

My 2026 COMMITMENT

- 1. **Pray at least twice a week using the Life Support Prayer Calendar.** We encourage at least once gathered with other Christians, as two or more.
- 2. **Encourage other individuals in your congregation to join in the Life Support Prayer ministry.** Notify PPL of those who are interested in commitment.
- 3. **Encourage congregational prayers** to protect preborn children, for the care of their young parents and families, as well as for the aged and those suffering with chronic disease or disability.
- 4. As you are led, **renew your Life Support commitment** annually.

“Compelled by the Gospel, PPL equips Presbyterians to champion human life at every stage.”

PPL is grateful for you, but 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

SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC.
2026 | VOL. 38 | NO. 3



Deuteronomy 30:19–20
English Standard Version

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, ...”

*Life Support Prayer Calendar prayer prompts are written by
Rev. John Sheldon, PPL Board President,
and edited by Carla van Eyk, Executive Director.
The LS Prayer Calendar at ppl.org is updated weekly.*

*All Bible quotations are from the ESV Bible.
Photo credit: pexels-peter-law*

The Cancerous “Culture of Death”

By Rev. John Sheldon, PPL Board President

Every human life is a unique gift from God. Scripture tells us that death, both physical and spiritual, is an ugly consequence of, and a divine judgment on, human sin. The Bible also says that every human being born into this world, apart from one person, is a sinner under the sentence of death. “We are not sinners because we sin. We sin because we are sinners” (R.C. Sproul). God in his mercy has made it possible for human sinners to be forgiven of their sins and justified before him without denying his just judgment. This is the good news of Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Most of the readers of this prayer calendar know that embracing this gospel means confessing our sin daily and wholeheartedly, following and obeying his commands. He gives us the Holy Spirit, word of God, and the local church to help us. We know that his Gospel transforms lives, restores relationships, and is essential to solving the huge societal challenges before us. Presbyterians Protecting Life (PPL) is built on this foundational truth. Our mission statement reads, “Compelled by the Gospel, PPL equips Presbyterians to champion human life at every stage.”

PPL carries out its mission in what has been accurately described as a “a culture of death.” **The culture of death cares little that every human life is made in the image of God and has intrinsic and infinite value to God.** The culture of death values human persons only to the extent they are “useful” or have a self-defined “quality of life.” The culture of death worships the idol of self-autonomy. The culture of death threatens the lives and value of the vulnerable and weak, including the developing unborn persons, the genetically disordered, the terminally ill, and many other “undesirables.”

Today almost two-thirds of abortions are carried out with easily obtained abortion pills like mifepristone. Assisted suicide and even involuntary euthanasia are increasingly legal medical practices in a growing number of states. One in twenty Canadian deaths come through government-protected euthanasia programs. In the Netherlands, where euthanasia of the elderly has long been practiced, a new boundary has been crossed—a child between 1 and 12 suffering from a terminal illness has been euthanized. Iceland is proud to report they no longer have any Down-syndrome babies being born—and it isn't because trisomy genetic disorders have been eradicated. In country after country, we see abortion, infanticide, and assisted suicide portrayed as compassionate, “life-affirming” care. **The culture of death like a cancer grows. PPL exists to call the Church to resist this culture of death and offer the abundant life in Christ. Let us pray faithfully to that end.**

SEPTEMBER

Aug. 30-Sept. 5: *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”* Php 2:5-8.

Gracious Father, our minds are full of awe and our hearts rejoice over the great condescension of your eternally begotten Son to become a fully human embryo in Mary’s womb for our salvation. *Help us to cherish and protect human life from fertilization to natural death.*

Sept. 6-12: *“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* Php 2:9-11.

Lord Jesus, your Father shares with you his unspeakably great name Yahweh, LORD. *We pray that empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit we may glorify our Father God by obeying Christ’s command to love you and our neighbor as ourselves--including our vulnerable embryonic or elderly neighbor.*

Sept. 13-19: *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure”* Php 2:12-13.

Holy Spirit, you have given us beloved church communities in which we may live in obedience to your word. Help us to honor your institution of marriage of one man to one woman; may fathers and mothers love and provide for their children, raising them to love Jesus. *Give us effective ways to invite our unbelieving neighbors to attend church and hear the preaching of the gospel.*

Sept. 20-26: *“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”* Php 2:14-15.

