



Hearts • Families • Communities

Got a great prayer story?
Share it with us so we can
rejoice with you!

grefc.org/prayer-praise-form/



GRAND RAPIDS
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

34384 C.R. 63, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

218-327-9343 | office@grefc.org



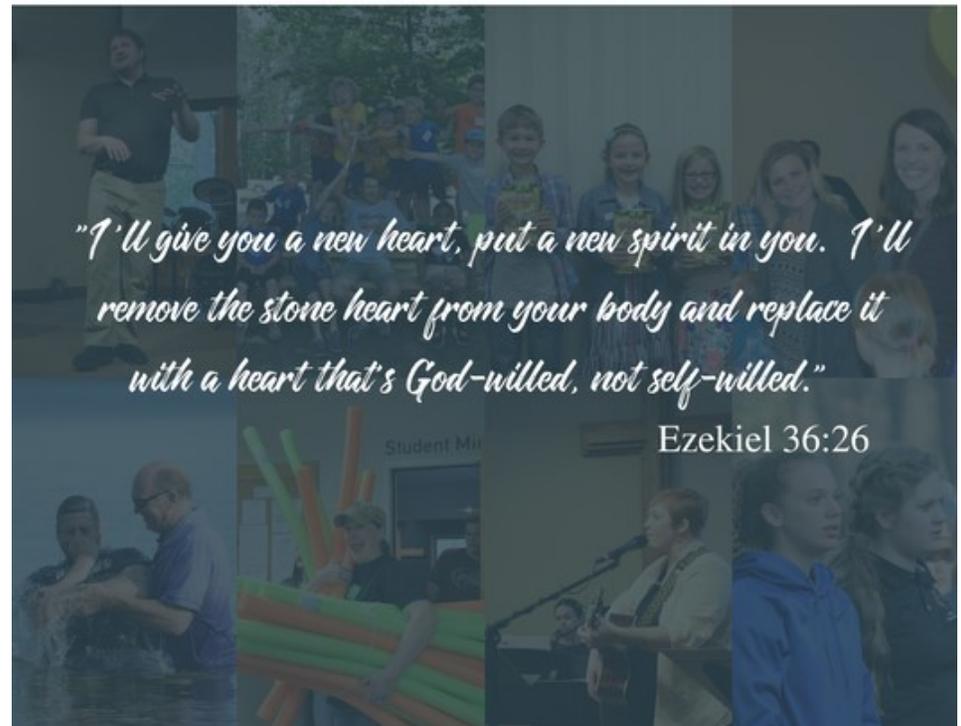
40 Days of Prayer



Hearts • Families • Communities

*"I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll
remove the stone heart from your body and replace it
with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed."*

Ezekiel 36:26





Dear GREFC Family,

Would you join me to pray?

Over the 40 days leading up to the decision to build, I invite you to pray with me, every day, that we would know God's mind in our personal lives and in the life of our church. We want our church to be guided and empowered by God and prayer is essential to know that blessing.

These are exciting times for our church. There are many things happening and over these next 40 days we will be praying for wisdom, for ministries, our leadership, families and for God to open our hearts to his desires for our lives.

As we anticipate God working through "Making Space for Change," we are excited to engage in **40 days of focused prayer**. What better way to lay a foundation for the next leg of our journey than a focused, extended and fervent time of prayer? These forty days will begin on Wednesday, October 4th and end with 24-Hours of Prayer on November 12th.

Maybe this will be the first time you have prayed for 40 days in a row, or perhaps you are a seasoned prayer warrior. Either way, I would urge you to set aside time every day (the amount of time doesn't matter) to pray.

I would encourage you to use this booklet as a guide to your praying. Each day gives a specific prayer focus with some scriptures that speak to that focus. In the booklet it will also give you a place to jot down the things that you are praying for on a personal level and any reflections you may have during your prayer time or after. If you miss a day or two don't give up, just jump back in and carry on.

I would also ask that you save this booklet as a testimony to God working, that it might be used as a record of how God has worked during these 40 days of prayer for our Making Space for Change campaign.

Thank you for joining me in this prayer adventure.

