

Monday, August 3 - Read Matthew 6:6 & 7:7 Prayer is an inexhaustible topic, and no matter how often we hear sermons or read books on prayer, we can always glean something new on this subject. When one takes the posture of prayer it is a sign of great humility because it is in this act we recognize there is someone greater than us, and we need his help. Prayer is so much more than just asking God to do stuff for us, to bless us, to open doors for us, and nothing is wrong with asking God we are encouraged by Jesus to ask and keep on asking. (Matthew 7:7). But prayer is the actual practice of the presence of God, this statement gives prayer so much more meaning because so often we pray on the go, or we are rushing to catch the seven o' clock headlines on the news, or we had a long day, and we just want to get to bed early. No matter what the reason, we all have experienced rushing prayer. Practicing the presence of God means I must take time to sit, pushing aside everything else, ready to engage in conversation giving God my full attention. Sometimes I find it easier to understand spiritual things by comparing them to the natural. So if we are talking about practicing someone's presence, we can look at the relationship between a husband and wife. Often I am in the same room with my husband, lying on the same bed, and he is catching up on emails, and I am reading; we are in each other's presence, but we are not practicing each other's presence. But if we put everything aside and we engage in conversation, we then practice each other's presence. So too with prayer, we can talk to God but all the while our minds and hearts are no way connected to him. I know this feeling in my times of on-purpose prayer my mind becomes the most bombarded with my to-do list. I have learned over the years not to view prayer as a chore or work, but as the act of practicing God's presence, therefore prayer has become more of a delight for me. If you struggle with prayer or are intimidated because you don't have all the right words, or you run out of things to pray about I want to encourage you to start off slowly by coming into a quiet place with some soft worship music, this will help you sense God's presence and then you can share your heart in your own words, and that will lead you to great times of prayer.

"Prayer is not learned in a classroom but in the closet." **E. M. Bounds**

Tuesday, August 4 - Read Matthew 6:8-10 As we spend time in God's presence, we catch his heart. Can you remember the time you dated? Do you remember the feelings of awe and wonder, the anticipation of spending time with the person and the sorrow to leave; time just was not enough. But one of the most important things about spending time with the person you love is the attention you pay to them while they share what's in their heart with you. The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus and the time caused them to want to know more. They had seen him do many miracles and wonders, they had seen him spend countless hours in prayer, and so they wanted to tap into his heart, and they asked Jesus to teach them to pray - "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:8-10 (NIV). Jesus then ventured out to give them the model of prayer that would revolutionize not only their lives but ours also; it is a prayer we are still praying over two thousand years later - Heaven Come! I find it interesting that Jesus did not teach the disciples to pray for themselves or their needs first, but the priority of the prayer was that God's name would forever be kept Holy and then for God's domain to reach ours - "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name," (Matthew 6:9 NIV). How powerful is that? So often we approach prayer for our needs only, but true prayer pushes past our agendas to get to the heart of the King. I know there are all types of prayers and at different times in our lives we may have different needs, and that may drive the direction of our prayers, but as a believer growing and maturing in the Lord, our prayers now should always be shaped by the priority of what is on God's heart. You may ask the question, "Well if I don't pray for my needs how will they be met?" But just before Jesus introduced the model prayer to his disciples, he reminded them their heavenly Father knows what they have need of even before they ask Him. "Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." (Matthew 6:8-10 NIV). God wants us to know that he cares about our needs like an earthly parent cares for their children, so our requirements need not be the priority on our prayer list. But desiring God's name and kingdom to reach earth is by far the most excellent prayer we could ever pray. If you have never prayed this way before, today I want to encourage you to take just a few minutes and ask God to share his heart with you so you can bring heaven to earth.

"We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth." **Andrew Murray**

Wednesday, August 5 - Read Matthew 26:40-41, Luke 22:31-32, Ephesians 6:10-12 & Ephesians 6:18 We all know there are wars and rumors of wars raging wild across the earth because the news and social media give it more than enough coverage, yet when a spiritual battle comes up we have a hard time believing this is real. But Jesus reminds us to be mindful of the war raging. He said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41 AMP). From this statement, we can recognize that the war is mostly internal for the believer. Jesus made this statement the night he was about to be taken away to be crucified; he had just completed the Passover meal with his disciples, and he took a few disciples to the garden for support in prayer because he knew what was about to befall him. After a while of praying Jesus came back and saw the disciples sleeping, and he said, "Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter." (Matthew 26:40). Jesus was emphasizing the importance of prayer in this on-going battle is to keep the faith. The faith to believe he is who he says he is and he will do what he says he will do, is the biggest struggle we all face. When money is running low, when our children are going off the righteous path after we have done everything to teach them God's ways, when sickness and pain are wreaking havoc in our bodies and worries seem to be the bed we lie in every night, when our relationships are plagued with disloyalty and cheating, when the business or ministry have taken the best years of our lives, and it still seems to go under, when there is alcohol and abuse in our homes trust me it takes a real fight to still believe God and his word. But thank God for prayer because it is the one comfort we have knowing that through it all, through the raging winds and storms of life and through the struggle and hardships we can get with other saints and send up a prayer to God and know that he hears and he will answer. Jesus shared with the Apostle Peter the plan the enemy had for his life, Jesus didn't hold back in letting him know the enemy was after him but he also gave Peter the solution to the problem. "Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has demanded permission to sift [all of] you like grain; but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], strengthen and support your brothers [in the faith]." (Luke 22:31-32 AMP). The plan of the enemy has been the same through the ages to get us to doubt God, and his word and the strategy remains the same still today; watch and pray!

