

# PRAYER GUIDE



# Epworth at Aylett

## Summer 2025



## Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you so much for joining us in prayer for the people, the community, and the future of Epworth Methodist Church of Aylett. We know that God loves to bless His people, and He answers our prayers when we seek Him earnestly. As we join together over the next 45 days we expect God to do great things!

We invite you to pray through the provided prompts and Scripture. Feel free to expand your personal prayers around each prompt as the Lord leads. Please spend at least a few minutes in your prayer time listening for God's response.

We are asking for vision and direction. And we believe the Lord when He promised to pour out His Spirit on all flesh, sending visions to the old and young for the edification of His people. We look forward to hearing what He reveals to each of you as we journey together toward God's new thing here at Epworth!

As God sends you ideas, visions, and thoughts for the future, we encourage you to jot them down and drop them in the offering plate or the box at the back of the sanctuary. At the end of our 45 days of prayer we will gather all that God has shown us and share His picture for our future as a congregation. Please plan to join us on October 5<sup>th</sup> for lunch and a time of visioning and planning around what God has revealed!

# Prayers of Preparation

## Day 1: Clean Hearts

Scripture: Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

### Focus: Centering Ourselves in God

**Prayer:** Abba, Jesus told His disciples that Your Word had washed them clean, but still He washed their feet. We need your cleansing to remove the sin, sadness, and stains of the world from our hearts. Search us today for anything that keeps us from your will and your Spirit. Fill us with Your joy as protection against the day-to-day weariness of the world and incline our spirits toward Your will. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 2: Right Thoughts

Scripture: Proverbs 21:21

Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life,  
prosperity and honor.

### Focus: Orienting Our Thoughts to God

**Prayer:** Lord, we need your help to orient our thinking toward your righteousness and love. Help us to embrace the renewing of our minds Your Word promises. Align our thoughts each moment to Your perfect thoughts, righteousness, and love.

## Day 3: Comforted Souls

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

### Focus: Giving Our Grief to God

**Prayer:** Abba, our hearts are filled with wounds. We have faced illness, loss of loved ones, loss of friends, loss of self, loss of community, brokenness in our relationships, and many other heartaches that leave us grieving. Your Word promises that You will use all those things for our good as we walk with You. We lift our pain and grief to you and ask that You would comfort us in our sorrows until You make us whole and healed. In Jesus name, by the Presence of the Comforter, and for Your honor and Glory. Amen.

## Day 4: Giving Forgiveness

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:5-8

If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you ... Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

## Focus: Restoring Relationship with Brothers and Sisters in Christ

**Prayer:** Lord, we come before you grieved by brothers and sisters who have done us wrong in past years. Some of the hurts are recent, stemming from struggles over direction in our congregation. Some of the hurts are old and almost forgotten, but still festering, leaving a seed of bitterness in our relationships with our church family. Today, I offer forgiveness to {speak any names that come to mind here} for all that has been done. I pray You would forgive them, and that You would help me to let go of any lingering offense or anger so that sorrow will not overwhelm them and the unity of Your family in our congregation can be restored. In Jesus name, by whose blood we are forgiven, amen.

## Day 5: Receiving Forgiveness

Scripture: 1 John 2:12

I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

## Focus: Restoring Relationship with God

**Prayer:** Abba, I come on my knees today knowing I have sinned against You. I have hidden my sins in the hopes You would not see them, and in the fear You would not forgive them. But Lord, today I confess these sins before You {speak anything the Lord brings to mind} because Your Word says You are faithful to forgive all our sins. I receive that forgiveness and thank you. In Jesus name, and by His blood, amen.

## Day 6: Healing

Scripture: James 5:14-16

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

### Focus: Restoring Our Physical Bodies

**Prayer:** Almighty Creator, who knows every hair on my head, who knit me together in my mother's womb, and who knows the number of my days, I ask Your healing for my body. Lord, where I have {speak whatever illness, disease, or brokenness in your body needs healing} I ask that You restore my body to wholeness for as long as I am living here. Restore me to do Your will and teach me to be a good steward of my body so I can stay in Good health to serve You. In the name of Jesus, by whose stripes and in whose hands are Your healing, amen.

## Day 7: Overcoming Fear

Scripture: John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you may have tribulation; but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.