Deliver us, dear Lord, from a grumbling and complaining spirit, especially when you allow your hard providences to come into our lives. *May the light of our hope in Jesus Christ and his great promises shine brightly in our churches as we in love offer an alternative to a twisted and perverted culture that denies your revealed truth and approves what is false.*

OCTOBER

Sept. 27-Oct. 3: *“holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me”*

Php 2:16-18. Thank you, dear God, that you enable us to grow in our trust and obedience to your word. Let no sin take us captive to the lie that killing the unborn or the disabled and despairing is compassionate care. *Forgive the repentant and redeem the lost. Give your pastors the joy of seeing their preaching of your word result in people standing firm in their defense of the vulnerable.*

Oct. 4-10: *“I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ... For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also”* Php 2:19-24.

Heavenly Father, please raise up godly young men and women who share our commitment to cherish and protect vulnerable human life. *As the PPL Board meets this week in Alabama, bless their work to equip Presbyterians to champion human life at every stage.*

Oct. 11-17: *“... But God had mercy on him [Epaphroditus], and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ... So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me”* Php 2:25-30.

Holy God, show mercy to your servants, raise up the sick and comfort the dying. May we see the inherent, unconditional value of every person no matter how ill they may be. *Help us reject unbiblical and false claims that physician-assisted suicide is compassionate care. Give medical workers courage to persevere in always caring and never killing.*

Oct. 18-24: *“Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. ... Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—”* Php 3:1-3.

Holy Triune God, give us your joy even when it is hard to stand. Even in your church there are wolves in sheep’s clothing who would distract us from the great work of Christ and his supreme authority to create human life and to determine every person’s destiny. *Give us the mind of Christ.*

Oct. 25-31: *“though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,* (continue above)

NOVEMBER

Oct. 25-31: (continued) *“a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless”* Php 3:4-6. O Lord, we are tempted to rely on ourselves and take credit for the gifts you have given. Help us to see that all our assets are liabilities if they keep us from repenting, receiving Christ and his righteousness. *We pray, Lord, that you would frustrate the plans of those who would turn people away from hearing the good news of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.*

Nov. 1-7: *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”* Php 3:7-9.

Mighty God, to be found in Christ and to know him is the greatest good we could desire. Give us rightly ordered desires. *We pray that you will raise up government leaders committed to live under the moral framework your word has revealed, who will pursue justice for the powerless, and protect the freedom of the churches to proclaim the gospel of Christ.*

Nov. 8-14: *“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead”* Php 3:10-11.

Jesus, may we fully identify with your selfless life of suffering that culminated in your glorious resurrection and ascension. May we progressively experience the moral transformation that enables us to willingly serve and love others. *Give your churches unity and courage to teach and model a biblical view of life and sexuality that glorifies you and brings true wholeness to your people.*

Nov. 15-21: *“Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, ... forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,”* Php 3:12-13.

Gracious God, we struggle to understand the depth of your love for us in Christ. Give to men and women who are afflicted with guilt over past abortions the deep knowledge of your complete willingness to forgive past sins as they repent and believe the gospel. *Holy Spirit, sustain us with your joy by believing your word.*

Nov. 22-28: *“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained”* Php 3:14-16. (continue)

DECEMBER

Nov. 22-28: (continued) Father God, “when the roll is called up yonder” may our names be among those who ran with perseverance the race and by your grace won the prize of deeply knowing Jesus. *Even now we pray that gospel-centered, pro-life witness would advance your kingdom and exalt your glory. We thank you for the coming day when all creation is fully restored under Christ’s reign and rule.*

Nov. 29-Dec. 5: *“Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ... with minds set on earthly things”* Php 3:17-19.

Head of the Church, raise up among us pastors, elders and churches who will teach the intrinsic and incalculable value of human life made in your image. *Help us to see that our existence is a good gift from you and that death is a curse and always an evil intruder into your beautiful garden of life.*

Dec. 6-12: *“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself”*

Php 3:20-21. Praise be to you, Almighty God, for giving us a strong and certain hope that one coming day you will raise our broken and dead bodies and give us resurrected ones like yours. *Our bodies will be crowned with glory and honor; help us now to honor our bodies as temples of your Holy Spirit.*

Dec. 13-19: *“Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life”* Php 4:1-3.

Spirit of God, we thank you for faithful pastors and pray for their churches whose members need to be of one mind in recognizing the grave injustice and evil of abortion and physician-assisted death. *We thank you, O God, for many life-affirming Christians who sacrificially serve as caregivers, nurses and physicians working hard to help the suffering.*

Dec. 20-Jan. 2: *“Rejoice in the Lord always; ... The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ...”* Php 4:4-7. We worship and adore you, Incarnate Lord Jesus! You are near to us in time and space. *God of peace, grow our faith and “guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” in the coming new year 2027.*