- Slow down. Take a few comfortable, deep breaths and release distractions.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayer time and help you become attentive to God's Word. Here is a prayer you could use to begin your prayer time:

"Lord, quiet my heart and help me focus on You. Holy Spirit, guide my time in prayer. Teach me through Your Word and show me how to pray for Crossroads according to Your will. Help me recognize what aligns with Your truth and give me a willing heart to obey. Amen."

3. PRAISE — ACKNOWLEDGE WHO GOD IS

- Begin by praising God for His character and majesty. Reflect on His holiness, faithfulness, wisdom, mercy, power, sovereignty, and love. Think of words that describe His magnificence. REMEMBER, before focusing on your needs, take time to remember the greatness of the One you are praying to. Ask yourself:
- What can I praise God for today?
- What does His Word reveal about His character?
- How does remembering who God is, change the way I pray for our church?

4. REPENTANCE — INVITE GOD TO SEARCH YOUR HEART

Ask the Lord to reveal anything you need to confess.

Are there attitudes, habits, sins, or relationships that need His attention? Have you been relying on yourself rather than trusting Him? Is there pride, bitterness, fear, or distraction that is keeping you from walking closely with Him?

Confess honestly and seek His forgiveness.

Ask God to renew your heart, change your thinking, and give you a willingness to obey.

As we seek God for our church, let us also allow Him to work in us personally.

5. SCRIPTURE: LET GOD'S WORD DIRECT YOUR PRAYERS

This 40-Day journey will draw heavily from…

- The Psalms (for the language of prayer)
- John 14–17 (Jesus' intimate prayers and teachings on unity)
- Paul's core letters focusing on corporate harmony. (Ephesians, Philippians, Romans, and 1 Corinthians).

Read the assigned scriptures each time you pray during the day and each time you pray at night. Take note of what the passage teaches, what it reveals about God, and what words or verses stand out. Ask yourself:

- What does this passage reveal about God's character?
- Is there a command, promise, warning, or truth that should shape my prayer?
- How might this passage guide my prayers for Crossroads?
- Is there something God is teaching me that I need to apply personally?
- Turn the Scripture into prayer whenever appropriate.

For example: If the chapter emphasizes wisdom, pray for our pastors and church leaders. If it emphasizes unity, pray for love, humility, and understanding among our church family. If it emphasizes faithfulness, pray that Crossroads will remain faithful to God's Word. Let Scripture guide your prayers rather than simply supporting ideas you already hold.

Write down the verses that guide your prayer and any insights you want to revisit or share. God's Word is our foundation, and the Holy Spirit guides us as we pray.

6. THANKFULNESS — EXPRESS GRATITUDE

End your prayer time by expressing gratitude to God. Thank Him for His presence, provision, wisdom, faithfulness, and the privilege of being part of His church. Thank Him for what He has already done, for the people He has placed in your life, and for the ways He continues to work even when you cannot see the outcome.

Allow the Holy Spirit to bring specific reasons for gratitude to your attention. We do not have to know every answer before we give thanks. We can trust God's character while we wait for His direction.

Now that you have six steps to guide your prayer time, get ready to start your 40-Day Journey.

You will move through five phases in your 40-Day Journey.

Each phase focuses on specific areas of prayer.

Set your alarm and get ready to pray.

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Part II: 40-Day Prayer Journey

Phase 1: The Foundations of Prayer (Days 1–10)

This phase uses the Psalms to establish an honest, everyday rhythm of talking to God, paired with Paul's prison-born instructions on overcoming anxiety.

- ☐ **Day 1 – Nov 22**: Psalm 1 & 2 – Rooting your heart in prayer
- ☐ **Day 2 – Nov 23**: Psalm 19 & 23 – Recognizing God's voice & care
- ☐ **Day 3 – Nov 24**: Psalm 34 & 42 – Praying through hard times
- ☐ **Day 4 – Nov 25**: Psalm 51 & 63 – Prayers of confession
- ☐ **Day 5 – Nov 26**: Psalm 91 & 100 – Finding refuge & thanksgiving
- ☐ **Day 6 – Nov 27**: Psalm 103 & 121 – Remembering God's benefits
- ☐ **Day 7 – Nov 28**: Psalm 139 – Praying to a God who knows you
- ☐ **Day 8 – Nov 29**: Phil. 1 – Paul's prayer of joy and partnership
- ☐ **Day 9 – Nov 30**: Phil 3 – The ultimate prize of knowing Christ
- ☐ **Day 10 – Dec 1**: Phil 4 – Trading anxiety for prayer and peace

Phase 2: The Blueprint for Unity (Days 11–20)

This phase dives into Ephesians to explore how the gospel shatters divisions and builds a single, unified spiritual family.

