

MY 2022 COMMITMENT

1. Pray at least twice a week using the Life Support Prayer Calendar. We encourage at least once in the hearing of other Christians.
2. Encourage other individuals in your congregation to join in the Life Support Prayer ministry. Notify PPL of those who are interested in making the commitment.
3. Encourage public prayers by the church for the efforts to protect preborn children and for the care of their mothers and families.
4. As you are led, renew your commitment yearly.

PPL is so grateful for your prayers!

We know that the seasons of your life change. If you are unable to continue your commitment to PPL's prayer team, please contact us and we will remove you from these mailings.



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LIFE SUPPORT PRAYER CALENDAR

MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG
2022 | VOL. 34 | NO. 2



Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and
strength, an ever-present
help in trouble."

Psalm 46:11

"The Lord of Hosts is with us.
The God of Jacob is
our refuge."

Occupied Territory

By Deborah Hollifield, PPL Executive Director

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

Women and children are the people who are most vulnerable and at risk in the chaos of war. Men who go off to fight leave wives, mothers and children undefended at home. Women are frequently abused or raped by the soldiers of invading armies. During the evacuation of Afghanistan, the world watched as desperate mothers handed their infants off to American soldiers at the Kabul airport. Women in Ukraine give birth in subways and cellars while bombs burst overhead. The painful unfolding of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has created 4.2m Ukrainian refugees, 90% of whom are women and children. Fifty percent of that number are children, many of whom are unaccompanied by adults.

The women of the Bible knew all too well the cruelties inflicted by invading armies during the sieges of Jerusalem and the perils of exile. Women and children were taken captive (1 Samuel 30:3; 18-19).

Whole families were executed while parents watched helplessly (2 Kings 25:7), and more than once the imprecatory prayers of God's people contained groans for vengeance against those who had dashed their babies against the rocks (Ps. 137:9; Hos. 13:16; Lev. 20:2-5; Isaiah 13:16-18).

It has been this way since the beginning, and it seems like it will never end. The wartime travails that beset women and children are in some ways the travails of all of us, because we are all born into war time. Believers know that while the ultimate war has been won by Christ - our rescuer, redeemer and protector - we live behind enemy lines in occupied territory. Even as we wait for our certain deliverance, each day we must remain vigilant to negotiate unseen landmines and stealth attacks, "For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us woe! His craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal."

As we face the uncertainties of the coming months, let us redouble our efforts to lift up all those who are defenseless before their attackers – whether in a war or in a womb - calling on the protection of the One who makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth, who breaks the bow and shatters the spears and burns the shields with fire (Ps. 46:9).

"The Lord of Hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge." Psalm 46:11.

MAY

May 1-7

1. Beseech the Lord to instill into the hearts of our civic leaders a more profound respect for human life, property, godliness, and the social and economic advantage such beneficial public policy affords. In this is kingdom victory. (Prov. 14:34).
2. Give hearty thanks that no transformation of public policy will ever be impossible with God. (Prov. 21:1).

May 8-14

1. Pray for a spirit of contented submission—even joy—to reign in the hearts of young people whose long-anticipated graduations and future plans are delayed or otherwise changed by unanticipated pregnancy. Children are the heritage of the Lord: not a setback, but ammunition stored for the challenges of tomorrow. (Psalm 127:5a)
2. Commit yourself to honoring your own mother—or the sacred legacy of her memory—as you pray. Give thanks for the many gifts of her life-giving love; cover with the grace of forgiveness her genuine human shortcomings. (Prov. 31:28a).

May 15-21

1. Commit into the Lord’s safekeeping the many families and individuals displaced and otherwise impoverished by war, asking sincerely what practical service you yourself might render the sojourner. (1 Chron. 29:15).
2. It’s spring planting time. As lean years loom and shortages threaten, ask the Lord—through His faithful sending of sunshine and rain—to bless the efforts of farmers and backyard gardeners the world over. (Psalm 65:11).

May 22-28

1. War places completely unforeseen losses & anxieties on families as dearly beloved persons, places, relationships, & routines suddenly vanish into the rubble. Ask the Lord powerfully, graciously to show mercy, & to cement together separated family members in a “**love as strong as death**” (Song 8:6). Pray for many happy reunions after the swirling dust of war has settled.
2. As you pray for the many families, parents, and children damaged and displaced by war, bear in mind that our fundamental struggle is not “against flesh and blood, but against . . . the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” “**Therefore, take up the full armor of God**” (Eph. 6:13a), and pray earnestly in the Spirit for the speedy crushing of Satan’s long & devastating rebellion.

May 29—Jun 4

1. Pray that countless bereaved parents, spouses, and orphans will honor the memory of their uniformed loved ones not in sentimental words only, but in the fruit of lives made richer and stronger by the blessed remembrance of their personal legacy. In this way they abide with us still. (Prov. 20:7).

(cont next column)

JUN

May 29—Jun 4 (cont.)

2. While many this week visit cemeteries in remembrance of fallen loved ones, ask the Lord speedily to avenge the death of those aborted little ones who were never afforded the grassy green space of a final resting place. (Rev. 20:11). Ask God to intervene and bring a joyful birth.

Jun 5-11

1. For many, June is “the wedding month.” Ask our heavenly Father to put it into the hearts of many restless young unwed fathers to grow up, seek Him, and shoulder as men the sacred duties of fatherhood. (Deut. 6:6-7a).
2. Meditate on the far-reaching implications of the apostolic assertion that the woman in a relationship, relative to the man, is “a weaker vessel,” and to be granted honor. Think hard on this, and pray that women be no longer exploited as chattel, or demeaned as inferiors, but instead honored as fellow heirs of the grace of life. (1 Peter 3:7).