Scott Bainville

Making Space for Change Prayer Coordinator &
Elder Board Chairman

Reflections

So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Galations 3:9

Day 39
Nov 11

Pray For Encouragement

Stir our hearts, Lord and the hearts of others, both at GREFC and onlookers. Help them see the value in what You're doing.

Ezra 1:4-6 "Wherever this Jewish remnant is found, let their neighbors contribute toward their expenses by giving them silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock, as well as a voluntary offering for the Temple of God in Jerusalem." Then God stirred the hearts of the priests and Levites and the leaders of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple of the Lord. And all their neighbors assisted by giving them articles of silver and gold, supplies for the journey, and livestock. They gave them many valuable gifts in addition to all the voluntary offerings.

Notes

Pray For Joy

Day 40
Nov 12

Fill our hearts with joy through every phase of the campaign and building process.

Ezra 6:16, 22 The Temple of God was then dedicated with great joy by the people of Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the people who had returned from exile.....Then they celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days. There was great joy throughout the land because the Lord had caused the king of Assyria to be favorable to them, so that he helped them to rebuild the Temple of God, the God of Israel.

Psalms 103:1-4 Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.

Notes

Day 1
Oct 4

Pray For Focus

Lord, give us the vision to see what is most important as we go about this journey of building the space our church will work within.

Ezra 3:2-3 Then Jeshua son of Jehozadak joined his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his family in rebuilding the altar of the God of Israel. They wanted to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, as instructed in the Law of Moses, the man of God. Even though the people were afraid of the local residents, they rebuilt the altar at its old site. Then they began to sacrifice burnt offerings on the altar to the Lord each morning and evening.

Ephesians 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Notes

Pray For Faith

Day 2
Oct 5

Lord, help us to have faith to know that You are guiding our steps, and are going to see this project to completion.

Galatians 3:9 So all who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Notes

Day 3
Oct 6

Pray For Anticipation

Thank You, God, for what You are about to do with GREFC!

Nehemiah 2:19-20 *But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. "What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?" they asked. I replied, "The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."*

Psalms 100:4-5 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*

Notes

Pray For Protection

Day 4
Oct 7

May the gracious hand of God be on every member and attendee at GREFC.

Ezra 8:21-23 *And there by the Ahava Canal, I gave orders for all of us to fast and humble ourselves before our God. We prayed that he would give us a safe journey and protect us, our children, and our goods as we traveled. For I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to accompany us and protect us from enemies along the way. After all, we had told the king, "Our God's hand of protection is on all who worship him, but his fierce anger rages against those who abandon him." So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer.*

Psalms 33:22 *Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.*

Notes

Day 37
Nov 9

Pray For Favor

Pray for favor in the planning, but also pray for favor in the ministries that are taking place within these walls.

Ezra 6:8 *Moreover, I hereby decree that you are to help these elders of the Jews as they rebuild this Temple of God. You must pay the full construction costs, without delay, from my taxes collected in the province west of the Euphrates River so that the work will not be interrupted.*

Psalms 5:12 *For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.*

Notes

Pray For Unity

Day 38
Nov 10

Help us to labor together in harmony as we move toward the voting on this building project.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 *But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.*

I Peter 3:8 *Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.*

Notes

Day 35
Nov 7

Pray For Thanksgiving

Help us to be grateful for all those in the family of faith who are working on this project.

Nehemiah 8:12 *So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.*

Psalm 62:8 *O my people, trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.*

Notes

Pray For God's Faithfulness

Day 36
Nov 8

Praise the name of God and His faithfulness in all that He has given us.

Ezra 3:10-11 *When the builders completed the foundation of the Lord's Temple, the priests put on their robes and took their places to blow their trumpets. And the Levites, descendants of Asaph, clashed their cymbals to praise the Lord, just as King David had prescribed. With praise and thanks, they sang this song to the Lord: "He is so good! His faithful love for Israel endures forever!" Then all the people gave a great shout, praising the Lord because the foundation of the Lord's Temple had been laid.*

Psalm 29:11 *The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.*

Notes

Day 5
Oct 8

Pray For Devotion

Pray that each person at GREFC will devote themselves fully to the Lord.

