

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



PO Box 5239, Lancaster, PA 17606-5239
PH: 412-487-1990 | Email: ppl@ppl.org
Website: www.ppl.org | Facebook/PPL.Page
Twitter @presbyprolife

LIFE SUPPORT PRAYER CALENDAR

SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC
2023 | VOL. 35 | NO. 3



Isaiah 25:4

For You have been a defense for the helpless, a defense for the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the breath of the ruthless is like a rainstorm against a wall. Like heat in drought, you subdue the uproar of aliens; like heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced.

*Prayer Calendar author,
Rev. Jonathan Leach, PPL Board Member*

The Assurance of Things Hoped For

By Deborah Hollifield

This summer has been hot in many ways: The El Niño weather pattern has raised the temperatures in the United States to intolerable heights for the first time in four years, shortening tempers and driving people indoors in a way reminiscent of Covid avoidance. We're all counting the days until autumn, knowing that it will surely arrive, looking forward to the first cool morning and the refreshment it will bring when it breaks the heat.

Added to the physical discomfort, emotional temperatures escalated as Americans watched the national psyche spiral into some new chaos every day, in ways that most found impossible to imagine. Last summer's post-*Dobbs* prolife euphoria after decapitating the dragon that was *Roe v. Wade*, receded into this summer's sober assessment of taking on abortion activists in a fifty-state hydra. Our confidence in our national institutions is eroding by the day.

The sense of instability and helplessness is growing in intensity. Ordinary conversations in the Christian community have turned to frequent speculations on how much longer God will allow such rebellion, dissipation, and oppression. Even so, we take heart that just as one El Niño has brought us fiery trials, there is another Son who will break the heat, whose coming is more certain than the autumn, whose judgments are righteous and whose Kingdom has foundations that cannot be chipped away by mere humans.

Relief is just around the corner, ***in a little while***. Stand on the promises of Christ and pray for the hastening of His sure return, even as we continue in well-doing for the least, the confused, the voiceless and the lost.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. —James 5:7-9

SEP

September 3-9

1. **Let's pray this week for Biblical wisdom** as a new *academic* year begins. Pray that our children and young adults be spared the folly and wasted years of a social indoctrination that leads them far from Christ. Ask God for competent, bold Christian teachers and professors who care about their students, and recognize their own place in the kingdom of God. **Proverbs 1:7**

2. The Lord built into his creatures an awareness that *we are passing away*. Though *he* is changeless; *we* are not. Summer declines into fall, and we soon pass into the autumn of our lives. Pray for a personal sensitivity to the changes of life around us—the phases of the moon, the falling of the leaves, that newest gray hair—and to what these changes portend. **Psaalm 90:12**

September 10-16

1. **Let's pray this week with thankful hearts** for the Scripture's assurances that the course of human history is in the capable hands of almighty God and not of men. It is he who raises nations—chastens them for their rebellion—and brings them down again. All these passing “superpowers” of men and nations will fail. Ours too will fail. But Jesus never fails! **Daniel 7:14b**

2. Give thanks for the manifold wisdom of God evident in his design for the family. At any given time, the stronger generation nurtures and protects the more vulnerable. The roles and capabilities of aging parents and maturing children shift over a lifetime. Pray that God graciously fulfill **Malachi 4:6**.

September 17-23

1. **Let's pray this week with abounding confidence**. May our prayers be seasoned with the promises of our Lord for the future. The prospect of his return fans to a flame the optimism of the faithful and renders us, in Christ, unsinkable! Godless men pose dire forecasts for this planet. This present world must indeed pass away, yet, the Scriptures teach us not to fear, but to smile at what lies beyond it! **2 Peter 3:13**

2. Give thanks for many proofs attending the word of God through history. The mark of a true prophet of God is always that his word comes to pass (**Deut. 18:18-22**). Recall our Lord's Olivet discourse (**Luke 21**). He gives us a clear window into his coming in glory—the Christian's hope in turbulent times. **Luke 21:28**

September 24-30

1. **Let's pray this week with Christian humility**. We're never in a position to make demands of the living and true God. Therefore—follow the example of Jesus amid the anguish of Gethsemane—in prayer submit ourselves humbly to his will. **Psa. 131:1**

2. A humble, resting soul may pray great things of our great God! Indeed, is it not a special duty that our King sovereignly laid upon us, to ask of him great things? **Matthew 6:10**

OCT

October 1-7

1. **Let's pray this week with resolute persistence**. Too many surrender without a fight. The prodigal child remains prodigal for decades. The medical prognosis offers no hope. The court's decision spells out your financial ruin. Jesus understands our temptation to give up praying. **Luke 18:1ff**

2. The assurance of Christ's return in glory fuels our persistence in prayer. This groaning creation joyfully anticipates it! Even the rocks cry out! **Psa. 98:11-13**

October 8-14

1. **Let's pray this week for a return to our senses**. Political unrest rules the news. In a polarized society, to public service makes one a target. Pray Christ our King, will settle us in *paths of righteousness for his own name's sake*, a nation of civility, at peace with God, his Christ, and one another. **Psalms 2:1**

2. Ask God to send a fresh gale of clarity and grace through our western culture, cleansing us of a worldview that values human opinion above all else, and overlooks the sovereign reign of Christ over all nations, as written in **Rev. 19:15-16**.

October 15-21

1. **Let's pray this week for the speedy overthrow of Satan's usurpation**. When we pray 'Thy kingdom come,' we pray, that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed. But is Satan a king? No! He's a usurper, father of lies, a murderer, and prince of darkness. Of our victorious King Jesus we sing **Psalms 18:37-38**.

2. Give hearty thanks for the 2022 judicial overthrow of *Roe v. Wade*, responsible for the murder of 60,000,000 human lives over the course of two generations. **Psalms 94:8-9**

October 22-28

1. **Let's pray this week for those nearest and dearest**. Pray for the peace and prosperity of your own parents, spouse, children, and all your household. Pray for your children to know the love of Christ from their tender years. **Psalms 112:2**

2. Pray for those newly grafted into the family of God. **Isa. 25** describes a day of deliverance, and the swallowing up of death in victory. Jesus' parable of the wedding feast (**Matt. 22:1-14**) tells of strangers replacing honored guests. **Eph. 2:13**

October 29—November 4

1. **Let's pray this week for the shining of Gospel light into the hearts and minds of men**. This is a week of pagan observances that celebrate the horrors of darkness and death. Pray for the shining of Gospel light upon ill-examined customs as in the Gospel preached in Ephesus, **Acts 19:19-20**

2. Exorcising demons, by itself, keeps no newly-vacant house safe from their return. One greater than they must move into that house and take charge. Pray that the peace of God guard the hearts and minds of children in Christ Jesus. **Deut. 6:6-7**