Seeking Him Together

Blue Springs Baptist Church

A 4-Week Prayer Guide as We Seek God's Guidance in the Pastor Search Journey

Sunday, November 22 through Saturday, December 19th



Dear Blue Springs Baptist Church Family,

As we enter this season of seeking God's direction for our next pastor, let us remember that this is not simply the work of a committee, but a sacred calling for our entire congregation. With grateful hearts for God's faithfulness, we commit ourselves to prayer, unity, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. As a people grounded in God's Word, we recognize that our most important task is to seek His will together. Through our 4-Week Pastor Search Prayer Guide, Seeking Him Together, let us join in earnest prayer, trusting the Lord to lead us to the shepherd He has prepared for this church.

Pastor Search Committee

Week 1 (November 22-28): The Pastor Search Committee — Praying for spiritual protection, wisdom, discernment, and unanimous unity.

Scripture:

James 1:5 ESV

1 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all
without reproach, and it will be given him.

Philippians 2:1-2 ESV

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any
participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by
being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one
mind.

Prayer Points:

- Pray that committee members lay aside personal preferences and individual agendas to seek God's specific choice.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to grant them extraordinary wisdom, discernment during resume reviews and interviews, and unanimous unity in decision-making.
- Pray for a hedge of spiritual protection around the committee members and their families against discouragement or fatigue.

<u>Week 2 (November 29 - December 5):</u> Our Future Pastor & His Family — Praying for the pastor God is preparing to lead us, and for peace over his household.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ESV

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he
desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the
husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable,
able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a
lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity
keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to
manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? 6 He must not
be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the
condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by
outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Colossians 1:9-12 ESV

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Prayer Points:

- Pray that God is actively working in the heart and life of your future pastor, drawing him closer to Himself and sharpening his gifts.
- Pray for boldness in his current ministry, and that God would begin planting a distinct love for your community and church family in his heart.
- Pray for his family (spouse and children, if applicable), that they would experience peace, unity, and clear confirmation regarding His calling.

<u>Week 3 (December 6-12):</u> Our Congregation — Praying for patience, steadfastness in the Gospel, and active love as we carry one another's burdens.

Scripture:

Romans 12:9-13 ESV

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV
1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for patience and trust in God's perfect timing, guarding against anxiety or restlessness during the waiting period.
- Pray that members of the congregation lay aside personal preferences and individual agendas to seek God's specific choice.
- Ask God to deepen your church's foundation in the Word and maintain a vibrant focus on reaching the local community and globe with the Gospel.
- Pray that members would actively look for ways to encourage one another and help carry each other's burdens during the transition.

<u>Week 4 (December 13-19):</u> Current Leadership & Ongoing Ministry — Praying that our mission continues boldly in our local community and across the globe.

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:17 ESV
17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Revelation 2:2 ESV

2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.”

Prayer Points:

- Pray for our current interim pastor, staff, deacons, and ministry leaders, that God would grant them strength, wisdom, and fresh vision.
- Pray that the church would not hit "pause" on its mission but remain boldly active in local outreach and global missions.
- Pray that the congregation remains acutely attentive to the moving of the Holy Spirit, expecting Him to work powerfully in the present season.

<u>Small Group & Family Integration</u>

We encourage all small groups, Sunday school classes, and families to dedicate time each week to discuss and pray through these prompts together.

Weekly Discussion Prompts for Groups:

1. What specific Scripture from this week’s guide spoke most directly to your heart regarding our church’s future?

2. How can we actively support and encourage one another while we wait on the Lord’s timing?

3. In what ways can our group take action this week to stay focused on local outreach and bearing one another's burdens?

Young Adult 4-Week Church Prayer Guide

Week 1 (November 22–28): The Pastor Search Committee

The Focus: Spiritual protection, wisdom, discernment, and unanimous unity. Major leadership transitions require more than good organizational strategy or sharp resumes—they require clear direction from the Holy Spirit. As the Pastor Search Committee evaluates candidates and weighs the future of our church, they need supernatural clarity and deep unity.

Scripture:

James 1:5 ESV
1 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Philippians 2:1-2 ESV
1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

How to Pray:

1. **Surrender Personal Agendas:** Pray that committee members lay aside personal preferences, stylistic wish lists, and individual agendas to seek God's exact choice for our congregation.
2. **Discernment & Unity:** Ask the Holy Spirit to grant extraordinary wisdom during resume reviews and interviews, leading the team to unanimous agreement in their final decision.
3. **Spiritual & Emotional Endurance:** Pray for a hedge of spiritual protection around the committee members and their families, guarding them against decision fatigue, discouragement, or spiritual attack.