Ezra 7:8-10 *Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in August of that year. He had arranged to leave Babylon on April 8, the first day of the new year, and he arrived at Jerusalem on August 4, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the Lord and to teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel.*

II Cor. 4:14,15 *Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.*

Notes

Pray For Foresight

Day 6
Oct 9

Help us to see what needs to be done and take care of it before it becomes a problem in our journey.

Nehemiah 3:1-2 *Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel. People from the town of Jericho worked next to them, and beyond them was Zaccur son of Imri.*

Matthew 19:26 *Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."*

Notes

Day 7
Oct 10

Pray For Praise

Praise God for the transformation He will do among us as we Make Space for Change. Give us favor and spiritual influence with all with whom we deal.

Ezra 7:27-28 *Praise the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who made the king want to beautify the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem! And praise him for demonstrating such unfailing love to me by honoring me before the king, his council, and all his mighty nobles! I felt encouraged because the gracious hand of the Lord my God was on me. And I gathered some of the leaders of Israel to return with me to Jerusalem.*

Proverbs 20:24 *The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?*

Notes

Pray For Unity

Day 8
Oct 11

God, by the power of Your word, bring us to consider Your ways in our church family, without issue, struggle or barrier.

Ezra 6:9-10 *Give the priests in Jerusalem whatever is needed in the way of young bulls, rams, and male lambs for the burnt offerings presented to the God of heaven. And without fail, provide them with as much wheat, salt, wine, and olive oil as they need each day. Then they will be able to offer acceptable sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the welfare of the king and his sons.*

Psalms 18:30 *God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.*

Notes

Day 33
Nov 5

Pray For Confidence

Trust in God to bring about success. We need only to stand still before Him.

Nehemiah 1:10-11 *"The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me." In those days I was the king's cup-bearer.*

Exodus 14:14 *The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.*

Notes

Pray For Salvation of Others

Day 34
Nov 6

It is Your desire that all come to salvation. Lord, give us Your heart for the lost.

Luke 11:10 *For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Notes

Day 31
Nov 3

Pray For Protection

Pray that God undercuts the enemy's roadblocks, lies, threats. May He protect GREFC during this time of walking by faith.

Ezra 8:31-32 *We broke camp at the Ahava Canal on April 19 and started off to Jerusalem. And the gracious hand of our God protected us and saved us from enemies and bandits along the way. So we arrived safely in Jerusalem, where we rested for three days.*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

Notes

Pray to Remember

Day 32
Nov 4

Times will feel slow or discouraging but help us remember how faithful You've been to us.

Ezra 4:24 *So the work on the Temple of God in Jerusalem had stopped, and it remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.*

Psalms 18:30 *God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.*

Notes

Day 9
Oct 12

Pray For Obedience

Pray that we would obey God in all that He calls us to do and be.

Hebrews 11:8, 26 *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going.....He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward.*

Notes

Pray For Witness

Day 10
Oct 13

Give us voices and energy to shout out Your gracious name to the people around us and let us sound like we have one voice.

Ezra 3:12-13 *But many of the older priests, Levites, and other leaders who had seen the first Temple wept aloud when they saw the new Temple's foundation. The others, however, were shouting for joy. The joyful shouting and weeping mingled together in a loud noise that could be heard far in the distance.*

Luke 11:10 *For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*

Notes

Day 11
Oct 14

Pray For Encouragement

Unify us during this time. Remind us to tell others what we're doing and to encourage each other.

Nehemiah 12:43 *Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away.*

Ephesians 1:3-4 *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*

Notes

Pray For Trust

Day 12
Oct 15

Help us to be as dedicated as those who gathered their families around the temple when built—remembering and trusting in the goodness of God.

Ezra 2:70 *So the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, the Temple servants, and some of the common people settled in villages near Jerusalem. The rest of the people returned to their own towns throughout Israel.*

Psalms 34:8 *Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!*

Notes

Day 29
Nov 1

Pray For Refuge

When enemies speak against us, help us to be wise, to seek You for strength.

Nehemiah 6:9 *They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.*

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.*

Notes

Pray For Repentance

Day 30
Nov 2

God's grace is rich and His mercy unending. Surrender those things that have "scattered" you from His presence and return to Him with all your heart.

Nehemiah 1:8-9 *Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'*

Lamentations 3:25 *The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.*

Notes

Day 27
Oct 30

Pray For Hope

Make those of us who delight in honoring You be Your faithful servants when times get hard.

