

A misty landscape with trees and a bright sun. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the mist. Several trees are visible, some in the foreground and others in the background, their silhouettes softened by the haze. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

# PRAYER

**Journey to A With-God Life**



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Pastor Jason Hinkle



## INTRODUCTION:

(From Richard Foster's Prayer): "Perhaps you have never prayed before except in anguish or terror. It may be that the only time the Divine Name has been on your lips has been in angry expletives.

Never mind... the Father's heart is open wide - you are welcome to come in.

Perhaps you do not believe in prayer. You may have tried to pray and were profoundly disappointed... It does not matter. The Father's heart is open wide - you are welcome to come in.

Perhaps you are bruised and broken by the pressures of life. Others have wronged you, and you feel scarred for life. You have old, painful memories that have never been healed. You avoid prayer because you feel too distant and unworthy. Do not despair. The Father's heart is open wide - you are welcome to come in.

Perhaps you have prayed for years, but the words have grown brittle and cold. Little ever happens anymore. God seems remote and inaccessible. Listen to me. The Father's heart is open wide - you are welcome to come in.

Perhaps prayer is the delight of your life. You can attest to its goodness. But you long for more: more power, more love, more of God in your life. Believe me. The Father's heart is open wide - you too are welcome to come higher up and deeper in."

What an introduction to a life of prayer! A life where we learn, by experience, to abide in the presence of God in such a way that we gain strength and depth in our understanding of grace.

## INTRODUCTION CONTINUED:

A life of prayer is something we grow in through experience. While we can talk about it, we are invited to practice. More than trying to have a 'prayer life', we are invited to have a praying life. Paul says we are to learn to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). That is, to live our life with a constant awareness of the goodness of God around us that we are in constant communion with Him.

## OPT-IN FOR DAILY PRAYER TEXTS

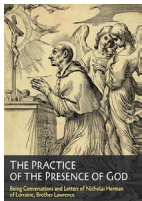
Throughout this series, we will be sending daily reminders to pray. Some will be short breath prayers for you to engage with, others will be intercessory prayers (on behalf of others), still others will be written prayers to reflect on. If you would like to receive our daily prayer reminders for the series, sign up here:



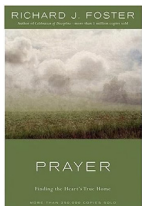
## RESOURCES: QUESTIONS AND EXPERIMENTS

This series, we will explore various ways to engage in prayer. Much more than a teaching series, we are invited to *practice* a life of prayer. You will find questions and practices each week to further help you engage in learning to develop a life of prayer. These additional resources, while not explicitly following the sermons, will act as a way of further study/experience that will enrich our time together. I *highly encourage* engagement with them. These are excerpts taken from Jan Johnson's book: *Prayer and Listening*.

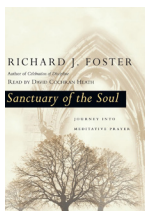
## BOOK SUGGESTIONS



Practicing the Presence of God  
By: Brother Lawrence



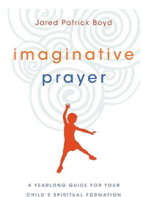
Prayer  
By: Richard J. Foster



Sanctuary of the Soul - Journey into  
Meditative Prayer  
By: Richard J. Foster



Letters By A Modern Mystic  
By: Frank C. Laubach



Imaginative Prayer - A yearlong guide for your  
child's spiritual formation  
By: Jared Patrick Boyd





# UGANDA SHARING

***Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30pm, in the Chapel***

Our long time ministry partner, the Stephensons, have been serving Uganda for decades. Recently, we sent a team to encourage and serve alongside them.

God is doing amazing things when we get outside ourselves to serve others in His Name.

Come and celebrate with us as we hear from the team about the work being done with our ministry partners in Uganda.



***Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>  
Asian (China) Buffet on Harding Hwy, at 11:30am***

Connect with other senior adults for lunch, conversation, and fellowship. For any questions, please contact either Sharon Hooker, 419 - 303 - 2221 or Terri Ward, 419 - 234 - 4067



***6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited to join your voice  
with others in our Crossroads Choir!***

***A fun way to worship our great God through music.  
Always looking for more voices to join.***

***@ 6:30pm, in the Chapel***

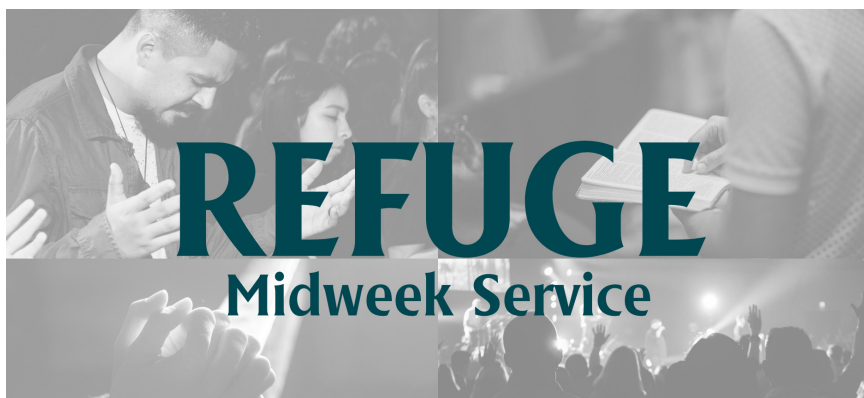
**Upcoming Dates for Choir Rehearsal:**

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



***Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30pm***

***in the Chapel with Childcare available***

***Next Refuge will be "Comfort in Grief" in December.***

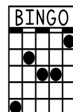


# FALL PICNIC & FESTIVAL

Sunday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> 4-7pm



The **WHOLE FAMILY** is invited to  
join us for a day of ...



**FUN** with carnival games, **BINGO**, and  
a **DUNK TANK** to see who can dunk the pastors!

Bring your favorite **SIDE DISH TO SHARE**,  
and we will provide the main dish.

Grab a partner for corn-hole for a chance to win!!

Corn-Hole Tournament



Find **more details** at **LIMACROSSROADS.ORG**

419 - 229 - 4074 | 775 S Thayer Rd, Lima OH 45806

**Mark your calendar for a day of fun!**  
**Great way to invite others to join us!**

**WEEK 1: SIMPLE PRAYER**

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

**WORSHIP RESOURCES**

SEPT. 7, 2025

**Call to Worship:**

“In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“‘Holy, holy, holy

is the Lord God Almighty,’

who was, and is, and is to come.”

**Revelation 4:6-8 NIV****Community Prayer:**

Elm Street Church Of The Nazarene - Jonathan Burkey  
CASA - Zach Reneau

**A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:**

“Lord, You have given us Your Word  
for a light to shine upon our path;  
grant us so to meditate on that Word,  
and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light  
that shines more and more  
until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Jerome (342-420)**

## SERMON NOTES:

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How would you like to see God in your prayers?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Week 1: Simple Prayer

Genesis 15:1-16, 17:15-22, 18:1-15

#### Reflection:

What are you most likely to have conversations with God about? What would you like to discuss with God?

#### Question for study:

1. How would you describe the interaction between God and Abraham?
2. Why do you think Abraham felt freedom to ask the almighty God any question at all?
3. If you were in a prayer conversation with God, and God said, “know for certain that...”, how might God finish that sentence? That is, what do you believe God has been trying to help you know “for certain” lately?
4. It’s been said that humans think they are ‘in charge’ of their prayer, relegating certain time and topics. Conversing with God means the Holy Spirit leads you, and you are no longer ‘in charge’ of your prayer. In what ways are you tempted to be ‘in charge’ of your prayers?
5. The premier mark of Abraham was his complete confidence in God. How might his conversations with God have developed such faith?

#### Experiment:

- Take a walk and try to think of all the questions you would like to ask God.
- Read the back-and-forth conversation in Genesis 18:20-33 and ponder why God engaged Abraham in conversation this way. Journal about whether you believe God is really interested in your ideas.

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# DAY AWAY RETREAT

***Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm***  
***Last Day to Register is Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>***

Need a break from everyday life?

Come join us for  
**A DAY AWAY RETREAT**

at Maria Stein

as we seek to create space to be  
attentive to the presence of God.

