

Monday, August 10 - Read Romans 12:12, Luke 5:16. What does prayer mean to you? Be honest with yourself. Do you feel like you're talking to the ceiling? Do you actually believe God not only hears all your prayers, but can and will respond? Prayer can be misunderstood and is often overlooked, but it is central in our journey with Jesus. It isn't an itemized list or simply a task to check off our busy schedules. God doesn't want proper words or mindless, rote recitations; He wants our hearts. While talking with God can take many forms, it is always about relationship. It's about spending time together, talking and listening, becoming familiar with God's heart and character. It's about being authentic and truthful, exposing your deepest pains, most secret hopes, and wildest dreams for your life. This is the kind of relationship we were made to have with our Father, and it is profoundly reciprocal. Prayer becomes our roots, fastened to the rock, Jesus, and built upon the foundation of His Word. In this relationship, we begin to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts through the Scripture and our lives become linked up to what God is already at work doing in us and the world around us, for our good and for His glory! Prayer and time alone with the Father was a priority for Jesus. Take some time today to consider the priority of prayer in your own life. Does it hold a significant place of importance in your relationship with the Father?

Tuesday, August 11 - Read Matthew 6:9-13, Hebrews 10:19-23. Sometimes, when we pray, there is a tendency to just rattle off some words and ask for the things we need. Or, maybe we offer up a quick, passing prayer for someone else in need. In those moments, prayer can be just about "doing" it, and can often feel empty and impersonal. Have you been there? Thankfully, Jesus modeled perfectly for us how we should approach God in prayer when He taught us to pray, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name! [Matthew 6:9] Prayer is about relationship and intimacy with God, our holy and awesome Father. It is an invitation we are given as followers of Jesus! We have received the Spirit of adoption into the family of God; we are children of God and we, too, can cry out to Him as "Abba, Father". This is an invitation to engage God as Father. Our perfect heavenly Father, who loves, accepts, and longs to be in relationship with us. And like Jesus, the choice to pull away and create space and time to just be with Him, unrushed and quiet, allows us to sit in His presence, hear His voice, and receive. Yes, God is holy, awesome, all-powerful and vast. Yet, He is also completely aware and in the details of our lives. High and lifted up, yet close and longing to be with us. In humble surrender we will find peace, joy, and hope as we come to Him in prayer. Ask God to help you reset your awareness of His presence and of His desire to draw near to you today.

Wednesday, August 12- Read Matthew 6:10, Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:2-3. Jesus taught us to pray from a posture of, *Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done* [Matthew 6:10]. With that mindset, we don't shy away from praying and bringing our whole heart before God. But we also maintain humility through trusting and declaring that we accept and believe that God's will is the best plan for our lives. We surrender our agenda and submit to Him because we believe His plan is perfectly loving and righteous. With our hearts open and our minds focused, we can unashamedly ask for His kingdom to come. We can petition for Him to move and act and bring change to the world around us, while in the same breath we simultaneously choose to trust His perfect will to be done. For as long as we have breath, there is more work to be done in this life for the glory of God, and our prayers are a powerful weapon to bring such change. We can pray God's glory and restoration will come powerfully through the Church, and that His perfect love and peace would prevail on earth, just as it already does in heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit, our prayers can impact individuals, communities, and even the nations. Take time to pray today for something or someone that has been consistently on your heart and mind. Pray with an expectation of God's will, as it is in Heaven, to be done here on earth, invading the very petition you've brought before Him.

Thursday, August 13 - Read Psalms 86, Matthew 6:11-12. There's nothing we can't bring before the Lord in prayer. There's nothing He can't handle. Nothing! The reality is, He knows all of your cares and worries, all of your secrets and fears - so that should provide the courage to just share freely! Every thought, every action, and every emotion can be brought before Him with full assurance that we will be met with grace, goodness, and love. All throughout the Psalms, King David models this freedom for us through a full range of emotions. There are times when talking with God that he is extremely angry at his enemies, in deep distress, full of sorrow, repentant, filled with joy, overcome with praise, and everything in between. He knows and trusts the goodness and faithfulness of God so completely that he is completely confident in simply being authentic and vulnerable before the Father. We have that same freedom. There is actually so much peace available from this position as his children: *Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors* [Matthew 6:11-12]. To stand in both of these postures and give full access of our hearts to God is the greatest gift of freedom. We can ask freely for our daily needs to be met, and we can confess freely with the fullest assurance of the goodness of God for our lives. Is there anything holding you back from approaching God in prayer with complete freedom? Make today the day you talk to Him about it. Because of His nature, you can always know that He is safe and will always be for your good!

Friday, August 14 - Read Psalms 32:1-5, Romans 2:4. One of the great confidences we have in coming to the Father in prayer is to know that we can bring all our wrong before Him and trust Him to forgive and restore. Confession and repentance are essential to our prayer life and in dealing with our sin. Confession is acknowledging that we've done something wrong and openly seeing our sin for what it is. Repentance is a choice to turn away from sin and move forward in righteousness. We won't always get things right in life. In fact, sometimes we get it really wrong. Praise Jesus that He has accomplished the finished work on the cross so that we have the assurance of the forgiveness of our sin! There's no special prayer that must be prayed to receive forgiveness. Rather we simply come, honest and open, to tell God we're sorry for the wrong we've done and to ask for His forgiveness. When we confess, forgiveness is immediate, complete, and restorative! Right on the heels of confession is repentance. It calls us to an awareness of our need to ask God for wisdom to turn away from and avoid moving toward anything harmful. *Forgive us our debts...and lead us not into temptation...* [Matthew 6:12-13]. The beautiful kindness of God and His great love for us is what moves our hearts to confession and repentance. Take a few minutes today and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that you need to make right with God.

THE COVENANT HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP AT COVENANT

08.09.20

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!

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
YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Prayer

Prayer changes lives and circumstances. We believe when we come together fully submitted to God in prayer, He will move on our behalf like never before. Join us this month in praying for God's leading and guidance in our lives, our church, our movement, and our mission fields. Visit covenantdothan.org/prayer to view the prayer guide.

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

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



August Sermon Series

Sundays at 8:15 am, 9:45 am & 11 am 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.

Livestream: covenantdothan.online.church

Facebook Live: facebook.com/covumcdothan

YouTube: Search Covenant Dothan UMC

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Join one of our pastors each **Wednesday evening at 6 pm** either on our website, Facebook Live or on YouTube as we stay connected through God's Word. We will study the book of James and look at practical ways to live out our faith.

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.

August Prayer Groups

Our focus during this 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; visit covenantdothan.org/prayer to learn more. 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.

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 on Thursdays at 6pm 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.



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

Instagram: instagram.com/covkids_



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

Facebook: facebook.com/CovStudents

Instagram: instagram.com/covstudents

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.

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.

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 Alan & Julie Tidwell on the death of her mother, *Ruth Brunson*.

Recent Prayer Concerns 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, 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.