

## **Watchman Prayer Requests**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6*

*“God wants us to come to him empty-handed, weary, and heavy laden. Instinctively, we want to get rid of our helplessness before we come to God...[but] helplessness is what makes prayer work. It works because we are helpless. We can’t do life on our own.  
(Paul E. Miller, A Praying Life)*

*“Prayer, more than any other single activity, is what places us in the flow of the spirit. When we pray, hearts get convicted, sin gets confessed, believers get united, intentions get encouraged, people receive guidance, the church is strengthened, stubbornness gets melted, wills get surrendered, evil gets defeated, grace gets released, illness gets healed, sorrows are comforted, faith is born, hope is grown and love triumphs. In prayer, in the presence of God, we come closest to being fully ourselves...the goal of prayer is to live all of my life and speak all of my words in the joyful awareness of the presence of God.” John Ortberg*

### **Worship & Pastoral Care, Pastor Rick Lemberg**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that God will prompt people to become members of the worship team. Pray that the team will begin to consistently meet again.
- Pray for the planning for the upcoming season. The team is planning for Advent services and programs, Candle lighting readings, devotionals, and choir performances.
- Pray that we will receive many 1 minute “encouraging videos” that we can share during the Thanksgiving Sunday service.
- Pray for the upcoming sermon series through the Gospel of Luke.
- Pray that God will be glorified, Christ will be magnified, His church will be strengthened, and that worship will equip and empower us to share our faith with our community around us.
- Pray that Pastor Rick would hear from God and communicate clearly the message of the Scriptures.
- Pray for Mary that she will have creativity and vision for our worship services that will be spirit led, full of life, and open our eyes to the Glory of God.
- Pray for Ruben to know what technology will best bring people into worship and reach many that wouldn’t otherwise be in church.
- Pray that we would have wisdom in using the Livestream to reach people, help them grow in Christ, and discover the blessing of being in community.
- Pray for the Ushers and Greeters ministry. God help us to develop a new team and a new plan for hospitality, welcome, and security. Pray for leadership in this area. Pray that new people would feel welcomed, that we would know and remember their names, and that we would find creative ways to help people belong and be part of our church family and community.

## **Equipping & Connections, Pastor Jason Meyer**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for discipleship to flourish in our church. Our team plans education, but education is one of many tools used to equip people to live their faith in Christ. Pray that God will create a pathway for people to easily be mentored, grow in knowledge, and be equipped to serve God and minister to our community and world with the ability to stay strong and faithful in a post Christian era.
- Pray that we would have a “small groups” program that would thrive. Pray for leaders of small groups and for homes throughout our mountain community and “neighbors” that would host groups and bring people together for learning and community.
- Pray for our Bible reading program. Pray that people would have a hunger for God’s word. Pray that people would learn the technology to participate in online study groups and accountability reading groups. Pray that God’s word would go down deep into the hearts and minds of His people at Sierra Vista. Pray that Sierra Vista would be a community of Bible literate Christians.
- Pray that this team would have discernment to plan the classes that are most needed over the next year. Pray for an effective “foundations bible 101” class. Pray that people would join the church and be a part of the next membership class. Pray for more teachers who want to teach Bible classes.
- Pray for the “Shape” spiritual gifts class and that many people would be hungry to know and to use their spiritual gifts at Sierra Vista church.
- Pray for the fruition and planning of a “Sign-Up Sunday” in which we invite people into these many ideas and opportunities. Pray that people would be engaged and excited.
- Pray for the training and equipping of Elders and Deacons. Pray that we would have strong and faithful leaders who are called and equipped to lead God’s church at Sierra Vista.
- Pray for the new seminary of our denomination, ECO, and that God would bless it. Pray that we would be able to send people from Sierra Vista to attend and participate in the “Flourishing Institute.”
- Pray for the Alpha class that it would be reborn and that we would begin to have a heart for outreach and evangelism at Sierra Vista. Pray that we would be able to train and raise up people who have a heart for those who don’t yet know Jesus.
- Pray for Melloney Bradley as she leads Women of the Word on Wednesday mornings.
- Pray for Brian Fulce as he leads the men’s bible study on Thursday morning.
- Pray for the many leaders of the small groups and Bible studies that are part of the Sierra Vista church community.

## **Music Ministry, Mary Posluch**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that we would have a renewed interest in getting involved in the various music programs at Sierra Vista.
- Pray that the praise band could get more musicians, that we could train up young people to participate in Sunday worship, and that God would provide a new drummer.
- Pray for the song selection for Sunday morning worship. Pray that the theology would be rich, that the focus would be to glorify Christ, that the music would lead people into God's throne room, that people would be participants in worship and not merely observers, and that the Spirit of God would use the songs to build up, convict, challenge, and fill people with a passion to follow Christ!
- Pray for the choir and the members of the choir. Pray that many new people would find interest in participating. Learn the names of the Choir members and pray for them by name this month.
- Pray for the bells musicians. Pray for Leah as she directs the bells.
- Pray that Mary would draw near to the Lord in worship and that closeness to Jesus would overflow into the planning and implementation of the music of Sierra Vista.