"If you are strangers to prayer you are strangers to power" - **Billy Sunday**.

To view the complete study guide, visit covenantdothan.org/messages/archive.

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

08.02.20

Sundays

Wednesdays

8:15 AM | Traditional Service

9:45 AM | Contemporary Service

11 AM | Contemporary Service

6 PM

1st Wednesday

Once a month

Bible Study

Weekly

Online Campus

No matter where you are on Sundays, you can join us for worship on our Online Campus. Visit our online campus at covenantdothan.org/locations/ online for more information.

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church
Facebook Live: [facebook.com/covumcdothan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdothan)
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Welcome!

All of our services - 8:15, 9:45 and 11 am - are available on our online campus. Please note: We will not gather in our buildings for worship services at this time. This includes children and students as well.

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church

Facebook Live: [facebook.com/covumcdothan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdothan)

YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

August Sermon Series - Pray

The most important conversation of your life. Prayers aren't empty words hurled at the sky. They're conversations. August is all about discovering how much it matters when you pray.

August Prayer Groups

During the month of August, we will offer a unique experience at Covenant. Our focus during the month will be on prayer and we are encouraging everyone to become involved in a group at some level. We are asking that you find 3-4 others who would come alongside you during the month of August and take advantage of our prayer resources. You can meet together on a day/time and at a location of your choosing. We have provided short Bible studies, devotionals, and Bible plans for you; however, get creative and seek out other ways to connect with your group through the power of prayer. We know God will do great things during the month of August and hope you will take this opportunity to strengthen your walk with Christ. Visit covenantdothan.org/prayer to learn more.

Giving to Covenant

We are called to practice generosity in every area of our lives. Through your continued support of Covenant we are able to unleash compassion and share the love of Jesus with our hurting world. Visit covenantdothan.org/give to see how you can partner with us during this time.

CONTACT US

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THE COVENANT APP
Search & download
"Covenant UMC Dothan" on
any phone or tablet device.



First Wednesday

Join us this **Wednesday, August 5, at 7 pm** for a drive in worship experience. Invite your family and friends to join you as we worship through music and hear a message together.

Baptism

We believe baptism is an important step of obedience in our faith journey. It shows that we have personally trusted Jesus for our salvation, and just as Jesus was baptized on earth, we do this to follow his example. Your baptism symbolizes the new life you have found in Christ just as Jesus rose to life again. If you have questions about baptism or would like to be baptized, contact Rev. Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org.

CovGroups

Marriage Night Simulcast Join us **September 12 from 6-9:30 pm** for a one-night event for married and engaged couples to laugh and learn as they hear from marriage experts and discover how to honor God through their relationship. The speaker lineup includes Matt & Lauren Chandler, Conway & Jada Edwards, Les & Leslie Parrott, and comedian Michael Jr. There is an option for viewing the simulcast from your home. Contact Wendy Hicks at wendy@covenantdothan.org for more information.

Right Now Media Our church has access to an extensive video library called Right Now Media. It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and contains a HUGE library of faith-based videos that can be accessed from anywhere. We believe Right Now Media is a tool that can serve you as you live out your faith at home, work, and in your neighborhood. There are videos for everyone - kids, students, & adults - aimed at helping you grow in your faith. Contact Wendy Hicks to sign up.

CovTrips

We still have spots left on our trip! Join us **October 18-24** as we set off for Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. This seven day, six night trip includes transportation, lodging, ten meals, admission to the Queen Esther Show, Gettysburg National Park, Amish Experience and Jacob's Choice at the F/X Theatre, and guided tours. The cost is \$659 per person (double occupancy). Contact Sherry Koogler at 793.4440 for more information.

Care Ministries



Celebrate Recovery No *hurt* is beyond healing. No *habit* is beyond help. No *hang-up* is beyond hope. It takes courage to let others into our lives, but we were never meant to walk through life alone. Let us walk with you. Though we are unable to meet in person at this time, be sure to join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/covumcdothan](https://www.facebook.com/covumcdothan) on Thursdays at 6 pm as we provide a teaching or an inspiring testimony. For more information contact Sherry Koogler at sherryk@covenantdothan.org.

