

MY 2023 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

JAN | FEB | MAR | APR
2023 | VOL. 35 | NO. 1



Philippians 4:8-9

“Finally, brothers,
whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence,
if there is anything
worthy of praise,
think about these things.

What you have learned and
received and heard and
seen in me—practice these things,
and the God of peace
will be with you.”

Spiritual Vertigo

By Deborah Hollifield, PPL Executive Director

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

—Isaiah 41:10

I recently drove 3000 miles and had to rely on my GPS most of the way. I am particularly anxious about crossing high overpasses and sweeping bridges because of a bit of vertigo, and I like to know when one is coming up so I can steel my nerves or take a bypass. But my GPS only gives me a thousand-mile overview, so sometimes I have to zoom in to make sure I know where the next turn is, followed by a need to “recenter” the guiding cursor again.

Still, because I have to keep my eyes on the road and can't just gaze at the GPS all the way, I will sometimes be surprised by an unexpected bridge or a high curved overpass, and have to commit to navigating it. The best way I have found to do that is to put a death grip on my steering wheel, focus on the immediate horizon and follow its line, all while singing “*Jesus Loves Me*” at the top of my lungs until I reach the other side. Belting out “*Jesus Loves Me*” while focusing on the immediate horizon is the only way I can keep my fear at bay and my car under control.

The recent cultural chaos has brought on a kind of spiritual vertigo. All our familiar traffic helps are upside down, red lights now mean “Go” and green lights mean “Stop.” Abortion is recast as “healthcare.” We're told a fetus is not a baby until it's born. We're trying to navigate an ethical Christian life, on a strange road, without careening out of control at high speed.

God's Word is our GPS, pointing the way and allowing us to zoom in to get our bearings. Every day we get a chance to “recenter” and reorient ourselves through prayer. Not letting the future overwhelm us by keeping our eyes on the immediate horizon, because there is trouble enough for the day (Matt. 6:34) – focusing on Jesus and reminding ourselves that Jesus is our refuge, strength and help in trouble (Psalm 46:1-2) – is a good formula for getting us to our destination.

JAN

Jan 1-7

1. Another year is upon us. Ask the Lord to form Christ within you and those you love. That spiritual transformation by the sheer grace and power of God proves itself the answer that meets, every human need in every age and circumstance. **Gal. 4:19**

2. Every new year whispers the promise of change, from one's personal situation to the rise and fall of empires. Amid the turmoil and complexities that are sure to ensue, give thanks that Christ's sovereign dominion "*will not pass away, and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.*" **Daniel 7:14**

Jan 8-14

1. The daily news breeds anxiety in the hearts of the untrusting and double-minded. Let's resolve to find our souls' rest not in the promises or policies of men, but in praying, as King Jehoshaphat at his moment of national crisis: "*We are powerless against this great multitude . . . But our eyes are on Thee.*" **2 Chron. 20:12**

2. Not every crisis in the daily news is your crisis. Give thanks for personal peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask for spiritual strength to release matters beyond our control, act responsibly within our spheres of influence, and find in the kingdom of righteous God the cure for all anxiety. **Matt. 6:33-34**

Jan 15-21

1. Men, nations, and civilizations wage long war against the LORD, his Christ, and the holy law by which he governs. Lawlessness is rampant. Ask the Lord to grant that many legislators and civil magistrates may surrender the sword of godless rebellion and seek his wisdom in discharge of sacred public duties. **Psa. 2**

2. Reflect on the matchless gift of a faithful friend. These passing years attest to the coldly calculating betrayal and perfidy of men once trusted. Rejoice before God in that close "all-weather" friend you've found who "*loves at all times.*" **Proverbs 17:17**

Jan 22-28

1. The 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision reminds us not only of the willful murder of over 50 million innocents by their own mothers, but also of the power of God—in due time—to overturn the vain counsels of men. **Mk 10:13-16**