### **Service & Missions, Valerie Ramsey**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Go to the missionary page at <https://www.sierravistachurch.org/missions/>. Pray for our missionaries by name. Pray for the missions organizations that they represent. Pray that Jesus would continue to go into all the world and that Sierra Vista would be actively engaged in that mission.
- Pray that God would give the members of Sierra Vista a heart for evangelism. Pray that our members would go into Oakhurst and the surrounding communities with the gospel of hope and salvation.
- Pray that members of our church would learn to creatively serve our community. That we would be none by the non-Christians around us as people who sacrifice and serve others. Pray that specific people would organically find ways to serve our community and that they would invite others into those opportunities.
- Pray for Calvin Crest Camp. Pray for the Director Tiffany and Cam Staman. Pray for all the keys leaders. Pray that many kids and families would attend camp and that many kids would come to Christ because of the ministry. Pray for the health and the protection of the organization.
  - While you are at it, pray for the other camps on our mountain. Camp Oakhurst. Yosemite Sierra Summer Camp/Emerald Cove, Sugar Pine Camps, ECCO, and any others that you know about that I have left out.
- Pray for the many ministries and organizations that utilize our facilities in the course of a week. Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, home school co-ops, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Pray that we would be a good "neighbor." Pray that we would have the opportunity to come alongside and support these civic groups. Pray that we would build strong relationships and have the opportunity and privilege to share Christ with them because of our mutual respect for one another.

### **Children's Ministry, Christie Koetsier**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Christie as she leads the Children's programs of our church. Pray for the team that supports her. Pray that they would have great vision and creativity in ministering to our kids. Pray for the curriculum that it would be Christ centered, fun, and easy to understand. Pray that the kids would love coming to church because of the careful planning, diligent prayer, and loving focus of our Sunday school teachers and leaders.
- Pray for the safety of our children. Put a hedge of protection around them as we gather on Sunday mornings and at other times.
- Pray for vision for outreach in our community; during the week in particular. How can we reach and serve families and kids? Pray that we would know what programs will best bless and support families in our community. What is needed? Awanas? Mops? Classes for single parents? After school art program? Support for foster parents? This is an area where Christie and the team need direction from the Lord and then the volunteers to be excited to support it.
- Pray for more volunteers.
- Pray that we could best utilize the technology available to us.

### **Youth Ministry, Tyler Nunley**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Tyler our interim Youth Pastor. Pray that he would discern what is most expedient to set up and continue a healthy youth program. Pray that we could develop good policies to keep our young people safe. Pray that the team would have good vision for reaching and sharing the good news with young people.
- Pray that Junior High would continue to thrive. Pray that young people would invite their non-Christian friends to come to youth group on Wednesday night. Pray for the High School ministry. Pray that we could build relationships with new young people, especially at Yosemite High School and young people in the public school system.
- Pray for young people: many are lonely, who just want to be accepted, are confused about their sexual identity, have broken homes, and need a trusted voice to help navigate the many questions and challenges that secular society presents.
- Pray that the youth team would have great discernment in addressing life's questions, sharing the gospel, and showing that the church can be a place of people who can be trusted and who is a help and support for young people.

### **Buildings & Grounds, Pastor Rick Lemberg**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom for caring for our facilities. That we would know how to best prioritize the financial resources to care for our aging facilities.

- Pray for the use of dedicated funds. Pray that we would recognize what buildings, and resources would best serve our community and give us an opportunity to share the gospel, extend hospitality, and engage in healthy and welcoming community.
- Ask God to guide us if we should add more classroom space with a dedicated gift.
- Ask God to help us to best upgrade the church sanctuary with a dedicated gift.
- Ask God to bless the work of our current custodians and volunteers. Their work is to clean the bathrooms and classrooms and sanctuary. Also to fix broken things, mow the lawns, and keep our grounds beautiful and presentable.
- Pray for Peter Carrott and others who plant flowers, plants, trees and do many other things to make our property beautiful and welcoming.

### **Audio/Video/Media/Online Church Ministries, Ruben Quintana**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for Ruben as he juggles his time between working at Camp Oakhurst and Sierra Vista Church. Pray that he would not feel overworked but would be blessed by the ministries that he works in and supports.
- Pray for the upcoming upgrade to the sound system. Pray that we would know which equipment will best serve Sierra Vista and that we would be able to switch out cords in the floor and in the attic without complications.
- Pray for the listening system that it would work seamlessly with the sound system and that we would be able to help as many people as possible hear well even if they are hearing impaired. Pray that the hard of hearing could hear the teaching of God's Word and not be frustrated by the limitations of their disability.
- Pray that the worship team, the audio/video team, and Pastor Rick could coordinate effectively with one another so that the Sunday service is seamless and everyone can prepare their contribution with plenty of time for planning and troubleshooting.