Nehemiah 1:10 *The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.*

Isaiah 43:19 *For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

Notes

Day 13
Oct 16

Pray For Thirst

Create a hunger and thirst in our GREFC community for the grace of God.

Matthew 5:6 *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

Notes

Pray For Trust

Day 28
Oct 31

Pray that we become a congregation that believes that God is trustworthy.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

Notes

Pray For Character

Day 14
Oct 17

Grow our character to reflect You in every way so that our community will see Your goodness through us and be drawn to know You.

Philippians 2:14-15 *Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.*

Notes

Day 15
Oct 18

Pray For Wisdom

Pray for the Executive Board, Elders, Staff and Campaign Team, that they would go beyond making sound financial decisions and be confident of what the Lord would have them do.

Ezra 8:28-29 *And I said to these priests, "You and these treasures have been set apart as holy to the Lord. This silver and gold is a voluntary offering to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. Guard these treasures well until you present them to the leading priests, the Levites, and the leaders of Israel, who will weigh them at the storerooms of the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem."*

Proverbs 4:11 *I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths.*

Notes

Pray For Joy

Day 16
Oct 19

May God's gracious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise!

Nehemiah 8:10 *And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"*

Psalms 136:1 *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.*

Notes

Day 25
Oct 28

Pray For Endurance

Praises to the God of Abraham, the God who keeps His promises.

Nehemiah 9:7-8 *You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him from Ur of the Chaldeans and renamed him Abraham. When he had proved himself faithful, you made a covenant with him to give him and his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites. And you have done what you promised, for you are always true to your word.*

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

Notes

Pray For Community

Day 26
Oct 29

Guide us as we share this project with our families, even our children, so they feel as much a part of the new space as we do.

Nehemiah 3:1,3,6,9 *Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild at the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel.....The Fish Gate was built by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.....The Old City Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid the beams, set up its doors, and installed its bolts and bars.....Rephaiah son of Hur, the leader of half the district of Jerusalem, was next to them on the wall.*

Notes

Day 23
Oct 26

Pray For Youth/Children

Pray that youth & children may impact the local schools with God's love. How can GREFC be part of sharing Jesus with these kids?

Mark 10:14b-16He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Notes

Pray For Security in Christ

Day 24
Oct 27

Thank you for giving us each other to help and encourage one another.

Nehemiah 8:17 So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun.

Zephaniah 3:17 For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

Notes

Day 17
Oct 20

Pray For Unity

Thank you that we have a large group of people who have been and are willing to do the work that is necessary to accomplish your goals.

Ezra 3:8 The construction of the Temple of God began in midspring, during the second year after they arrived in Jerusalem. The work force was made up of everyone who had returned from exile, including Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jehozadak and his fellow priests, and all the Levites. The Levites who were twenty years old or older were put in charge of rebuilding the Lord's Temple.

Proverbs 3:6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Notes

Pray For Finances

Day 18
Oct 21

Pray that God opens the floodgates and brings financial resources in ways that we could have never imagined just as God provided for Israel to build the temple.

Ezra 6:6-7 This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor, Shethar-bozenai, and the other officials of the province west of the Euphrates River sent to King Darius: "To King Darius. Greetings." (An example of God using a pagan king to provide funds for the temple.)

Phil. 4:19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Notes

Day 19
Oct 22

Pray For Vision

Pray that God gives us a spiritual clarity in how He wants us to be used in the Kingdom of God.

Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.*

Notes

Pray For Help

Day 20
Oct 23

Hold up the ones who are discouraged and refresh their spirits in Your perfect timing.

Nehemiah 4:10 *Then the people of Judah began to complain, "The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves."*

Psalms 33:20-22 *We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.*

Notes

Day 21
Oct 24

Pray For Leadership

Pray for those who will be leading the "Making Space for Change" campaign at GREFC, that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide them.

Romans 8:26-27 *In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

Notes

Pray For Confession

Day 22
Oct 25

As we are honest with God, He forgives. Confess your faults, the faults of others, and the faults of GREFC. Own them (yours and others') and ask God to forgive.

Nehemiah 1:6-7 *Listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.*

1 Pet. 5:6 *So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.*

Notes