



40 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

EASTER 2023

Easter 2023 40-Day Prayer Guide

After He was baptized, Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness fasting and praying. He did not yield to Satan's temptations, and after that time, He began His public ministry. Throughout His ministry and until His death on the cross, one of the most important things the disciples saw and heard from Him was the necessity and power of prayer. On the night before He was crucified, Jesus said to them, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14)

Our Heavenly Father has seen us through the past three years. The pandemic caused us to stay home from worship March through May of 2020 and a few weeks again at the end of that year. Over this time, the Lord has answered many prayers and has been at work in our midst. We have been blessed with nearly 200 new additions to our FBC family. We have seen the faithfulness of our church family in stewardship so that each of the last three years has had higher ministry giving than the previous year. We have received some estate legacy gifts, which have allowed us to have architectural plans completed for the next phase and pay down the note on our building so that we only have around \$750,000 left to be debt free.

At the present, our city and the surrounding area continue to grow. New homes and apartments are going up all the time. Our call to reach out is greater now than ever. I believe God is doing a fresh work among us in mission and ministry that He will use to bring many people to Himself. Part of that freshness is a vision He gave to relaunch our 11:00 worship service in a way we pray the Lord will use to engage and draw many people who have not been in one of our worship services.

The relaunch of the 11:00 service (The Eleven) is planned for Easter Sunday, which is 40 days away from March 1st. This 40-Day Prayer Guide is designed for us to collectively ask God to guide all the preparations for The Eleven and use everything we do in our church for His glory and to build His Kingdom. Samuel Chadwick, a preacher over 100 years ago wrote the following: "Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." Let's make Satan tremble as we pray unitedly and fervently over the next 40 days and watch what God will do!

Your Pastor by His Grace,

Bill Skaar

Day One

March 1

Jesus was asked, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
(Matthew 22:36-39)

Pray that the love of God will be expressed in all we do in worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and evangelism.



Day 2

March 2

“Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.” (Psalm 149:1)

Pray that worship services at 9:30 and 11:00 will be filled with the manifest presence of God each week. Pray that as we prepare to relaunch the 11:00 service (The Eleven) on Easter that both services will be used in powerful ways to touch lives.

Day 3

March 3

Jesus said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. . . And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.”
(Mark 10:14-16)

Pray for our ministry to children, infants through 5th grade, and their families. God wants to use us to reach hundreds of families with young children and lead them to be followers of Christ.

Day 4

March 4

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”
(Luke 2:52)

Pray for our ministry to youth and their families. Pray that the ministry will grow and that The Eleven service will be used in a powerful way in reaching many youth and families for Christ.

Day 5

March 5

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’ ”
(Psalm 122:1)

Pray for our worship services today.

Day 6

March 6

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Pray for our FAITH outreach, which trains people to share Christ and makes visits each week this spring. Pray for decisions to receive Christ and follow in baptism.



Day 7

March 7

“My food,” Jesus said, “is to do the will of Him who sent me and finish His work. Do not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” (John 4:34-35)

There are thousands of people moving into apartments in our city. Pray that we will see the apartment fields open for ministry and that many of them will respond to our invitation for Easter at 9:30 or at The Eleven.

Day 8

March 8

“All scripture is given by God and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the many of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Pray that our Sunday School classes and Bible Study department will be filled with people eager to learn and live out God’s Word. Pray for additional people to respond to the call to help start new classes.

Day 9

March 9

“Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singer, after them the musicians;” (Psalm 68:24-25)

Pray for Joel, Skip, our Praise Teams, Choir, Orchestra and Praise Band who lead us each Sunday in lifting our voices in praise. Thank God for the talents of people that allow us to use the wide variety of music God has given and continues to give to His people for worship.



Day 10

March 10

“Give each other the handshake of Christian love. Peace be to all who are in Christ.” (1 Peter 5:14 – TLB)

Pray for our Greeter Team. Pray that they will be used to help set the tone for people as they come to the campus each week for Worship and Bible Study. Pray for more to join the team as we strive to be the most inviting and welcoming church.

Day 11

March 11

“The gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon and their associates, who kept watch at the gates.” (Nehemiah 11:19)

Pray for our FIT team who watch over our campus and care for the safety and well-being of people and property.

Day 12

March 12

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 118:24)

Pray that on this day of Worship and Bible Study that God’s people will get up and come to collectively worship and study His Word. Pray that people will respond to the invitation to follow Christ and find a church home.

Day 13

March 13

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go.” (Luke 10:1)

Pray that the Lord will use the FAITH visits, which were made last evening, to draw people to a decision for Christ.

Day 14

March 14

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
(Proverbs 16:3)

Pray for the preparations being made for Easter service at 9:30 and the launch of The Eleven. Pray for the teams that are preparing and leading The Eleven. Pray that Lord uses this service to engage more people in worship.