### Focus: Being Encouraged By Christ

**Prayer:** Lord, the work You call me to is beyond me. Your enemies seek to devour me and separate me from You. My heart fears failure, destruction, loss, and even disappointing You. There are so many things for us to fear in our frailty. The sense of threat is overwhelming and can lead us to worry, anxiety, depression and even blind panic. But God, You call us to be courageous, because You have promised to be with us. Jesus made that promise again at His ascension. Be near us in our fear and make us more than conquerors as we hold fast to the promise of Your presence and the certainty of Your faithfulness. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 8: New Wineskins**

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:17

Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

### **Focus: Becoming Vessels for Holy Spirit**

**Prayer:** Almighty, Majestic God, You invite me into the work of Your kingdom and call me to be a dwelling place for Your very own Spirit. Remake me Lord, mind, body, heart, and soul. Remove everything in me that is not compatible with Your Spirit and make me supple and ready to be filled with Your glory and grace. In Jesus name, and by Your Spirit, and all for Your honor and glory, amen.



## Day 9: Fresh Vision

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

**Focus: Orienting Our Vision to God's Vision**

**Prayer:** Lord, our eyes are easily distracted and our hearts discouraged when our sight is filled with the trials and obstacles that surround us. Help us to fix our hearts and minds on the beauty of Your work all around us. Inspire us to see Your hand and paths in our families, our community, and our congregation. Let our vision be aligned with Your vision so we can see Your glory. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 10: Lively Unity

Scripture: Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**Focus: Unity Around Our Heart as God's Family**

**Prayer:** Father, Your Word tells us that Your people are bound together by the Holy Spirit, who provides a unity of love and grace, centered on Jesus Christ, to Your family around the globe and down through all the ages. Grant us the eyes to see one another as Your family, drawn together as a congregation at Epworth at Aylett to use all our diverse gifts, perspectives, and ideas to build Your kingdom and reach the lost. Fill us with our identity as Jesus' church, that He is building, so the gates of hell cannot prevail against us. In Jesus mighty name, through the power of the Holy Spirit in and around us, and for the honor and glory of Your kingdom coming, amen.

# Prayers for the Community

## Day 11: Local Families

Scripture: Psalm 22:27, 30-31

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to  
the Lord,

And all the families of the nations will bow down  
before him...

Posterity will serve him;

Future generations will be told about the Lord.

They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet  
unborn—for he has done it.

### Focus: King William County Families

**Prayer:** Father, we know that families are precious to You. You instituted them as the first church, the reflection of Your love and Your plan to draw people near to You from generation to generation. We pray for the families all around Epworth at Aylett and ask You to protect them, strengthen them, and help them to flourish. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 12: Local Schools

Scripture: Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you  
should go. I will advise you with my eye upon you.

### Focus: King William County Schools

**Prayer:** Lord, You call us to educate our children, and yet that education is a tool to help them know You. Lord, we ask Your protection from the designs of the enemy and the depravity of the world for the students in all the schools in King William County. We ask that You lead and protect the teachers and staff in each school, in transportation, and in the district. Let Your light shine in the darkness, let Your love surround the next generation, and help them know the powerful name of Jesus, in whose name we pray, amen.

## **Day 13: Local Government**

**Scripture: Jeremiah 29:7**

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exiles. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

### **Focus: King William County and Surrounding Governments**

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, all government is on Your shoulders. We know that even in a place where we vote for officials, ultimately only God raises up and casts down ruling authorities. Lord, grant us good government filled with men and women who know and follow Jesus Christ. Guide and protect those whom You have appointed to lead in King William County, Virginia, the United States and all around the world. Order our government in ways that align with Your will, which love mercy, seek justice and walk humbly with You. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 14: Local Businesses

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:18

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

### Focus: King William County Businesses

**Prayer:** Father, the economy in our nation is volatile and business can be difficult. We ask that You bless the businesses of King William County. Please guide the business owners, workers, and corporations to practice righteousness toward one another, toward employees, and toward customers. Help them operate under a heavenly economy where they will be rewarded for serving others well and for good and graceful business practices. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 15: Local Community

Scripture: Galatians 5:14

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

### Focus: Aylett and Surrounding Communities

**Prayer:** Father, we ask Your blessings on Aylett, Central Garage, Mangohick, King William County, and all the communities around Epworth at Aylett. Lord, bring conviction where it is needed, bring repentance where it is needed, pour out compassion where it is needed, and fill the homes in this area with the love and joy of the Lord. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 16: Local Churches

Scripture: Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

### Focus: King William County Christian Churches

**Prayer:** Abba, we ask that You bless and connect all Your congregations in King William County. Help us to strengthen one another, to encourage one another, and to love one another as we follow Jesus and carry His gospel into our communities. Lord, as we live in peace and cooperation with one another as Your body, Your family, increase us all in numbers so that we can expand the reach of Your kingdom. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 17: Local Ministries

Scripture: Acts 6:3

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ...

