

JULY 2023

PRAYER GUIDE

“We want to go to God for answers, but sometimes what we get is God’s presence.” — Nadia Bolz-Weber

1 ORR, MINNESOTA, US

Join us in praying for our July 3rd preparations for the booth we are having at the “4th of July Celebration.” Our desire is to interreact with the community in a Spirit led way. We are planning to offer free water, bicycle tune-ups and minor repairs, and face painting.

2 DENOMINATIONAL CELEBRATION

Jesus, thank you that you are the source of all true joy in life. Help us to find our joy in you. May your voice sound clearly above all others as we worship together for the last session of the Denominational Celebration today. May your love surround us, your Spirit guide us, your voice cheer us, your peace calm us, your shield protect us, and your wisdom arm us, wherever you are leading us forward, as one body.



3 MEDITATION MONDAY: ROMANS 6:18

While waking up to a new day, what do you see ahead of you? When your first gaze is at Jesus and you open yourself to hear what he has to say to you, you find there is love, acceptance, and freedom. This freedom has a distinct direction—freedom from the shackles of a self-centered, self-willed way of being towards freedom to love and serve God and others. In quiet reflection, picture yourself in face-to-face conversation with Jesus. What do you hear him asking you to do? How will you actively follow him today as he leads you into greater freedom, love, and service to others?

4 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

God of Truth, prepare the hearts and minds of the GCI Superintendents and leaders who are gathered together this week. Bless each person who is gathered and equip them for the work you have for them. May everyone leave with clear next steps to participate with you as you lead our fellowship forward.

5 CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE, US

Lord, we praise you for the three baptisms of the individuals who chose to take this next step in committing to following you. There are more steps to follow, and we trust that he who started a good work in them will draw it to completion.



BUNDA, MALAWI

6 WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, US

Holy Spirit, thank you for the transformation you bring into our lives. We thank you for the Pentecost celebration that filled our gathering with your presence. We ask that you continue to open our eyes to love you and follow you.

7 RICHARDSON, TEXAS, US

Jesus, we thank you for the campers and staff you have gathered at our neighborhood camp. We pray for the relationships that will be developed. May all who enter camp come to know you in deeper ways and grow as brothers and sisters in Christ.

8 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Gracious God, we pray for a vibrant missional heartbeat to permeate GCI congregations. Guide our discernment process in identifying and sharing your love with our focus neighborhoods. We are blessed; help us be a blessing to the world.

9 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Gracious God, we thank you for our faithful members. We pray these verses from Romans over our fellowship: "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

10 MEDITATION MONDAY: GENESIS 24:58 (NRSV)

When we come to the realization that Jesus Christ lives in us by his Spirit, and that our life belongs to him, we are faced with the reality that our life is no longer our own to do with as we please. We can continue on the easy, comfortable path we were walking where self and society were our masters, or we can embrace the truth that our life is taken up in Christ and made new. As Rebekah faced a question which would change the entire course of her life, we are as well: "Will you go with this man?" Will you follow Christ?

11 DERBY, KANSAS, US

Thank you, Lord, for a fun-filled neighborhood camp. We pray that as campers remember the activities and conversations, their faith will be formed and they will draw closer to you.

12 LILONGWE, MALAWI

Loving God, we praise you for the seven baptisms our congregation celebrated last month. As we welcome our newly baptized members into our fellowship, we thank you once again for your gift of grace and the forgiveness you give each of us.

13 FORT WAYNE, INDIANNA, US

We rejoice over the opportunity to partner with a local wild animal handler. He helped us host an event where people can be educated and entertained by their experience with the animals. We had over twenty neighbors join us for the event. We ask for continued prayers as we build connections and share the love of Christ with those he has called us to serve.



CLEVELAND, OHIO

14 SOUTH KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, US

Jesus, we are grateful for the awesome ways campers and staff felt your love this week at our neighborhood camp. Continue to help all who attended grow in grace and knowledge of you and shine your light into our neighborhood.

15 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Jesus, it is your person and presence that compels us to love. Empower us through your love to listen, care, and engage with our neighbors. Through the summer engagement events hosted by our congregations, help us to see the unique ways they bear your image and to be curious in discovering how you are working in their lives.

