

## FOR REFLECTION

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name ..."* Psalm 103

*"Do not be afraid little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Luke 12:32-34

*"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."* Malachi 3:10

*"Lo, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?"* Isaiah 55:1-2

*"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you."* John 6:27

## FASTING ON FRIDAYS

Some of the pastors, staff and campaign leadership team will be 'fasting' each Friday through the end of the **Hope Grows Here** campaign. The purpose is to focus on seeking God's guidance and strength in prayer. We would like you to join us.

People usually think about fasting in relation to food, but we can also fast from things like TV, music, electronic games, sports shows or shopping. The purpose in choosing a fast is to find something that will be difficult to do on your own, without God's strength.

In those moments of weakness when you think about and want the item you have given up, you have an opportunity to pray, asking God for his strength and thanking him for the blessings in your life.

If you are new to fasting and you want to fast from food, you don't have to fast for a whole day. You can fast just long enough to be aware that we take our ability to eat at anytime for granted.

Fasting is not a typical part of today's teachings about prayer, but Jesus said, 'When you fast,' not 'If you fast'. There are many references in the Bible about people fasting and praying to grow closer to God and to hear God more clearly. In today's world being asked to skip one meal or activity feels like deprivation. However, purposefully not doing something that we like to do or not eating when we are hungry, as a part of prayer and meditation, reminds us that everything that sustains us comes from God.

To start your 'fast,' pray about what you are planning to avoid for the day. Pray consistently throughout the day as you are reminded of what you have given up. At the end of the day, or whenever you finish your fast, thank God for giving you an opportunity to be more aware of his presence and love.

*We recommend that you read Psalm 104, which is a wonderful song of praise to God the creator and provider.*

# PRAYER GUIDE

Through One Spirit, One Hope, One Love and One Faith, we come together eager to experience God's promises as **Hope Grows Here**.

God promises many blessings to those who generously share out of their own abundance, remembering that everything we have was first given to us by God and belongs to him. All that we have (and all that we are) is a gift from God — our time, our talent, our money and even the gift of life itself.

God gave us these many great gifts out of great love. He never intended us to act as owners of our gifts, ignoring them or hoarding them for our own use. Rather, His purpose was for us to act as good stewards, managers and caretakers of our gifts by using them responsibly, generously and wisely for building up the Kingdom of God.



*"...we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ...He [Jesus] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Matthew 16:18*

## WAYS TO APPROACH GOD IN PRAYER

- **Adoration** – We praise God for who he is, in all of his glory, power and wisdom. The Psalms give us many beautiful verses to use for praise, so don't worry about creating your own. God loves to hear the words of the Psalmist spoken from your heart.
- **Confession** – We ask for forgiveness. We need to see ourselves as we really are, created beings who cannot follow God's perfect will. We are all children of God who cry out for forgiveness through Jesus, our Savior, who invites us to approach our Holy God.
- **Thanksgiving** – Think about what God has done for you and others around you recently. Thank Him for everything — the weather, your family, your job, church family and the building God has provided.
- **Supplication** – After giving God thanks and praise, make your requests to him. Because you have done the first three steps, your heart will be prepared to ask for those things you truly need. God will have directed your thoughts and words to his desires for you, and you will be more able to pray according to his plans.

Feel free to use the short prayer below as a guide, and then add on the bulleted requests below. You can also pray your own prayer any way that you feel drawn to do.

*An example of a prayer to be used throughout the capital campaign:*

**Father God,**

**With One Spirit,** we ask you to nourish us in your Spirit so that we may be faithful stewards of your gifts.

**With One Hope,** we ask you to humble our hearts and center our lives on your sovereign purpose.

**With One Love,** may the sacrifice of our joyful giving be an outward sign of the true treasure we hold in you.

**With One Faith,** we commit ourselves to your service and rely on being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

*In your name we pray. Amen.*

- Pray a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for what God has done at Hope Waukeee to draw people into a living relationship with the Lord. Thank Him for the new relationships, spiritual growth, and healing of body, heart and spirit that God has given us.
- Pray for finances, that God will lay His hands upon our giving.
- Pray that each of us will know what God desires us to give from the abundance He has provided for our use.
- Pray that from our offerings we are able to present a space that allows for God to move boldly and freely, and where those visiting may experience the Holy Spirit and warm hospitality.

## HOPE GROWS HERE: 2@2

2@2, beginning Monday, Oct. 19 – Commit to pray daily for two minutes (or more!) at 2:00 pm each day during the campaign no matter where you are, and ask God to guide your giving, bless the campaign, our community, and new neighborhood. It's so easy. Just place a reminder on your electronic calendar.

As Hope Waukeee grows deeper together, we invite you to go online at [hopewaukeee.org/campaign](http://hopewaukeee.org/campaign) for a daily prayer devotional so we may pray as one church.

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## HOPE GROWS HERE DAILY PRAYERS

*Here are a few more examples:*

*Good and gracious God,*

*We thank you for loving us and being a generous God who is our true source of all life, you are holy and good. We thank you for the many gifts you give to us. Continue to help mold us and shape us so that we may reflect your character and will in all of our living.*

*In your name we pray. Amen.*

*Heavenly Father,* keep us mindful of the good that happens when we work together to build Hope as one family united in Spirit, Hope, Love, and Faith. Open our hearts and minds for how you want Hope Waukeee to grow deeper and wider. *Amen.*

*Heavenly Father,*

*Today we pray to share whatever gift it is that you have given to us to:*

- Acknowledge you as the giver of all our gifts
- Give without counting the cost and be gracious and cheerful in our giving
- Give and share without expecting something in return
- Hold all our treasures and values with open hands
- Recognize the abundance of blessings in each passing day
- Know the freedom that comes with true generosity
- Accept our talents, whether many or few, and use them to your service
- Be happy with having what we need, and wise enough to know the difference between what we “need” and “want”
- Fall more deeply in love with the God of all generosity so that our hearts are strong enough to give away freely whatever is asked...

*In your name we pray. Amen.*