

Prayer Guide

Join the Pastoral Search Committee in praying for a new senior pastor!

January: Faithfulness

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul “therefore I will hope in him.” — Lamentations 3:22-24

Pray in thankfulness for God is faithful. His mercies are new every morning. Out of the faithfulness of Jesus who died on the cross, he crowns his church with love and compassion.

February: Humility

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” — James 4:6

Pray for the ability to trust that though we are weak, God is strong, and he delights in giving grace to the humble. His plans are perfect and his timing is never late.

March: Wisdom

*The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:
To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight,
to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;
to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—
Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance,
to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
— Proverbs 1:2-7*

Since true wisdom comes from the Lord, pray that we might grow in fear of the Lord as we trust in his wisdom to provide the right senior pastor for our church.

April: Fruits of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. — Galatians 5:22-23

Pray that we would be filled with the Spirit and that our new senior pastor would be filled with the Spirit.

May: Encouragement

*Listen to my words, Lord,
consider my lament.
Hear my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.
In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.
— Psalm 5:1-3*

The Lord loves to hear from us. When in doubt, rest in his word. Be encouraged that he hears our voice when we cry out to him and we can wait expectantly. He cares about our needs because we belong to him. Pray for our church and our need for a senior pastor, and take courage that he hears this need.

June: Mercy

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? — Micah 6:8

Pray that our next senior pastor will have God's heart of mercy and compassion toward our congregation and Upper East Side neighbors. Pray also that our church would be known for how we love God and our neighbors.

July: Repentance

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. — Romans 12: 1-2

Pray that we would move forward in humility, not pride rooted in how God moved in the past. Pray to be humble broken vessels that God can use in new and powerful ways, beyond what we deserve.

August: Patience

[S]ince you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. — Colossians 3:10b, 12-14

Pray that we may live fully in our new identity as God's chosen people, loved, forgiven and renewed in Christ. Pray that as a result, our capacity to respond with patience and understanding toward others becomes second nature and showcases our creator.

September: God's Sovereignty

*“But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen!
Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you:
Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.
They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.
This one will say, ‘I am the Lord’s,’ another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, ‘The Lord’s,’ and name himself by the name of Israel.”
Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”
— Isaiah 44:1-8*



Pray for the grace to remember God's sovereignty that removes fear because God is in control of every aspect of the pastor search process, and he never grows weary with protecting and providing for his church.

October: Missional Living

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
— Matthew 28:18-20

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" — Isaiah 6:8*

Pray that our hearts become more sensitive and aware of the needs — both material and spiritual — in our communities and in our city. Pray that, from rest and confidence in the fact that God is with us always, we would boldly and prayerfully share the love of Christ.

November: Endurance

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. — 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Pray that in all we do, we may continually draw on the same strength and power that raised Christ from the dead and remain ever trusting that God not only prepares us to do the work, but also prepares the works that we are to do.

December: Joy

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. — Philemon 1:7

Pray that we may be a source of joy and encouragement to one another.

PRAYER FOR NEW SENIOR PASTOR

The following is a prayer that reflects the heartfelt aspirations of the RES congregation for our new senior pastor, as informed by the congregational survey and focus groups in fall 2021. We humbly submit these requests before the Lord and rest in his provision and grace, for we know the Spirit intercedes to ask of him what we do not know to ask for ourselves.

Father, may our new pastor be a man whose orthodoxy flows out of his relationship with his Heavenly Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit; may he understand that a vibrant and healthy relationship is only derived through the practice of spiritual disciplines tied to faith, confession and repentance.

Lord, may our new pastor be a man that exhibits spiritual wisdom, understanding and discernment. May he be a winsome Biblical expositor who longs to effectively communicate the “whole counsel of God” to the saved and the unsaved; that through his giftedness, RES will be known as a place where honest questions are met with honest responses; that he may be culturally competent to convey the relevancy of the gospel to an often transient and skeptical audience.

Holy Spirit, may he be a man who burns to see your mercy and justice realized in NYC; a man who listens, unifies and genuinely values all races, all classes, all ages of individuals. May he be eager to establish RES as a multi-generational, multi-racial congregation that honors your image bearers, where all feel loved, seen, welcomed and heard.

Father, may our new pastor be a model for the Sessional and Diaconate leadership, ministerial staff, program leadership and congregation. May his love of Christ, commitment to The Great Commission, personal accountability, and love and appreciation for others foster unity and solidarity throughout the leadership and congregation.

Lord, may his leadership be characterized by humility, curiosity, innovation, faithfulness and friendship. And may he wholeheartedly labor to see a movement of the gospel rise up from the UES and spread throughout our beloved city and beyond, to the glory and praise of your holy name alone.

Amen.