### Focus: Ministries in King William and Surrounding Counties

**Prayer:** Abba, we are blessed by many ministries outside the walls of the church that serve the people of King William county in the name of Jesus. We ask Your guidance, provision, and encouragement for each of these ministries. May the work of their hands and hearts be fruitful and glorify Jesus. May the lives they touch be transformed from glory to glory as they are rescued, redeemed and transformed by the power of Christ. In Jesus name, amen.

# Prayers for Our Leadership

## Day 18: Church Council

Scripture: Acts 15:6-7

The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: ...

**Focus: Wisdom and Encouragement for Epworth MC church council**

**Prayer:** Abba, we lift up Paul Cecil, Linda Killmeier, Lona Dunlavey, Ann Danshaw, JR Mitchell, Jerry Becker, Ed Danshaw, Dinah Bush, Tammy Stone, Tera Ertz. We ask for an anointing and infilling of Your Spirit on each of these You have called to lead Epworth at Aylett. Give them wisdom as they seek Your direction for the congregation and as they carry out the work of the church. Encourage their hearts and send them vision, provision and help to accomplish all that You want them to do in this new season. In Jesus name.

## Day 19: Trustees

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

This, then is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

**Focus: Wisdom and Encouragement for Epworth MC trustees**



**Prayer:** Father, we thank you for Jerry Becker, Tom Dunlavey, Tammy Stone, James Boyer, Larry Killmeier, Ben Headley and lift them to You. We ask that You grant them gifts of stewardship, craftsmanship, and joy in the work of maintaining Your house and physical holdings. We know that all we have as a congregation belongs to You, and that You will provide them all that is needed to care for the possessions You have entrusted to our congregation. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 20: Finance Committee**

**Scripture: Genesis 41:39**

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.”

### **Focus: Wisdom and Encouragement for Epworth MC finance committee**

**Prayer:** We lift Dinah Bush, Lona Dunlavey, Paul Cecil, Ed Danshaw, Jerry Becker, Tammy Stone, Tera Ertz to the throne of grace. Grant insight and encouragement in the finances of Epworth at Aylett. Encourage the congregation to cheerfully receive Your blessings. Encourage the Finance Committee to put structures and budgets in place to reflect the glorious vision You have for Epworth. Help them to be good stewards of all that is given yet give them the peace and expectation to step boldly into whatever plans You reveal. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 21: Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Scripture: Romans 12:6, 8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us... if it is to encourage, then give encouragement... if it is to lead, do it diligently.

**Focus: Discernment and Encouragement for  
Epworth MC PPR committee**

**Prayer:** Father, we lift Ed Danshaw, Ashley Durrett, Korey Rohleder, Dinah Bush, Lona Dunlavey, Tera Ertz to you as they communicate needs and expectations between the pastor and the congregation in ways that reflect Your love, Your grace, and Your high calling to devote ourselves to You. Grant them encouragement, discernment for the needs of the congregation, and guidance in all matters that pertain to human relations in the business of the church. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 22: Epworth Disciples On Mission

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Focus: Strength and Encouragement for  
Epworth Mission volunteers**

**Prayer:** Lord God, thank you for Your servants at Epworth. Give them strength and encouragement as they look for tangible ways to serve our community and our congregation. Open their eyes to see needs, open doors to meet people, and grant them provision for all the work You have prepared for them to do. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 23: Ministry Volunteers**

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

**Focus: Strength and Encouragement for Epworth MC ministry volunteers**

**Prayer:** Almighty God, no vision You give to Your congregation here at Epworth could be accomplished well without the gracious service of so many volunteers. From hospitality to Sunday morning service to community events, committees, and ministry, Your people share Your love. Lord, fill them with Your strength and encouragement daily. In Jesus name, amen.

# Prayers for Outreach Vision

## Day 24: Children's Outreach

Scripture: Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

**Focus: Vision for Reaching Children for God's Kingdom**

**Prayer:** Abba, we cry out for Your help and Your vision for ways we can reach the children in the communities around Aylett. Help us share the love of Jesus, the gospel of their salvation and reconciliation, and their identity in Jesus Christ. Help us serve them well, teach them well, and make them disciples from their childhood so they will be hidden in Christ through all the darkness that comes against them. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 25: Youth Outreach

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

**Focus: Vision for Reaching Youth for God's Kingdom**

**Prayer:** Abba, adolescence in our communities is a challenging time – caught between child and adult. Give us a vision for reaching the youth of Aylett and the surrounding communities. Help us meet them where they are and show them who You've created them to be. Grant us Your wisdom and help us to be mentors, examples, and friends that draw our youth into relationship with Christ and into the full life of the congregation. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 26: Young Adult Outreach**

**Scripture:** Acts 2: 17

'In the last days,' God says,  
    'I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
    your young men will see visions,  
    your old men will dream dreams.