Grief Support Grief Support is a safe, confidential, loving and Christ-centered environment for sharing one another's burdens. Grief Support meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month and is currently meeting via Zoom. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Jim Hicks at hicksje@graceba.net.

Stephen Ministry Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people.



If you are going through a difficult time, contact Kyle Gatlin at 793.4440 or kyle@covenantdothan.org. The care you'll receive is confidential, free and very helpful.

Contact Information Request

Connection and interaction is essential during this time of uncertainty and it is important to stay grounded in God's Word and in community with others. We want to make certain that Covenant has current information so that we may stay connected with you. If you have not already, please visit [covenantdothan.org/contact-info](https://www.covenantdothan.org/contact-info) to update your information or you can contact us at 793.4440.



Stay connected with our CovKids! Be sure to check out everything CovKids has coming up on Facebook & Instagram - live devotionals, book readings, crafts & more!

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovKids](https://www.facebook.com/CovKids)
Instagram: [instagram.com/covkids_](https://www.instagram.com/covkids_)



Stay connected with our CovStudents! Be sure to check out everything CovStudents has coming up.

Facebook: [facebook.com/CovStudents](https://www.facebook.com/CovStudents)
Instagram: [instagram.com/covstudents](https://www.instagram.com/covstudents)

CovMissions

Harbor Serve Day Let's get together (safely) and serve! It is Covenant's turn to provide and serve breakfast at The Harbor on Saturday, August 8. You can help by preparing a breakfast casserole, provide pastries or fruit, help put together take-out boxes at The Harbor on Saturday morning beginning at 7:30 am (masked and safely distanced) or join the street ministry team as they give out breakfast and minister to folks. Please contact Barbi Nolan at barbi@covenantdothan.org to let us know how you will help.

Rummage Sale

Please remember our Rummage Sale as you are cleaning out. We have storage space available for any donations you would like to give. Contact Sherry Koogler at sherryk@covenantdothan.org and she will set up a time to meet you to drop off donations. The Rummage Sale benefits our Celebrate Recovery program as well as other missions in the Wiregrass.

Covenant News & Happenings

Are you interested in receiving a weekly eNewsletter, Sermon Notes and other Covenant news by email? This is a great way to stay up to date on upcoming events, registration, prayer concerns and more. Email Courtney Hardy at courtney@covenantdothan.org to sign up.

Covenant Concerns

Sympathy

The Pastors and congregation would like to express our deepest sympathy to...

- Tim & Amanda McDonald on the death of their son, *Logan McDonald*.
- David & Amy Williams on the death of David's father, *David Williams Sr.*

Recent Prayer Concerns Carrie Mathis Allday, Gianna Allday, Steve Morrell, Jennette Gayer, Ava Blackburn, Beth & Tom Sherrer, Ronnie Brannon, Molly Tew, Tom Renshaw Sr., Margaret Wilson, David Cunningham, Linda Griffith, Chris Smith, John Babinski, Tim Koogler, Linda Avera, Carrie Williams, Beverly Youse, Kathy Kerecman, Sandy Lisenby, Danielle Simmons, Tammy Reese, Family of Patsy Bowling, Johnathan Berry, Carla Lawrence, Wallace Family, JJ Price Family, Alan Tidwell, Quinton Snellgrove, Terri Daughtry, Lori Burns, Dr. Bill Lies, Lisa Silcox, Natalie Faulk, Christy Goodwin Bullard, Mary Lisenby, George Stokes, Mark Arrington, William Brown, Peter Collins Jr., Jill Walden, Sue Reynolds, Hays McKay, Helon Scott, Jeanne Stringfellow, Dutch Holland, James Salter, Thomas Evans, Lucy Cline, Carolyn Benton, David Johnston, Yvonne Reid, Cher Hicks, Happy Fox, Pete Shelley, Lisa Henry, Karen Medley, Gayle Moores, Lamar Spence, Martha Jane Shannon, Jerry Dooling, Tipton Family, Kathy Clark, Wynn Arkle, June Granberry, Evie Riley, Tony Justice, Richard Duncan, Sarah Grantham, Charles Meeks, JoAnn Gamble, Laurie Axtell, Allwyn Nilsson, Trip and Haley Moseley & family, Avery Wells, Jeffrey Bostwick, Scott Berry, Jennie Lawson, Scott Brown, Angie Goodson, Janis Caddell, Shelby Clark, Kendrea White, Kelly Armstrong Smith, Bobby Simmons, Michael Buntin, Bernice White, Beverly White, Audrey Miller, Carolyn Thomley, Bob Drummond, Connie Moore

Currently Deployed Jerrad Anderson

Have a prayer request? If you have a prayer request you would like to add to this list, please email Kyle Gatlin at kyle@covenantdothan.org.