Cost is \$15

Scan the QR code:



## WEEK 2: FORMATIONAL PRAYER

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

### WORSHIP RESOURCES

SEPT. 14, 2025

#### Call to Worship:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

**Ephesians 2:13-18 NIV**

#### Community Prayer:

Lima Community - Chip Bullock  
Big Brothers Big Sisters - John Neville

#### A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Lord, You have given us Your Word  
for a light to shine upon our path;  
grant us so to meditate on that Word,  
and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light  
that shines more and more  
until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Jerome (342-420)**

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**How did you see God in your presence with Him?**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Week 2: Formational Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

#### Reflection:

In what ordinary situations, unrelated to church or devotional life, have thoughts of God come to you?

#### Question for study:

1. Which of the three activities listed in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 comes most easily to you?
2. How might practicing an awareness of God's presence help us become more full of love, courage, purity or humility?
3. In what ways do gratitude and thanksgiving aid in a life of prayer?
4. Do you find yourself more of a half-empty or half-full kind of person?

#### Experiment:

- Take a walk for at least 15 minutes. Take care to experience everything around you. Touch plants, notice the shades of color, take in the air and notice how it changes as you walk. Use all five senses as much as you can. How are you reminded of the presence of God with you always?
- Before getting out of bed in the morning, greet God with an image of him swooping down to rescue you (Psalm 18:4-19) or singing over you (Zephaniah 3:17). Before going to sleep, review your day and ask, where did I most sense God's presence?
- Choose two or three songs that you could hum to help you practice God's presence.

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# SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

***Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm***

Want to not cook dinner for the night?

Plan to come enjoy a wonderful evening full of laughter, community, and a dinner with family and friends.

The fundraiser will be to help our Student Ministry go on a mission trip in the summer.

More information coming soon.

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

**Saturday, October 25**  
**from 9 - 12pm**

OUR  DAILY BREAD

We have the opportunity to serve our community at Our Daily Bread by providing them a hot breakfast.  
If you are interested email [catie@limacrossroads.org](mailto:catie@limacrossroads.org)

## WEEK 3: LISTENING TO GOD IN PRAYER

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

### WORSHIP RESOURCES

#### Call to Worship:

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

**I John 3:1-2 NIV**

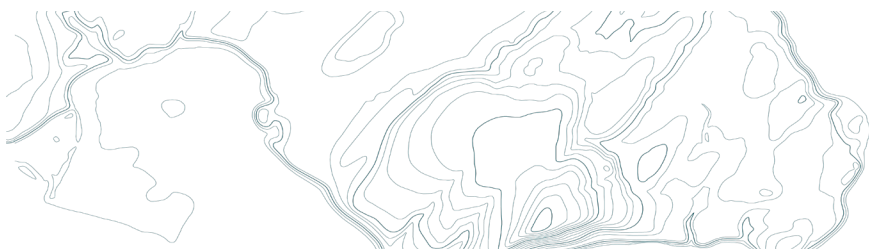
#### Community Prayer:

Lima Baptist Temple - Ben Anderson  
Cornerstone of Hope - Kari Taylor

#### A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Lord, You have given us Your Word  
for a light to shine upon our path;  
grant us so to meditate on that Word,  
and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light  
that shines more and more  
until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Jerome (342-420)**



**SERMON NOTES:**

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## This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

How are you listening to God in prayer?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Week 3: Listening to God in Prayer

1 Chronicles 14:8-17

#### Reflection:

Have you ever had a sense of God ‘nudging’ you to do something – step out and help someone, stand up to a bully, make peace with a bully?

#### Question for study:

1. 1 Chronicles 14:8-17. From what you know about David, why would he have been the sort of person who asked God questions and expected real answers?
2. What are some reasons that make “inquiring of the Lord” perhaps the last thing it would occur to us to do?
3. Interesting that David did not rely on God’s previous answer but inquired again. When we rely on previous answers, or answers others have experienced, what assumptions do we make?
4. Why is it sometimes difficult to follow through and do what God leads you to do?