Day 15

March 15

“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

Thousands of people pass by our campus every day while driving or shopping. Pray that they will be drawn to look to the cross that sits atop our tower and that many will be drawn to come where they will hear the gospel.



Day 16

March 16

“He took a child and had him stand among them. Taking him in His arms, He said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.’” (Mark 9:36-37)

Pray for our First Kids Academy and After School Child-care ministry. Pray that as we care for children, we can also reach many new families for Christ.

Day 17

March 17

“. . . all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion.” (Ezra 8:4)

In the same way a platform enabled people to see and hear Ezra read and share from God’s Word, our audio/visual team works to enable people to see and hear clearly, as we worship in person and over our simulcast. Pray for our team as they use the technology.

Day 18

March 18

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.” (Psalm 115:1)

Pray that God will receive glory through all we do in our church family to reach out for Christ and minister to people.



Day 19

March 19

“Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!” (Psalm 147:1)

Pray as we gather in worship and Bible Study that our praise of God will be lifted up in the music and message and people will respond to the Lord.

Day 20

March 20

“Bring the whole tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. ‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’ (Malachi 3:10)

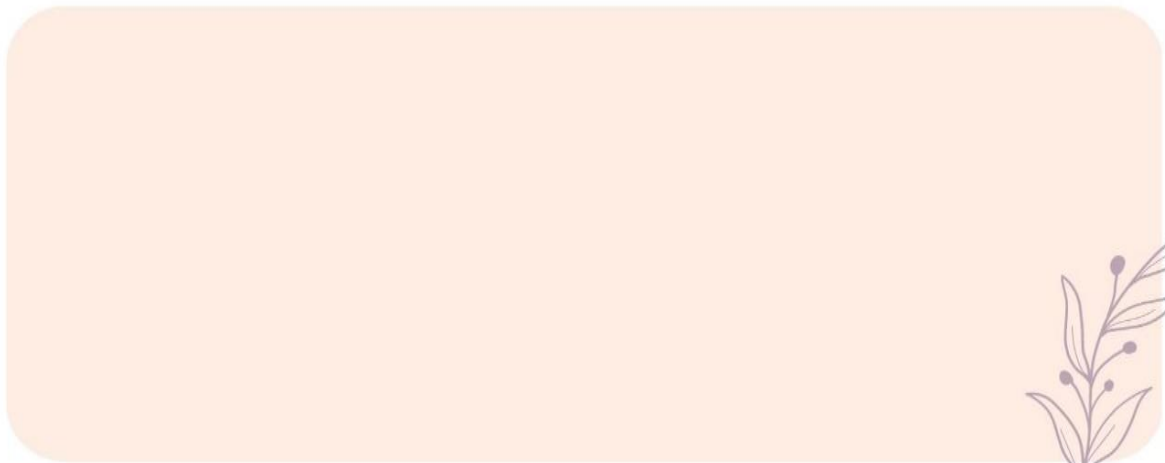
Pray that our FBC family will be faithful in stewardship and that we will see the promise of Malachi 3:10 manifest in a mighty way for God’s glory.

Day 21

March 21

“Leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ They came out of the town and made their way toward Him.” (John 4:28-30)

Ask God to bring three friends to your mind right now who need to receive Christ and/or a church home. Begin praying for those three specifically over the next three weeks. Then, extend an invitation for them to come to an Easter service.



Day 22

March 22

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Thank God for those He used to lead you to Christ. Pray that our ministries to children and youth will see many led to Christ and follow in baptism.

Day 23

March 23

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

God has gifted you and every believer with a set of natural talents and spiritual gifts to be used in His Kingdom. Pray for everyone to find areas of service so that our FBC family will be most effective in mission and ministry.



Day 24

March 24

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ You are doing right.” (James 2:8)

Pray for our Welcome Center team who registers first time guests. They help our guests find a Bible Study for every member of their family.

Day 25

March 25

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

Mission 1335, named after John 13:35, is a fresh emphasis in our church family to engage and expand our focus on missions in our area and beyond. Pray for people to see Christ through our service in the city wide Big Event today.

Day 26

March 26

“Young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.” (Psalm 148:12-13)

FBC is a church family of all ages. From the youngest children to the oldest adults, pray that our worship today will be filled with praise in song, prayer and response to God’s Word. Pray that those who need to receive Christ and/or find a church home will respond to the Lord’s invitation.

Day 27

March 27

“At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. The singers were also brought together. . .” (Nehemiah 12:27-28)

Pray for the preparations being made for Easter in music and visuals for both The Eleven and our 9:30 service. Pray for the choir, praise teams, orchestra and band along with Joel and Skip as they give leadership in music.



