

Monday, August 31 - Read Psalms 25:1-5 Pressure to make decisions, solve problems, and boost performance is the norm in many workplaces. That pressure can weigh you down. Prayer is a powerful tool for turning to God so you can release the pressure and ignite your leadership. The writer of the Psalms faced extreme challenges in his work, too. Hundreds of people reported to him. Competitors sought to kill him. His future was often uncertain. In the midst of the daily chaos, the psalmist turned to God in prayer. Psalm 25 can serve as a template for your own prayers. The prayer opens with offering your inner-most self to God. "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul" (Psalm 25:1). These words help remind you to whom you belong. It continues with an affirmation of your relationship with God. "O my God, in you I trust" (Psalm 25:2). When you're unsure about what to do, you can trust God to guide you. The prayer then asks God for insight. "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me" (Psalm 25:4-5). You can ask God for insight into the unique problems you face during your day. There are many ways God can give you the answer. You might get understanding by reading the Bible and seeing scripture in a new light. Or you might hear advice from members of your Christian community that changes your way of thinking. Or God might give you insight directly in your time of prayer. All these are ways that God leads you in truth, as it says in Psalm 25:5. When you need guidance at work, a quick prayer can connect you to God and open the doorway to God's truth, helping you to work and lead in the best possible way.

Tuesday, September 1 - Read Jeremiah 29:4-7 The Bible encourages you to pray for the place where you work. Your prayers could open doors to more people coming to know the Lord. And it's good for you too, according to Jeremiah 29. "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7). Seeking the welfare of your company is important, whether or not the people in charge believe in God. In Jeremiah's letter to the exiles, the Israelites were being asked to pray for the Babylonians - people who were actively hostile to God, and who had drawn the Israelites into captivity. Even so, God told the Israelites that praying for the Babylonians would be the key to the Israelites' blessing. By blessing others, you're blessed too. This has always been an integral part of God's Covenant. God expressed the link to Abraham in this way: "Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him" (Genesis 18:18). God's provision is so great that there is always enough to go around. Making prayer part of your leadership could bring greater blessings than you currently imagine.

Wednesday, September 2 - 1 Timothy 2:1-3 You might get so wrapped up in your own work responsibilities - including keeping the boss happy - that you forget your boss needs prayer as well. No matter what kind of relationship you might have with your boss, the Bible urges you to pray for him or her. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 says that all people who are in "high positions" deserve multiple types of prayers. The Bible uses three terms - "supplications, prayers, and intercessions" - to remind you to pray for your boss (1 Timothy 2:1). Pray that your boss is blessed with wisdom to make good decisions. Pray that God gives him or her success at work. And pray for God's peace in the midst of uncertainty. 1 Timothy 2:2 also lists another way to pray for your boss: thanksgiving. It may seem counterintuitive to thank God for your boss, especially if you have a difficult one. But 1 Timothy 2:2 says to pray for "all" people in high positions, not just the ones you like. Look for something about your boss you can thank God for. For example, you can be grateful that your boss has to make the difficult decisions and face the consequences, not you. Or perhaps you're grateful that you have a job at all. If so, thank God in prayer. The promise of prayer is that you can lead a "quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:2). It allows you to be a peaceful presence in your workplace. Praying for your boss changes you in a positive way, and you might just see positive changes in your relationship with your boss too.

Thursday, September 3 - Philippians 4:2-9 People were created to live and work in community with one another - in other words, with other people. Different perspectives improve the product of your work, but differences can also be a source of conflict. The letter to the Philippians gives this advice to coworkers in conflict with one another: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:6-8). If you're stuck for a way to pray for your coworkers, thank God for anything that is honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy in them (Philippians 4:7). It may take a while to come up with a list, but it's worth the effort. Focusing on what's positive in someone else changes your heart and allows God to work in your working relationship. God promises that his peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) will come into your heart and mind when you pray for the people around you. You can start experiencing that peace by seeing the good in the people you see every day. This simple prayer could ignite a whole new level of excellence in the work that you produce individually and together.

Friday, September 4 - Matthew 6:7-13 Through your work you have the opportunity to impact many people. There are the people you see every day who are influenced by your attitude and your prayers. There are also people you don't see on a daily basis who experience the benefits of your work. You have the chance to ignite all these people through short purposeful prayers throughout your workday. Prayer in the workplace doesn't need to be a big production. It could be a quick "please" or "thank you" whenever a new person crosses your path. One customer service representative made a habit every time the phone rang of saying "Thank you, God, for the person I'm about to talk to." The prayer didn't take longer than one ring to say, and it changed the way this worker approached the phone call. As a result, whoever was calling left the interaction feeling blessed. Jesus said, "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words" (Matthew 6:7). You don't need to devote hours of time to prayer in order to bring God into your workday. Quick prayers are enough. Martin Luther said that prayer should be "brief, frequent, and intense." Whoever crosses your path today, whether it's a customer, a coworker, or the person who empties your trash can, take a moment to pray for them. Expect God to do the rest.