Jun 12-18

1. Pray with increasing confidence that insecurities of our present age may soon be displaced by a vital, growing confidence in God’s almighty ordering of all things for His own glory and the blessing of His people. (Rom. 8:24-25).
2. War often brings with it both famine and pestilence. This threefold scourge has the power to bring human civilization to its knees. Pray then for the restoration of peace on earth by the preaching of the Gospel. (Psalm 144:12, 14b-15).

Jun 19-25

1. Pray for the speedy reconnection of alienated fathers with their children of whatever age or stage of life. It’s upon God’s own heart to “*restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.*” Let our families inherit a rich blessing instead. While there’s life, there’s hope for reconciliation.
2. Give thanks that while the lost world frets over natural and man-made disasters beyond humanity’s power to control, our faithful God keeps his covenant promises. (Gen. 8:22).

Jun 26—Jul 2

1. Summertime is upon us, and life abounds! Give God thanks for the ripening fields and orchards all across the northern hemisphere, that by them He might feed a far-too-ungrateful world. (Acts 14:17).
2. What girl or young woman you know is making bad choices in her life and relationships? Perhaps she’s proven herself immune to your good counsel. God, however, doesn’t share the limits of your human influence. Mention her often before Him, *by name and by need!* (Eph. 3:20-21).

JUL

Jul 3-9

1. Pray for the spiritual reformation of our country, that by it we might be speedily delivered from the long bondage of distant, “deep state” autocrats into the exhilarating liberty of the children of God. (Gal. 5:1).
2. Ask the Judge of all the earth to move mightily within our respective civil bodies politic, to convince us of our waywardness and conform us to “*the ancient paths, where the good way is,*” that by seeking Him therein we might discover *a rebirth of life and “find rest for [y]our souls”* (Jer. 6:16).

Jul 10-16

1. Pray for our various Presbyterian synods and general assemblies as they convene this summer to conduct the business of our respective churches. Ask specifically that the decisions of these ecclesiastical courts might conform the doctrine and practice of our churches more closely to the righteous standard of God’s holy law. (Psalm 133:1).
2. Summertime often brings an opportunity for young people to reflect on their relationships. Remember in prayer those wanting to make changes but unsure how to go about it in the least hurtful way. Pray that God will teach our young people to commit all their ways to Him. (Prov. 3:6).

Jul 17-23

1. Summertime also brings opportunities to attend Christian family and youth camps. Pray for your own presbytery’s efforts—through camp speakers, doctrinal training, & recreational opportunities—to make lasting memories, strengthen families, and deepen the commitment of our children and youth to the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Tim. 4:8).
2. Pray for the ministry of your local pregnancy care center. If you haven’t yet made their acquaintance, plan a visit to chat with their director to see how you can help. (Psalm 127:3).

Jul 24-30

1. Increasingly, children grow to adulthood in suboptimal environments. Missing fathers, or missing mothers, or growing up in otherwise broken or troubled homes, they miss the fun, discipline, camaraderie, and teamwork of a family. Pray for those young people spending summer days at home and finding it to be a sad and lonely experience. (Psalm 128:3-4).
2. Pray that older siblings understand and cheerfully embrace their providentially-assigned roles as “big brother” or “big sister” for the physical and emotional safety of their younger siblings. Pray that meanness and rivalry may be eradicated from our homes, and that siblings might, by long-demonstrated grace and affection, become lifelong friends, and Christ honored in our families. (1 Samuel 16:11a).

AUG

Jul 31—Aug 6

1. Pray for the swift detection and apprehension of human traffickers who now ply their nefarious trade across virtually open borders to the ruin and heartbreak of countless young people. (Exodus 21:16).
2. Pray that God will grant many the gift of “kindred spirits” across the passing generations, that the stories of many lonely old people may reach the eager ears of the vulnerable young, and both be richly blessed in the resultant friendship. (Psalm 34:11).

Aug 7-13

1. Summertime is traditionally a time for families to get away on vacation. But energy prices are compelling many to think and plan rather in terms of a family “staycation.” Pray that, whether at home or abroad, God will keep our families and loved ones safe in body, soul, and spirit. (Psalm 121:8).
2. What will you do about that unwed teenage mother you know who leaves her little one behind—or actually brings him along!—to party with her friends? Does offering free babysitting actually “enable” her sin of neglect? Pray for those struggling to know the best course to keep a vulnerable child safe. (Matthew 18:6).

Aug 14-20

1. It’s still high summer, but we’re beginning to think about the new fall schedule. Young people are packing to leave home for college or other new endeavors. The open road lies before them! Pray for wisdom and success for those anxiously making plans for a new academic year. (Psalm 34:7).
2. What opportunities do you have to ease the social unrest of open international borders, rampant homelessness, and rising crime? Problems far too big for me are not a problem for my heavenly Father. Commit these enormous matters to him in earnest prayer for relief. Remember also in prayer the safety and perseverance of law enforcement. (Matthew 7:7).

Aug 21-27

1. As schools open and a new academic year is underway, pray that new friendships formed will redound to the glory of God and the mutual benefit of the befriended. (Ecclesiastes 4:9).
2. Remember with thankfulness the many homeschooling families who for love of God and their children cheerfully undertake the considerable burden of their day-to-day education. (Deut. 6:7).

Aug 28—Sep 3

1. Pray for the deeply discouraged, that they may persevere through these momentary light afflictions to the eternal weight of glory that lies beyond, in Christ. *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day*” (2 Cor. 4:16).
2. Pray for the great gift of a tranquil heart, and lifelong peace with God, through the Gospel. (2 Cor. 5:17).