

A Day of Prayer and Fasting for Revival and Renewal

Our General Assembly voted in June to call the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to “observe a solemn day of fasting and prayer.” At Briarwood Presbyterian Church, we have designated Wednesday, September 30th to call our congregation to pray for among other things, “the revival and renewal of the church.”

We will **conclude** this time of fasting and prayer with a meal together at our **MidWeek dinner at 5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

We will have **a special prayer time** from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM in the Chapel for any who would like to attend. The Prayer Room will be open all day on Wednesday.

Here are some thoughts for our time of prayer and fasting. If you choose to fast as you pray, keep these thoughts in mind.

GUIDANCE FOR YOUR FAST

1. The Purpose of Fasting

- *Fasting is an act of worship that turns our physical hunger into a reminder of our dependence upon God. In abstaining from physical food, we desire to increase our spiritual hunger. It should lead us to hunger more deeply for God, His Word, and the work of His Spirit, declaring that Jesus is our true bread of life (Matthew 4:4).*
- *We fast, not because fasting earns God’s favor, but because it humbles us and directs our hearts toward the Lord.*
- *As we wait for our ascended Bridegroom to return, fasting expresses our longing for Christ and His kingdom.*

2. How to Participate in Fasting as you Pray

- *Use the standard mealtimes you would normally spend eating to read the designated Scriptures and pray through the bullet points below.*
- *Pray throughout the day as you go about your normal activities (1 Thess 5:17).*

3. Health Modifications

- *Those with diabetes, chronic illnesses, pregnancy or nursing, or a history of an eating disorder should consult an appropriate healthcare professional before undertaking a fast.*
- *If you have an underlying medical condition that prevents you from fasting from food, consider participating via a partial fast (abstaining from specific types of food) or a media/digital fast.*

GUIDANCE FOR YOUR PRAYER TIME

The church is encouraged to use this day to seek God’s help, blessing, protection, and power for gospel ministry for His glory. We are called to mourn the spiritual poverty, division, and sin which we often find within the church. We are to pray for faithful preaching, the conversion of the lost, healthy churches, and the advance of the gospel throughout the world. The ultimate purpose of the day is to seek the Lord Himself, trusting Him to revive His people according to His steadfast love.

Morning: Repentance & Personal Renewal

Focus: Humbling ourselves before God, meditating on His greatness, confessing individual and corporate sins, and seeking personal revival.

- **Read: Psalm 51 and Nehemiah 1:4–11**
- **Reflection:** Spend time in silence asking the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Consider where your love for Christ has grown cold.
- **Prayer Points:**
 1. **Confession:** Confess and repent from specific sins of pride, prayerlessness, division, and indifference to the spiritual needs of others.
 2. **Cleansing:** Ask the Lord to grant true godly sorrow, to cleanse your conscience through the blood of Christ, and to restore the joy of your salvation.
 3. **Renewal:** Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your own life, your family, and our local elders and deacons.

Midday: The Local Church & The PCA

Focus: Praying for the spiritual health, purity, and unity of our local congregation and the broader Presbyterian Church in America.

- **Read: Ephesians 3:14–21 and John 17:20–26**
- **Reflection:** Reflect on the church as the bride and body of Christ. Consider our desperate need for God's power to sustain her. Ask God to do a work in our Church.
- **Prayer Points:**
 1. **The Preaching of the Word:** Pray that our pastors would preach the gospel with clarity, conviction, and the power of the Holy Spirit.
 2. **Unity and Peace:** Ask God to preserve peace within our congregation and across the PCA, protecting us from the schemes of the enemy and unifying us in Biblical truth.
 3. **Spiritual Awakening:** Pray that our weekly corporate worship each Sunday would be marked by a deep reverence, profound joy, and an authentic encounter with the living God.

Evening: The Great Commission & The Kingdom

Focus: Interceding for the conversion of the lost, global missions, and the advancement of Christ's kingdom.

- **Read: Matthew 9:35–38, Matthew 28:16–20, and Isaiah 62:6–7**
- **Reflection:** Look outward at a broken, secular culture. Remind yourself that salvation belongs to the Lord, and He uses the earnest prayers of his people and the proclamation of the Gospel to bring people to Himself.
- **Prayer Points:**
 1. **Local Evangelism:** Pray for boldness to share the Gospel with neighbors, coworkers, and family members. Pray for the Lord to bring a harvest of new believers in our community.
 2. **Campus & Church Planting:** Lift up **Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)** and **Campus Outreach (CO)** campus ministries and local church planters, asking God to grant them fruitfulness among the next generation.
 3. **Global Missions:** Pray for our PCA missionaries with **Mission to the World (MTW)** and Ministry to North America (**MNA**) as they labor under difficult circumstances across the globe to share the Gospel of Christ.