Day 28

March 28

“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lands and make them come in, so that my house will be full.’”

(Luke 14:22-23)

Pray for God to draw people in response to our outreach and invitations and that the 9:30 service and The Eleven will be filled Easter Sunday and beyond.

Day 29

March 29

“. . . they ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” (Acts 2:46)

Every Sunday, the First Taste team serves coffee and refreshments in the Atrium. Pray the fellowship that occurs will be a draw for those who are our guests and will be used in developing strong relationships among our FBC family.

Day 30

March 30

“Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip...with a request. ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’ (John 12:20-21)

When people come on Sunday, they need to see Jesus through us. One way is through our service and greeting. We have a parking lot team that drives golf carts around to bring people from their cars to the doors. Pray that this service is used to show the love of Christ and prepare people’s hearts to hear God’s Word.

Day 31

March 31

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.” (Psalm 67:1-2)

Pray that God will pour out His Spirit in a mighty way that we will see a harvest of souls for His Kingdom.



Day 32

April 1

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”
(Psalm 133:1)

Thank God for the unity we have among our FBC family in our purpose to glorify God and work with Him to build His Kingdom. Pray that our unity will be used to reflect Christ to our world and draw people to Him.

Day 33

April 2

“The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting, ‘Hosanna!’ ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Blessed is the King of Israel!’” (Luke 12:12-13)

Today is Palm Sunday. Pray that our worship today will show the energy of that day when Jesus came into Jerusalem in a Triumphant Entry. Pray for continuing preparations as The Eleven prepares for its fresh launch.

Day 34

April 3

“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. . . Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” (Romans 12:13-15)

Our FBC family has ministries that touch many needs such as Overcomers (a ministry to widows), Grief Share, and others. We also financially support and serve community ministries that meet physical and emotional needs. Pray that all we do will be used to share the compassionate love of Christ.

Day 35

April 4

“Call unto me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things that you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

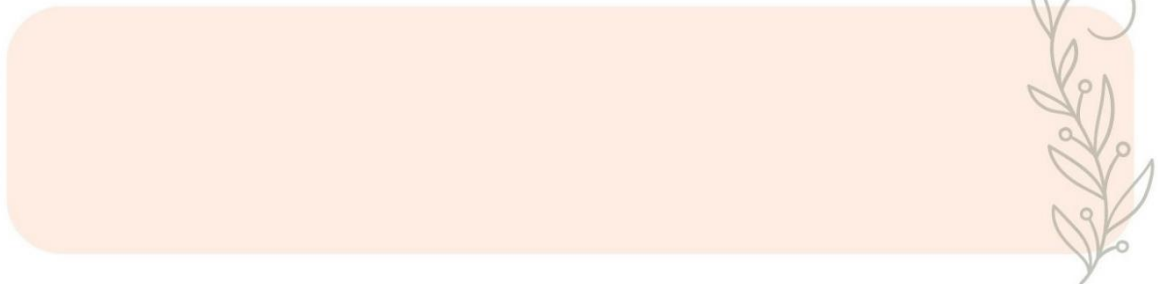
Pray that God will do mighty things as we gather Easter Sunday. Pray for the worship center to be filled in both services. Pray for the preparations being made this week to lift up Jesus and call people to Him.

Day 36

April 5

“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15: 10)

Invite everyone you can to be your guest this Easter Sunday. Pray that there will be decisions for Christ and rejoicing in heaven.



Day 37

April 6

“When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them, ‘I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 22:14-16)

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper in the Upper Room on the night He would be arrested, tried and condemned to die on the cross. He didn’t run away from it. He had come expressly for that. Thank God for Jesus. Pray that many will come to know Him.

Day 38

April 7

“Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull. Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.” (John 19:17-18)

Jesus died a death He didn't deserve to pay the penalty for sin you owed but could not pay. He is the one in the middle, and everyone in the world will end up on one side of Him. The side of rejection or the side of reception. Pray that those who have not believed and received Jesus will come to Him and receive Him this Easter Sunday.

Day 39

April 8

“Jesus called the children to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’” (Luke 18:16)

Pray for the Community Easter Outreach Event we have today for children and families. Pray that those who come to give their children a fun experience in a safe environment will be drawn to respond to our invitation to come back in the morning with their families for one of our Easter Services.

Day 40

April 9

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.’” (Matthew 28:5-6)

He is risen! This is the day we have been praying for. Pray for God to move in a mighty way as we come together in worship at 9:30 and for the launch of The Eleven. Pray that many will respond to the invitation to believe and receive Christ. Today will be a great day in the Lord!

A watercolor splash background with soft, blended colors of purple, pink, and orange, set against a light grey shadow of the splash itself.

Pray Continually

1 Thessalonians 5:17