2. Pray for state legislatures across these United States to guard the life, liberty, and property of the citizens of all ages they represent, and that civil magistrates everywhere will feel the weight of their office, discharging their duties as "*ministers of God for good.*" **Romans 13:4**

Jan 29-Feb 4

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach us the proper, subordinate role of convenience in the order of our priorities. Pray that his church may by grace be obedient, principled and resolved to follow the Christ of the Bible and not one of our thinking. **2 Timothy 1:12**

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FEB

2. Pray for our brethren now suffering the effects of winter weather amid the shortages of war-ravaged Europe. Remember especially the welfare of the very young, the very old, and all those least able to endure extreme deprivation. **Job 29:11-13**

Feb 5-11

1. Ask God to graciously grant by the preaching of the Gospel to the nations a needed renaissance of freedom, law, and order shaped not by mere democracy but by the sweet-as-honey law of God, and the righteousness of Jesus Christ who loved and kept every jot and tittle of it. **Psa. 19:7-14**

2. Uphold in prayer those of northern latitudes whose very souls are affected by the daily darkness of winter. Spring sunshine can appear so far off to those locked in the jaws of a cold, seemingly endless February Pray for the healing rays of Gospel hope to shine on the depressed and despairing. **Rev. 22:1-5**

Feb 12-18

1. Social events this week cause many single and widowed people to feel lonely and unloved. Many women, especially, feel disadvantaged as St. Valentine's Day reminds them of a lifelong love lost, or a love never found. Pray for the lonely, that Christ's immeasurable love will satisfy each aching heart. **Songs 5:10-16**

2. Satan's culture of death and depravity, though doomed at Christ's resurrection, is resistant to surrender. *It must be destroyed fully.* The preaching of the Gospel is Christ's weapon of choice. Pray for your pastor as he applies God's Word, with power, to needs of congregation and culture. **2 Cor. 10:1-6**

Feb 19-25

1. Storm heaven's gates on behalf of the perishing! Millions are dying under the spiritual sedative of the mundane while others, brokenhearted, starved of hope, decide simply to end it. Pray and work to fill the ears and hearts of the despairing with the glorious news of the risen, reigning Christ. **Romans 15:13**

2. Pray the Holy Spirit would move professing Christians to cast off comfortable and well-worn—yet often unbiblical—religious traditions and put on Christ and his righteousness. If John's testimony is true, that "*In him was life,*" then surely to him belongs preeminence in our thought, word, and deed. **Eph. 4:17-24**

Feb 26-Mar 4

1. The battle for the unborn continues in both the state and federal legislatures, as Congress pursues unconstitutional efforts to codify a woman's "right" to abort her children. Beseech God for a return even to *constitutional* law, as we pray and work for repentance & reform surrendered to his law. **Isa. 11:9**

2. Give thanks for the valiant-hearted—past and present—who yield not an inch of their thinking to this perishing world's twisted values. Pray the Holy Spirit will fill, train, shape and embolden you to stand for Christ and his kingdom. **2 Tim. 2:1-13**

MAR

Mar 5-11

1. Remember at God's throne the old who grieve loss of health, mobility, income, opportunity, self-esteem, friends, and beloved spouse. The hoary head must often pull a heavy yoke alone. Pray that as providence removes pleasures of this world, those of that to come may lift the weary. **Psa. 17:15**

2. Remember the very young, that as they grow to maturity they might experience the advantages of father and mother working as a team in the home for the benefit of the entire family and an example to future generations. **Col. 3:18-4:1**

Mar 12-18

1. It's likely you don't realize it, but someone is watching you. To him or her, you're a living, breathing specimen of Christianity. But the days are evil, and it's easy to conform to the moral standards of our culture. Pray for strength to pursue consistency between your own life and testimony. **Psalms 139**

2. It's sowing time in many parts of the country. Amid all the noisy chaos of men and nations, give thanks for the subtle, regular cycle of the seasons by which our ever-faithful covenant God sustains life in the feeding and watering of all he's created. **Psalms 104:14-30**