#### Experiment:

- Sit quietly and ask God about a certain dilemma. Write down what you hear. If God gives you direction, resolve to follow it even if it seems strange or uncomfortable.
- Read Psalm 81 and notice the three times the word listen appears. What are the benefits received by the person who listens to God?



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As we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas,  
we are looking for creative individuals to  
join a team dedicated to  
designing and creating a plan for  
our church campus for the season.

If you have a flair for festive décor or a passion  
for creating warm, welcoming spaces,  
we would love to have you on board!

**Interested?**

Please reach out to  
Casey Spencer, [08spenc@gmail.com](mailto:08spenc@gmail.com)  
for more details.

## WEEK 4: PRAYER OF REQUEST

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

### WORSHIP RESOURCES

SEPT. 28, 2025

#### Call to Worship:

“I will exalt you, my God the King;  
 I will praise your name for ever and ever.  
 Every day I will praise you  
 and extol your name for ever and ever.  
 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
 his greatness no one can fathom.  
 One generation commends your works to another;  
 they tell of your mighty acts.  
 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—  
 and I will meditate on your wonderful works.  
 They tell of the power of your awesome works—  
 and I will proclaim your great deeds.  
 They celebrate your abundant goodness  
 and joyfully sing of your righteousness.”

**Psalms 145:1-7 NIV**

#### Community Prayer:

Union Chapel Missionary Church - Allen Sudman  
 Bridges International - Kyle & Emily Driggers

#### A Liturgy for Meditation on God's Word:

“Lord, You have given us Your Word  
 for a light to shine upon our path;  
 grant us so to meditate on that Word,  
 and to follow its teaching,  
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**What is one take away from this morning's sermon?**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

### Week 4: Prayer of Request

Matthew 6:9-13

#### Reflection:

What have been your most frequent prayers of request in the course of your life?

#### Question for study:

1. As you read the Lord's Prayer slowly, are there any particular phrases that stands out to you more than the other phrases?
2. If you were to pray that God's kingdom would come (people would do God's will so that love and justice, mercy and truth would be the normal state of things), what specific circumstances would come to your mind to pray about?
3. What does God's forgiveness of us have to do with our forgiveness of others?
4. How do the requests in the Lord's Prayer work toward the transformation of our souls?

#### Experiment:

- Try praying this paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, which makes the requests in it stand out. Underline the request that is most significant for you today.

Dear Father always near us, may your name be treasured and loved, may your rule be completed in us - may your will be done here on earth in just the way it is done in heaven. Give us today the things we need today, and forgive us our sins and impositions on you as we are forgiving all who in any way offend us. Please don't put us through trials, but deliver us from everything bad. Because you are the one in charge, and you have all the power, and the glory too is all yours - forever - which is just the way we want it.

**JOURNAL:**

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## COVENANT PARTNER DESSERT

***Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm, in the Chapel***

Covenant Partners are those who want a deeper life with God in their spiritual formation at Crossroads. All are invited to a special evening to hear about God's faithfulness through the church updates and to fellowship with others over dessert.



**Through our partnership with Salvation Army, we will be gathering gifts to care for children in need. A practical way to transmit hope to our community.  
More details to come.**



**CHRISTMAS DECORATING**  
**Pizza Provided**  
**Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**@ 4pm**



# COMFORT IN GRIEF

***Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30pm  
in the Chapel with Childcare available***

A reflective, communal worship event that recognizes the pain and grief experienced by some during the Christmas season. This service will offer a safe and caring space for people to mourn a loss and find comfort and hope through scripture, prayer, music, and candle lighting.



## ALL CHURCH CAROLING

***Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30pm  
with Hot Chocolate & snacks to follow***



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

***Plan to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us***

Invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you at one of our special services:

***3 & 5pm - Family Services***  
(Childcare for Kindergarten and Younger)

***11pm - Unique Candlelight Service***  
(No Childcare)







# “Inviting people to **apprenticeship** to Jesus”

**Sundays:** 9 & 10:45 am

**Online:** 10:45am

**Follow Us:**



**Address:** 775 S Thayer Rd. Lima OH 45806

**Phone:** 419-229-4074 | **Website:** [LimaCrossroads.org](http://LimaCrossroads.org)