Young Adult Practice: Before checking your phone or starting your workday each morning this week, take 60 seconds to pray James 1:5 over the Pastor Search Committee—asking God to give them clarity that cuts through noise and second-guessing.

<u>Week 2 (November 29 – December 5): Our Future Pastor & His Family</u>

The Focus: Spiritual preparation, boldness in his current role, and peace over his household. Right now, the man God is calling to lead our church is faithfully serving somewhere else, likely navigating the early stages of sensing God redirect his steps. Stepping into a new pulpit and relocating a household is a massive life pivot that requires unmistakable confirmation.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ESV

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble
task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-
minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent
but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household
well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how
to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent
convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the
devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into
disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Colossians 1:9-12 ESV

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

How to Pray:

1. **Deepening & Sharpening:** Pray that God is actively working in our future pastor's inner life, drawing him closer to Christ and sharpening his gifts for preaching, shepherding, and leadership.

2. **Boldness & Burden for Our Town:** Ask God to give him boldness in his current ministry while beginning to plant a distinct, authentic love for our community and church family in his heart.
3. **Peace for His Household:** Pray for his spouse and children (if applicable)—that they would experience deep peace, family unity, and clear confirmation regarding God's calling and timing.

Young Adult Practice: Think about the major life transitions young adults often navigate—moving to a new city, starting a new job, finding community from scratch. Pray with that empathy for our future pastor's family, asking God to prepare genuine friendships and a smooth landing for them here.

Week 3 (December 6–12): Our Congregation

The Focus: Patience, steadfastness in the Gospel, and active love as we carry one another's burdens. Seasons of waiting often expose where our trust actually sits. In a culture built on instant answers and quick turnarounds, waiting on God's timing calls us to steady faith, humility, and intentional presence within our local church body.

Scripture:

Romans 12:9-13 ESV
9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV
1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

How to Pray:

1. **Trust Over Anxiety:** Pray for patience and confidence in God's perfect timing, guarding our congregation against restlessness, speculation, or anxiety during the waiting period.

2. **Unified Priorities:** Pray that members across every generation lay aside personal preferences to rally behind God's specific choice.
3. **Gospel Depth & Mutual Care:** Ask God to deepen our church's foundation in Scripture, keep our eyes fixed on local and global outreach, and prompt us to actively encourage one another and bear each other's burdens.

Young Adult Practice: Refuse to let young adults sit on the sidelines during a church transition. Reach out to someone outside your usual circle this week—grab coffee with a peer who is struggling, check in on an older mentor in the church, or offer practical help to a busy family.

Week 4 (December 13–19): Current Leadership & Ongoing Ministry

The Focus: Strength for our current leaders and an unstoppable mission in our community and around the world. An interim season is never a spiritual holding pattern. Our current ministry staff, deacons, and lay leaders are carrying extra weight right now, and the Gospel work God has entrusted to our church today is just as urgent as it will be when our next pastor arrives.

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:17 ESV
17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Revelation 2:2 ESV
2 “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.”

How to Pray:

1. **Strength & Fresh Vision:** Pray for our current interim pastor, staff, deacons, and leaders, asking God to renew their physical and spiritual strength, grant them wisdom, and give them fresh vision.

2. **No "Pause" on Mission:** Pray that our church refuses to coast during the transition, remaining boldly active in local outreach, discipleship, and global missions.
3. **Present-Tense Expectancy:** Pray that our congregation stays acutely attentive to the moving of the Holy Spirit, expecting God to save, heal, and transform lives right now in this present season.

Young Adult Practice: Send a specific text, email, or handwritten note to the interim pastor, deacon, or ministry leader thanking them for how they are leading and serving our church right now.

Young Adult Small Group Integration

Use these questions during your weekly small group or Sunday gathering to process and pray together:

1. **Scripture Reflection:** What specific Scripture from this week's guide spoke most directly to your heart regarding our church's future—or how you handle seasons of waiting in your own life?
2. **Encouragement in the Wait:** How can we actively support and encourage one another (and the wider church body) while we wait on the Lord's timing?
3. **Mission in Motion:** In what concrete ways can our group take action this week to stay focused on local outreach and bearing one another's burdens?

Youth 4-Week Church Prayer Guide

Week 1 (November 22–28): The Pastor Search Committee

The Focus: Spiritual protection, wisdom, discernment, and complete unity. Choosing a pastor is a massive responsibility. Right now, a team from our church is reviewing resumes, conducting interviews, and seeking God's direction. They don't just need good leadership instincts—they need the Holy Spirit to guide every conversation and decision.