### **Deacons, Phyllis Thomas**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the deacons to be aware of the needs of the people in their parish. Pray that they would be able to help solve problems, serve effectively, and find resources for those in need at Sierra Vista Church.
- Pray for meal trains, people who need car rides, food ministry, fellowship for the lonely, encouragement for the broken hearted, and wisdom for how to divvy out resources.
- Pray for the deacons by name and for the members of the 15 parishes we are currently serving. You can find a list of each parish and person by logging in to your account and visiting the "Group" tab here: <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>
- Pray for Phyllis and Art especially as they lead the team and have vision and discernment and what areas the deacons should participate in.
- Pray for Pastor Rick as he does hospital visits and pastoral care in people's homes.

## **Jubilee Ministry, Elizabeth**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that Liz would have enough time to handle her work schedule, her college class schedule, and the ministry of Jubilee. Pray that she doesn't get overwhelmed.
- Pray for the planning of the upcoming "winter shelter" season when we house the homeless during especially cold and wet nights. Pray for administration and organization details to be handled. Pray we have enough volunteers. Pray that we have socks, and blankets, and mattresses enough to meet the needs of the needy.
- Pray for the continued development of the program. Pray for good vision in how to best do job training, mental health referrals, meet housing needs, and hold people accountable in learning to live a life honoring to the Lord and that is making a positive contribution to society and city.
- As you are able, pray for Jubilee workers by name. Contact Elizabeth or Pastor Rick, or Valerie at the church office for an updated list of workers and their situations.

## **Vision/Mission/Church Governance & Health, Elders**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the elders as they lead Sierra Vista Church.
- Pray they would step boldly into their role as shepherds of God's church.
- Pray they would live a life of holiness and honor to the Lord; leading by example.
- Pray they would be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for each Elder by name: Pastor Rick, Pastor Jason, Chuck Wiest, Matt Woods, Christina Melahn, Marsha Scharton, Steve Ewert, Bob Rose, Melloney Bradley, and Kim Vanlandingham.
- Pray for the clear vision, mission, and strategy. This has to do with understanding Jesus' commission to his disciples and translating what Jesus says into a clear plan and path for Sierra Vista Church, in Oakhurst, CA.
- Pray for the elders as they begin to plan with Pastor Rick for his eventual retirement. Pray that a timeline would become evident. Pray that the needs and hopes of the church would be known and considered. Pray for the longevity and the health of Sierra Vista as we begin to consider a time of transition.
- Pray for the nominating committee. Each year this team recommends new people to be considered as Elders, Deacons, Staff, and Pastor positions as they arise. In some ways this is one of the most important roles at church because it helps decide who will lead the church. Pray for wisdom and discernment for them. Pray they wouldn't have personal agendas. Pray that God's Spirit would lead the team to the right people. Pray that they would have many good choices between people of great character, integrity, and maturity in Christ.

## **Outreach and Evangelism, Pastor Jason Meyer**

*(Theme verse optional)*

Praises:

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that we would have a heart for those who don't know Jesus and discover a plan for sharing with them.
- Pray for renewal in the heart of God's church at Sierra Vista. Pray that we would love Jesus so much that it begins to overflow into our relationships with non-Christians in the community.
- Pray that God would bring people into our midst that have the gift of evangelism and want to lead others into developing their own gifts of evangelism.
- Pray that Sierra Vista would be known as a people of integrity and that out of service and integrity we would be able to lead people to Christ.
- Pray for family, friends, coworkers, sports teams, teachers, and other community members who you know by name that don't know Jesus. Pray that you would have an opportunity to share your faith with them this week.

## **Finance Team, Steve Ewert & Valerie Ramsey**

Praise:

Prayer:

- Pray for Steve, Valerie, and Ralph as they oversee our finances at church.
- Pray that God would protect the integrity of our leadership.
- Pray that the team would have wisdom and insight in administering the financial resources of Sierra Vista Church. This includes the church budgets, payroll, expenses, and keeping track of income and all our legal and state obligations as a 501c3.
- Pray that our church would continue to see financial resources as an extension of our love for Jesus and serving others.
- Pray that God would prompt the church members to give and that God would provide for all the needs and obligations and also for the gospel going into our town, county, state, country and world.

## **Personnel Team, Pastor Rick**

Praise:

Prayers:

- Pray for all our Human Resources responsibilities. Pray for the proper care and concern for our staff and their needs and responsibilities. Pray for any challenges the team are facing in helping staff work and minister as their best selves and best offering.
- Protect the staff from sin and temptation.
- Protect the team as they plan to meet state regulated human resource requirements, and as we seek to protect our staff and young people from harassment and other challenges faced because we are often broken and imperfect people.
- Pray for the team as they begin the process of recommending a payroll budget for the new year.
- Pray for clear vision as we seek to know those areas of church that we want paid ministers versus those areas that God has called members and volunteers to step into as they serve the Lord with their gifts. Pray that the staff would do good work. Pray that volunteers would be raised up to use their gifts and have opportunity.