16 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

God of grace, who never fails to help and direct the steps of those who seek your will, we ask that you keep us under the protection of your good purposes for us. During our Sunday services this week, we ask that you fill us with a love for you and deep desire to honor you in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

17 MEDITATION MONDAY: GENESIS 25:32 (NRSV)

Do you realize the incredible magnitude of your birthright as a child of God? Because of Jesus Christ, you are held in our Father's embrace, given his Spirit of truth, and included in God's very own life and love. You have been given a spiritual family, where you need never be alone, but have brothers and sisters to share life with you in the communion of the Holy Spirit. You have been freed from sin and death and given a right relationship with God and others which begins now and lasts on into eternity. With this in mind, does that thing you so desperately crave in this particular moment really matter?

18 CARINA, AUSTRALIA

Our loving Father, we thank you for the connections made during our recent Neighbor Day event. As we continue to build relationships with our neighbors, keep our hearts and minds open so that we willingly seek to touch those outside the four walls of the church. Inspire and equip us to create spaces where your love will be experienced.



19 BUNDA, MALAWI

Giver of life and every good gift, we thank you for the abundant ways you bless us and the generosity you inspire in your people. Our youth are grateful for the shoe boxes they received last month. May this be a reminder of your love and grace in their lives for years to come.

20 BICOL, PHILIPPINES

Father, we thank you for the memories that were made during our camp. May all who attended continue to seek and experience you as they return home.

21 CLEVELAND, OHIO, US

We are grateful to be able to serve our community. We enjoy building relationships with our neighbors through our ice cream give away. We pray that in all our interactions we will experience your love.

22 GRACE COMMUNION MINISTRY TEAMS

Gracious God it is a joy to join in your ministry. We thank you for all the volunteers who have answered your call to serve in GCI congregations. We ask that you sustain them, and may they experience your love in meaningful ways.

23 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

God who is our refuge, we put all that we love in your hands. Without you, nothing is strong and nothing is holy. Help us trust you more and multiply your mercy in our lives. Jesus, with you as our Savior and with the Spirit as our guide, move in our worship gatherings today and in the hearts of your people to lose all that is temporary. Fix and root us in what is eternal. Amen.

24 MEDITATION MONDAY: PSALM 139:7

Life can be tough, especially when we want to follow Jesus and doing so means our behavior and words run counter to the culture in which we live. At times it may seem as if we are having to handle life's problems all on our own. But Jesus promised to be with us even to the end, having sent his Spirit so we can participate in his own relationship with our heavenly Father. Pause for a moment of quiet reflection. Ask God to reveal his indwelling presence to you. Sit in silence for a while and listen to the indwelling Spirit.

25 CLEVELAND, OHIO, US

We are grateful for the recent celebration of welcoming our new members to the congregation. We are delighted that they answered the Lord's call to follow Jesus and share the gifts he has given them with our community.

26 KIARA, PHILIPPINES

Holy Spirit, we rejoice in the ways you have revealed the Father's love for us through our church family. We praise God for his faithfulness to us as we celebrate the anniversary of our congregation.

27 GCI BOARD

Jesus, as our board gathers today, we ask that you guide the conversation and decisions made, so that they will be pleasing to you. Unite us together by your Spirit and give us the strength to carry out your will.

28 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, US

We pray for our connect group going through the We Believe curriculum. May your presence be palpable as we grow in understanding and relationship with you and one another. Call out of us what is not of you, and call us up into the good work you have for us to participate in ministry with you.

29 GCI - HOME OFFICE

This month, we plan ahead for our 2024 fiscal year. We thank God for his faithful provision and care for our fellowship. Join us in praying for wisdom as we steward the gifts he has given us to join him in building his kingdom.

30 GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

Many of our congregations are continuing to look for a facility where they can connect with a community and be involved with their neighbors. Please lift up their searches and ask God to continue to equip them to love the people God is calling them to love. Ask God to go before them to make the crooked places straight in finding a new home, and that he would grant them the wisdom to make good decisions.

31 MEDITATION MONDAY: ROMANS 8:29

Even before you were born, God knew what he had in mind for you. He formed you uniquely, to be one of his own children who reflects the likeness of his Son Jesus Christ and who participates with him in caring for his creation. Because of Christ living in us by his Spirit, our human existence has great meaning and value, for every moment is pregnant with infinite possibilities for healing, renewal, and transformation. Today, how may God want you to participate with him in the restoration of all things? What one thing might he be wanting you to do to bring life, healing, and renewal to his earth?



Does your church have an event, Congregational prayer request, or praise report you would like included in next month's Prayer Guide or other GCI Publications?

PLEASE EMAIL INFO@GCI.ORG WITH DETAILS AND PHOTOS.