Scripture:

James 1:5 ESV
1 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Philippians 2:1-2 ESV
1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **James 1:5** — God promises to give wisdom generously to anyone who asks without finding fault.
- **Philippians 2:1–2** — True unity happens when believers share the same love, spirit, and purpose.

How to Pray:

1. **Surrender Personal Agendas:** Pray that every committee member sets aside their own preferences or wish lists and focuses 100% on finding the exact person God has chosen.
2. **Supernatural Discernment:** Ask the Holy Spirit to give them clarity during resume reviews and interviews, and to bring them to unanimous agreement when it is time to decide.
3. **Protection & Endurance:** Pray a hedge of spiritual protection around the committee members and their families so they don't burn out, get discouraged, or face unnecessary distractions.

Student Challenge: Set a daily alarm on your phone for 1:05 PM (for James 1:5) this week. When it goes off, stop for 30 seconds and pray for the Search Committee by name if you know them, or simply ask God to give them wisdom.

Week 2 (November 29 – December 5): Our Future Pastor & His Family

The Focus: Spiritual preparation, boldness, and household peace. We might not know who our next pastor is yet, but God does. Right now, he is serving somewhere else, and God is shaping his character and preparing his family for a major life transition.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ESV

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble
task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-
minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent
but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household
well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how
to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent
convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the
devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into
disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Colossians 1:9-12 ESV

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be
filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to
walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to
his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father,
who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **1 Timothy 3:1–7** — A pastor is called to live with integrity, lead his own household well, and be respected both inside and outside the church.

- **Colossians 1:9–12** — Praying that God fills him with spiritual wisdom, strength, and endurance.

How to Pray:

1. **Character & Preparation:** Pray that God is actively drawing our future pastor closer to Himself, sharpening his teaching and leadership gifts, and preparing him to shepherd our church—including our student ministry.
2. **Boldness & Love:** Ask God to give him boldness in his current ministry while planting a deep, specific love for our community and church family in his heart.
3. **Peace for His Household:** Pray for his spouse and kids (if he has a family). Moving to a new town and a new church is huge—pray that God gives them unity, peace, and undeniable confirmation of His calling.

Student Challenge: Think about what it feels like to transfer to a new school or join a new team where you don't know anyone. Pray specifically for our future pastor's kids (or future family), asking God to prepare great friends for them here.

Week 3 (December 6–12): Our Congregation

The Focus: Patience, staying grounded in the Gospel, and actively caring for one another. Seasons of waiting test any group of people. It is easy to get restless, start rumors, or wonder how long things will take. As students, you aren't just the "future church"—you are part of the church right now, and your attitude helps set the tone.

Scripture:

Romans 12:9-13 ESV

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **Romans 12:9–13** — Love sincerely, be patient in affliction, stay faithful in prayer, and meet the needs of others.
- **Ephesians 4:1–3** — Live with humility, gentleness, and patience, making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit.

How to Pray:

1. **Patience in the Waiting:** Pray against anxiety, gossip, or impatience across our church, asking God to help everyone trust His exact timing.
2. **Unified Priorities:** Pray that our entire congregation—from middle schoolers to senior adults—lays aside personal preferences to support God's choice.
3. **Gospel Focus & Care:** Ask God to keep our church deeply rooted in Scripture, focused on reaching people locally and globally, and quick to notice and carry one another's burdens during this transition.

Student Challenge: Pay attention to the people around you at youth group and on Sunday mornings. Text someone who has been having a rough week, sit with someone sitting alone, or write an encouraging note to an adult leader.

Week 4 (December 13–19): Current Leadership & Ongoing Ministry

The Focus: Strength for current leaders and keeping our mission moving forward at full speed. A pastoral transition is never a time for a church to coast or hit "pause." Our interim pastor, deacons, staff, and youth leaders are carrying extra weight right now, and God still has work for us to do this week.

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:17 ESV
17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Revelation 2:2 ESV
2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false."

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **Hebrews 13:17** — Support and respect the leaders watching over you so their work is a joy, not a burden.
- **Revelation 2:2** — Jesus sees and honors perseverance, hard work, and faithfulness.

How to Pray:

1. **Strength for Current Leaders:** Pray for our current interim pastor, deacons, leaders, and student ministry team—asking God to give them physical energy, wisdom, and fresh vision.
2. **Unstoppable Mission:** Pray that our church refuses to hit pause on sharing the Gospel, serving our town, and supporting global missions while we wait.
3. **Expectancy Right Now:** Pray that our congregation stays wide awake to how the Holy Spirit is moving today, expecting God to change lives in this exact season.