Mar 19-25

1. Spring begins this week. Rejoice anew in the faithfulness of our covenant-keeping God, who has brought us safely through another winter. Pray that the seed we sow will in due time yield a bountiful harvest, both for body and soul. **Gal. 6:9-10**

2. Reflect—*with all due reverence!*—upon the justice that the Judge of all the earth will soon mete out for the punishment of unrepentant men and nations. Tremble before him! And rejoice everlastingly through Jesus Christ our Savior that divine justice *does* not and *cannot* exact a double penalty. For those who repose their trust in him, *Jesus paid it all.* **Isaiah 53:4-6**

Mar 26-Apr 1

1. Somewhere in the world today, a young mother contemplates the murder of her unborn child. Plead with the Holy Spirit to change her mind, shatter her stony heart, and cherish the tender life now growing within her. Pray she'll be given grace to see beyond the confusion of the present moment to a future rich with memories yet to be made while raising the unspeakably precious "*heritage of the Lord.*" **Psalms 127:3-5**

2. All around us are lonely people, quietly but desperately suffering their various unmet needs apart from Christ. Plead with the Holy Spirit to conform his church more closely to the New Testament pattern of outreach to the hurting, and mutual support in all things spiritual and material. Hidden among us are riches beyond counting, even the love of Christ surpassing knowledge. There's nothing on earth like it! **Eph 3:14-19**

APR

Apr 2-8

1. As winter must yield to spring, so the thick darkness of human ignorance and folly will yield to the irresistible truth of God's holy word. *Be strong in the Lord!* Pray without ceasing that Christ will stir his beloved church to proclaim the good news of deliverance and life, to a culture lying in the dust of death. **Ezek. 37:1-6**

2. This week remember the steep cost of the sinner's redemption: that upon a cruel cross a good Man bore *my* sin and died *my* death so that I, by the power of his Holy Spirit, may live *his* life of righteousness imputed to me. Pray for strength to live this new life boldly and well, to bless men and glorify God. **Gal. 2:20**

Apr 9-15

1. The bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead proves the folly—and *shame!*—of human wisdom: apart from grace, men won't surrender their presuppositions even in the face of incontestable evidence. By grace let's celebrate life's victory over death: "*He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.*" **Matt 28:6a**

2. Ask our heavenly Father to seal to the hearts of many the victory of Christ Jesus over sin and death. Plead that this precious seed of the Gospel might fall into soil made ready to receive it, putting sturdy roots downward, and bearing lovely fruit upward, in the lives of all those who hear and believe. **Luke 8:15**

Apr 16-22

1. Confess as sin our cultural proclivity to exchange self-evident truth for absurdities in matters of human sexuality. Marriage is redefined as though it were an ordinance of men and not of God. One's own sex is thought to be fluid and indefinite. Children unhappy with their distinctive gift of sexuality are surgically mutilated. Pray his church will say, "*No. This shall not be.*" **Gen 2:18-25**

2. Give thanks for parents who together consider carefully how their children—the *heritage of the Lord*—will be taught. Schooling options may be many, but only one *best* option cherishes and preserves a family's heritage while building God's kingdom. Only one *best* method trains the next generation to glorify and enjoy God. Pray God's Holy Spirit will lead parents to follow that method for his glory and their children's good. **Proverbs 3:1-6**

Apr 23-29

1. Christians naturally grow fretful at the global—even *local*—news. Each day brings report of lawlessness and atrocity added to the "long train of abuses and usurpations" against those who wish only to "*lead a quiet and tranquil life in all godliness and dignity.*" Pray for those in authority, that God might fit them to serve as "*ministers of God . . . for good.*" **1 Tim 2:1-2**

2. Rest in the sure doctrine of God's sovereignty over this world he created, sustains, and governs. That which men intend for *evil*, God employs to the *good* of those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. Give thanks, in trusting peace and joy, that "*the earth belongeth to the LORD, and all that it contains.*" **Psa 24**