**Focus:** Vision for Reaching Young Adults for God's Kingdom

**Prayer:** Abba, so often once our children cross the threshold into adulthood they feel abandoned, not quite fitting with the adults they've grown up with and no longer a part of the youth programs they've grown used to. Grant us wisdom and open hearts for reaching the young adults in our community. Help us make connections with them during this crucial time where they will make so many life decisions and so desperately need the influence and community of Jesus. Give us a vision for this and open the doors for us to speak life to the next generations. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 27: Marriage Outreach

Scripture: Ephesians 5:32-33

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Focus: Vision for Strengthening Marriages for God's Kingdom**

**Prayer:** Lord, You created us male and female in Your image to reflect the beauty of Your eternal, internal relationship within the Trinity. Marriage was Your first gift to men after Your own presence, and it has been under attack by Your enemy ever since. Give us a vision for reaching those who are married and preparing for marriage to help them build strong foundations that rest on the truth of Christ and the binding of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 28: Singles Outreach

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:32, 34

An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord... An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.

**Focus: Vision for Strengthening Singles for God's Kingdom**

**Prayer:** Father, give us vision for sharing the value of singleness with our community. Help us to mentor and model what it looks like to be content in singleness either as a long-term decision or as contentment with a present state while we wait on the Lord's timing. Make us a place of connection, friendship, and family for those called to singleness in their present season. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 29: Seniors Outreach

**Scripture:** Isaiah 46:4

Even to your old age and gray hairs

I am he, I am he who will sustain you.

I have made you and I will carry you;

I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

## Focus: Vision for Engaging Seniors for God's Kingdom

**Prayer:** Abba, we love that You promise that even in our old age You have plans and purposes for us, that You will be with us and sustain us. Lord, grant us a vision for loving our elders in the Aylett and surrounding community. Help us create paths for them to serve Your kingdom and connect with the younger generations who desperately need them. Grant us a vision that envelopes them in Your love and Your work. In Jesus name, amen.

# Prayers for Inreach Ministry

## Day 30: Music Ministry

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 15:16

Then David ordered the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers with instruments of songs, musical instruments, stringed instruments, and cymbals, raising their voices for joy.

**Focus:** Vision for dynamic music ministry for celebrating God's kingdom

**Prayer:** Almighty God, You call us to sing Your praises with voices and instruments. Grant us a vision for a music ministry that reaches into our congregation and out into our community. Provide us with the people, talents, and resource we need to share the joy of Your kingdom in the congregation and community. Help us let go of any preconceived notions of what that looks like that don't align with Your plans and replace them with Your vision that will meet the desires of our hearts to praise You in song. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 31: Worship Ministry

Scripture: Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."



**Focus: Vision for vibrant worship to embrace God's kingdom**

**Prayer:** Almighty God, all of life is about worship. We offer ourselves as living sacrifices, bowed down before Your throne. Give us a vision of what it looks like for our people to worship You with our whole heart, mind, body, and soul. Provide all we need to establish worship that is filled with the Holy Spirit and glorifies Your name in all the earth. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 32: Discipleship Ministry**

**Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20**

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

**Focus: Vision for making disciples for God's kingdom**

**Prayer:** Lord God, help us to envision discipleship as more than Bible studies and small groups. Give us the vision that Christ gave to His disciples, a life encompassing process that draws people into the family of God out of all the nations and makes them new, clothed in righteousness, growing in Christ, and walking in obedience in the light of Your kingdom. Help us to be bold and robust in our understanding of discipleship, so that our disciples become bold and robust in all their lives. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 33: Fellowship Ministry

Scripture: Acts 2:41

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**Focus:** Vision for fellowship ministry to grow God's kingdom

**Prayer:** Lord, You command us to love one another. To do this well, we must know one another, spend time with one another, and grow together. Give us a vision for the fellowship ministries of the church that helps us to love one another in all the ways You call us to. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 34: Prayer Ministry

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Focus:** Vision for making prayer central in building God's kingdom at Epworth

**Prayer:** Abba, prayer is the foundation of all things in the kingdom of God. It is our conduit to the throne of grace and our constant communion with our Father in heaven. Prayer is the method by which You choose to move mountains, cast out demons, heal the sick, and reconcile the lost. Give us a vision for prayer ministry in the congregation of Epworth at Aylett. In Jesus name, amen.