Student Challenge: Before you leave church or youth group this week, find one ministry leader, staff member, or small group leader and thank them specifically for something they do to invest in you and our church.

Children's 4-Week Church Prayer Guide

Week 1 (November 22–28): The Pastor Search Committee

What is a Pastor Search Committee? It is a special team of adults from our church who are looking for our next pastor. They read letters, ask questions, and pray to find the exact person God wants to lead us!

Scripture:

James 1:5 ESV
1 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Philippians 2:1-2 ESV
1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **James 1:5** — If anyone needs wisdom, they can ask God, and He will gladly give it!
- **Philippians 2:1–2** — God wants His people to work together as a team, loving each other and agreeing in one spirit.

How We Can Pray:

1. **Ask God for Wisdom:** Pray that the Holy Spirit gives the team super-smart, wise hearts as they read about different pastors and talk to them.
2. **Pray for Teamwork:** Ask God to help the team put what they want aside so they only look for what God wants.
3. **Pray for Protection & Energy:** Ask God to keep the team and their families safe, healthy, and full of energy so they don't get tired or discouraged.

Action Step: Draw a picture of a magnifying glass or a shield and write the words "God's Wisdom" on it. Put it on your fridge to remind you to pray for the team!

<u>Week 2 (November 29 – December 5): Our Future Pastor & His Family</u>

Who are we praying for? Even though we don't know his name yet, God already knows who our next pastor will be! Right now, that pastor and his family are living somewhere else, and God is getting them ready to come to our church.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ESV

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Colossians 1:9-12 ESV

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **1 Timothy 3:1–7** — A good pastor loves God, sets a great example, and takes good care of his own family and the church.
- **Colossians 1:9–12** — We can pray that God fills our future pastor with strength, joy, and a clear understanding of God's plan.

How We Can Pray:

1. **Pray for Our Future Pastor's Heart:** Ask God to help our future pastor grow closer to Jesus every day and start giving him a big love for our church and town.

2. **Pray for His Current Job:** Ask God to make him brave and strong as he teaches people about Jesus right where he is now.
3. **Pray for His Family:** If he has a wife and kids, pray that God gives them peace and helps them feel excited and sure about moving to a new church when it is time.

Action Step: Think about how it feels to be the "new kid" at school or on a team. Say a prayer asking God to make our future pastor's family feel right at home when they get here!

<u>Week 3 (December 6–12): Our Church Family (That's Us!)</u>

What is our job while we wait? Waiting for something big can be hard! While we wait for our new pastor, God wants everyone in our church—including kids—to be patient, stick close to the Bible, and love one another well.

Scripture:

Romans 12:9-13 ESV
9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV
1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **Romans 12:9–13** — Love each other truly, be patient when things feel hard, never stop praying, and share with people in need.
- **Ephesians 4:1–3** — Be gentle and patient with each other, and work hard to keep peace in the church family.

How We Can Pray:

1. **Pray for Patience:** Ask God to help us trust His perfect timing and not feel worried or grumpy while we wait.

2. **Pray for One Heart:** Ask God to help everyone in our church care more about God's plan than pursuing their own plan.
3. **Pray for Encouragement:** Ask God to help us notice when someone at church is sad or having a hard week so we can cheer them up and help them.

Action Step: Look for someone at church this Sunday (a friend, a teacher, or an older adult) and give them a high-five, a smile, or a kind note to encourage them!

Week 4 (December 13–19): Current Leaders & Our Mission

Do we stop serving God while we wait? No way! God's work never hits "pause." We still have amazing leaders at our church right now, and Jesus still wants us to share His love in our neighborhood and all around the world.

Scripture:

Hebrews 13:17 ESV
17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Revelation 2:2 ESV
2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false."

Bible Truths to Remember:

- **Hebrews 13:17** — Listen to and support the leaders who watch over us right now, so their job is a joy!
- **Revelation 2:2** — Jesus sees all the hard work, patience, and good deeds His church does for Him.

How We Can Pray:

1. **Pray for Today's Leaders:** Thank God for the ministry leaders, deacons, teachers, and helpers leading our church right now. Ask God to give them strength and fresh ideas.
2. **Pray for Our Mission:** Ask God to help our church keep helping neighbors in need and supporting missionaries around the world.
3. **Pray for Big Expectations:** Ask the Holy Spirit to do amazing things in our church right now, even before our new pastor arrives!

Action Step: Tell one of your Sunday School teachers, children's leaders, or current church staff members "Thank you for serving at our church!" this week.