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

08.30.20

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
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Welcome!

We are excited to welcome you back on campus for all worship services beginning September 2 at First Wednesday! Our online campus will continue as usual, and we will also be gathering on-campus for Sunday worship as well. Activities will be available for children and students.

Visit us online for worship:

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church
Facebook Live: facebook.com/covumcdothan
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

September Sermon Series

Those "perfect" relationships we see on social media are never as easy as they seem. There is a lot more that goes into a healthy relationship than what is shared on our feeds. Join us online or on campus in the month of September as we look at some realistic Relationship Goals together!

A Note From the Finance Office

The current season we are facing has been difficult in many ways. With much of our daily lives and normalcy being taken away, it's difficult to imagine giving more of ourselves. However, as Christians, we are called to be generous even in the most difficult circumstances, whether that means with our time or our finances. Even through the hard seasons, God can do immeasurably more through our generosity. Because of your continued support of Covenant, we have been able to reach more people than ever with our virtual approach to church and our CovMissions outreach. This is only possible through your generosity! Thank you for partnering with and believing God for more with us!

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:24-25

CONTACT US

3610 West Main Street
Dothan, AL 36305
334.793.4440
covenantdothan.org

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



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.

CovMissions

CovMissions will be providing school supplies for our adopted school, Faine Elementary, this year as always. In addition to normal school supplies, however, kids are in need of personal protection equipment which many of Faine's low income families cannot afford. You can help! Please drop off kid sized masks and hand sanitizer of any size in the collection bins located under the portico (covered driveway) anytime between now and September 6.

CovGroups

God created us to be in community with one another and experience life with other people. Small groups exist to bring people together and to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to God's people. Personal growth does not happen in isolation; therefore, Covenant offers a number of ways to get connected through small groups. One of Jesus' first acts in ministry was to form a small group. It is in small groups that God uses others to bring healing, support, and encouragement to our lives, providing an opportunity for people to help carry one another's burdens. Visit covenantdothan.org/connect/small-groups for a list of our small groups.

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.

Rummage Sale Update

We are excited to announce we will be having a *virtual* Rummage Sale. Beginning September 18, we will post pictures and descriptions of items available. Be sure to follow our new Covenant Celebrate Recovery Facebook Page (search Covenant Celebrate Recovery) to find out all the details and to learn more about our ministry. Please think of us as you are cleaning out as we accept donations all year. All proceeds will go to our Celebrate Recovery program to help with continuing education, resources and more.

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.

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.



We are excited to welcome back our CovKids this month during our worship services. Please visit our website to stay up-to-date and to learn more about our hands free check-in app. Our weekly lessons are available on our website at covenantdothan.org/connect/covkids.

Stay connected with our CovKids on Facebook & Instagram!

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



Stay connected with CovStudents!

For the latest news and information for students, visit the CovStudents Facebook or Instagram pages. Facebook: [facebook.com/CovStudents](https://www.facebook.com/CovStudents) Instagram: [instagram.com/covstudents](https://www.instagram.com/covstudents)

COVSTUDENTS FALL SCHEDULE

Sundays

Morning Worship - We encourage all students to attend Sunday morning worship services with family.

REFUGE - 5-6 pm, CLC Gym

A fun & enlightening student worship experience tailored specifically for 6th-12th graders. REFUGE kickoff is August 30.

Wednesdays

TOPICKS

Jr. High (7th-8th Grade) - 5:30-6:15 pm
Sr. High (9th-12th Grade) - 7-7:45 pm
Age and gender specific small group experience for a more in depth discussion on Biblical truths. Jr. & Sr. High will meet in the CLC Gym. TOPICKS kickoff is September 2.

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 to update your information or you can contact us at 793.4440.

Covenant Concerns

Sympathy

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

- Roosevelt & Nora Hutchinson on the death of her brother, *James Salter*.
- Royce & Michele York on the death of his sister, *Sara Brogden*.

Recent Prayer Concerns

Kenneth Arnold, Lori Lamb Weathington, Sharon Jenkins, 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, 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.