## **Day 35: Missional Ministry**

**Scripture: Acts 1:8**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Focus: Vision for identifying and reaching our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth.**

**Prayer:** Lord, we often equate mission either with telling stranger about Jesus in our back yard or going far away to serve foreign people groups. Your vision of mission is different. We are called to be Your witnesses at home and abroad. Epworth already has a missional heart. Help us to have Your vision for how to align and build out those missions to grow Your kingdom wherever You desire to send us. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 36: GMC Ministry

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

**Focus:** Vision for working in connection with the GMC in Virginia and globally.

**Prayer:** Gracious God, You have connected us to a great cloud of witness through the Global Methodist Church. This organization is advancing Your kingdom all around the globe and here in Virginia. You have blessed us with connections in our conference and beyond. Grant us a vision for how to work with other congregations in Virginia, with the Conference itself, and with other GMC organizations outside Virginia as we embrace Your vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ and spreading scriptural holiness around the world.

# Prayers for God's Will

## Day 37: Faith

Scripture: Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Focus:** Trust in the promises of God

**Prayer:** Abba, we come with the understanding that without Christ we can do nothing. None of our plans will prosper unless they are grounded in You. Yet, we step out in the faith that You have promised to be with us. You have promised to guide and empower us for the work of Your kingdom. And You have called us for such a time as this. Help us rest in this faith as we begin the new journey You are preparing for us. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 38: Hope

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

**Focus:** Hope for God's Growth at Epworth

**Prayer:** Almighty God, we see a church filled with children and youth. We see families growing in faith and love for You and for one another. We see a vibrant congregation engaged with our community and with the world as we serve and share the gospel. Yet, that vision is not seen here in the world currently. Today, we declare that we hope for what is now only seen in our minds eye. We rest in the promise that Jesus is our hope, and that You will complete the good work You have begun. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 39: Spiritual Disciplines

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:9

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

### Focus: Developing Spiritual Practices at Epworth

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we recognize that just like athletes need discipline to excel, and students need discipline to succeed, we need discipline to follow Your commands and be obedient to the prompting and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Help us to develop the spiritual practices that will ground us in the vine of Christ so that we can grow in faith and be prepared to follow You wherever You lead us. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 40: Spiritual Fruit

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**Focus: Receiving the Spirit's Growth in His Fruit**

**Prayer:** Abba, we are so grateful that You do not call us to be loving, joyful, and peaceful in our own strength. Thank you that the promise of Holy Spirit's presence in us is a divine growing of His fruit in us. Help us to let go of our own striving for human control and human peace and love, instead, help us to rest firmly in the overflow of the Spirit in us. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 41: Spiritual Gifts

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:12

Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

**Focus: Identifying and Exercising the Gifts God has provided to build up Epworth.**

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, Your Word says You give gifts to Your people just as You desire to accomplish the building up of the body and the work of Your kingdom. Help us to identify the gifts You have given to the people of Epworth at Aylett. Help us to embrace those gifts for the fulfillment of Your vision for our congregation, to encourage one another in the use of our gifts, and to align our work with the gifts You have empowered us with. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 42: Spiritual Presence

Scripture: Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**Focus:** Confidence in the Presence of the Holy Spirit

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, we know You are with us, but sometimes in a world that denies the supernatural it is hard to hold onto the reality of Your presence. Give us confidence that You are always with us, in us, and working through us. Strengthen our convictions and make us bold in Your work. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 43: Vision

Scripture: Revelation 21:5

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**Focus:** Clarity of how God is making Epworth new

**Prayer:** Ancient of Days, thank you for hearing and speaking with us these last 42 days. We ask once again for clarity of vision for the ways You are making Epworth at Aylett new and fitting us for the work of Your kingdom. As we begin our sharing, planning, and preparations, guide our conversations and keep us in the paths You have prepared for us to walk. In Jesus name, amen.



## Day 44: Love

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**Focus: Fullness with the love of God and love for God at Epworth**

**Prayer:** Abba, we know that Your infinite, eternal, relentless love is the core of all that we are and the center of Your gospel. Fill us with Your love so that we can love You with all that we are. Fill us with Your love so that we can overflow with Your love to those around us. We ask in the name of the Son of Your love, amen.

## Day 45: Gratitude

Scripture: Psalm 100:4-5

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

His faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Focus: Gratitude for God's love, vision, and promises**

**Prayer:** Abba, with all Your children, we cry thank you! We praise You for all that You are. We thank you for Your amazing love, Your glorious grace, the vision that You have for us and the promises that You will be with and You will accomplish all that You have set out to do. We thank You for inviting and enabling us to join You in Your work. In Jesus name, amen.

**Thanks  
For  
Praying  
With  
Us!**

The Congregation of Epworth at Aylett