- ☐ **Day 11 – Dec 2**: Eph 1:1-14 – Praising God for our blessings
- ☐ **Day 12 – Dec 3**: Eph 1:15-23 – Paul's prayer for spiritual wisdom
- ☐ **Day 13 – Dec 4**: Eph 2:1-10 – Alive in Christ by grace alone
- ☐ **Day 14 – Dec 5**: Eph 2:11-22 – Breaking down walls of division
- ☐ **Day 15 – Dec 6**: Ephe3:1-13 – Diverse as peoples, but one body
- ☐ **Day 16 – Dec 7**: Eph 3:14-21 – Paul's prayer for strength and love
- ☐ **Day 17 – Dec 8**: Eph 4:1-16 – Walking in unity and using our gifts
- ☐ **Day 18 – Dec 9**: Eph 4:17-32 – Put off divisions, speak words of grace
- ☐ **Day 19 - Dec 10**: Eph 5 – Walking in love &mutual submission
- ☐ **Day 20 – Dec 11**: Eph 6 – Standing firm together in spiritual battle

Phase 3: The Heart of Jesus (Days 21-25)

Look directly at the words of Jesus on the night before His crucifixion, focusing on the Holy Spirit's help and His ultimate prayer for our unity.

- ☐ **Day 21 – Dec 12**: John 14 – Finding peace & asking in Jesus' name
- ☐ **Day 22 – Dec 13**: John 15 – Abiding in Christ to love one another
- ☐ **Day 23 – Dec 14**: John 16 – The Holy Spirit's guidance in prayer
- ☐ **Day 24 – Dec 15**: John 17:1-19 – Jesus prays for Himself & His disc.
- ☐ **Day 25 – Dec16**: John 17:20-26 – Jesus prays explicitly for unity

Phase 4: Overcoming Division in Community (Days 26–33)

A practical look at 1 Corinthians, dealing honestly with how pride and conflict threaten unity, and how love restores it.

- ☐ **Day 26 – Dec 17**: 1 Cor 1 – Addressing factions and cultural divisions
- ☐ **Day 27 – Dec 18**: 1 Cor 3 – Overcoming spiritual immaturity
- ☐ **Day 28 – Dec19**: 1 Cor 11 – Unity & respect of the Lord's Table
- ☐ **Day 29 – Dec 20**: 1 Cor12:1-11 – Diverse gifts given by one Spirit
- ☐ **Day 30 – Dec 21**: 1 Cor12:12-31 – Many members, but one body
- ☐ **Day 31 – Dec 22**: 1 Cor 13 – The supremacy of self-sacrificing love
- ☐ **Day 32 – Dec 23**: 1 Cor14:1-19 – Prioritizing & building community
- ☐ **Day 33 – Dec 24**: 1 Co 14:20-40 – Order and harmony in worship

Phase 5: Living at Peace with All People (Days 34–40)

Concluding with the practical sections of Romans, mapping out how to love across big cultural differences and carry one another.

- ☐ **Day 34 – Dec 25**: Romans 12:1-8 – Living sacrifices & differing gifts
- ☐ **Day 35 – Dec 26**: Romans 12:9-21 – Christian love over evil
- ☐ **Day 36 – Dec 27**: Romans 13 – Fulfilling the law & loving neighbors
- ☐ **Day 37 – Dec 28**: Romans 14:1-12 – Live at peace with those having different convictions
- ☐ **Day 38 – Dec 29**: Romans 14:13-23 – Don't be a stumbling block
- ☐ **Day 39 – Dec 30**: Romans 15:1-13 – Bearing with the weak & glorifying God together
- ☐ **Day 40 – Dec 31**: Romans 16 – celebrating church partners

Thank you for partnering with Crossroads as we navigate our church's future. Your prayers matter. We look forward to the plans God will lay out. We are ready to follow Him in obedience.

May 2027 show us the favor of God and His perfect provision for this church family.