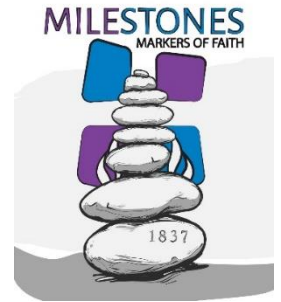


Marking Our Milestones with Prayer

During the month of May our First Pres family honors God's faithfulness as we mark milestones on our faith journeys.

Each week, we will share prayers for use during some important times. Even when a prayer may not pertain to a milestone in your life, we invite you to use it to lift up those of different ages and stages who are at a particular milestone of joy or of difficulty.

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Prayers for Week of May 28, for Some Important Milestones:

First Drivers License

O God, I am so excited for the opportunity to drive! Thank you for my family and their love, support, and trust as I begin to use a car. Make me alert and attentive whenever I am driving. Remind me when I am tempted to take risks that there are consequences to my actions. Protect and guide me along every mile I drive. Make me a good steward of my own life and the lives of others. AMEN

Engagement

Dear God, we are overjoyed to be engaged. Thank you for leading us to each other. As we draw near to our wedding, help us to grow closer to you and each other. Send your Holy Spirit to guide and unite us. Root out any wrong attitudes or habits that will hinder our entering and honoring our marriage vows. May we glorify you in our life together, we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

Wedding Anniversary

Almighty Father, we praise and thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joy that comes from sharing life with each other. We thank you for bringing us to this anniversary day. We remember and look forward in faith, hope, and love. Seal and sustain us in the vows that we made before you. May we grow even closer and submit to one another in the love of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Divorce

Lord of peace, I need your loving guidance and lasting serenity while going through this painful change. My whole life has been turned upside-down, and there is so much emotional upheaval with which I am coping. Help me communicate with my spouse/ex and others calmly, reasonably, and kindly as we sort things out. Give me wisdom and good counsel as I make important decisions. Help me to lean on you in unhappy moments – touch my mind, spirit, and soul to bring healing. May I taste joy again. AMEN

Finishing Chemo/Ringing the Bell

Great Physician and Healing Spirit: Thank you for your awesome power and work in my life, for your goodness washing over me. Thank you for walking me through this trying time of treatment, for bringing hope through even the toughest times, for restoring my strength. You are always with me and will hold me close as I face whatever is to come, and I am so grateful; in Jesus' name. AMEN

Medical Testing and Diagnosis

Lord Jesus Christ, I pray this medical testing will provide a definitive diagnosis. Grant me patience and peace as I wait for results. Be with my doctors and health care professionals as they consider treatment plans that may be needed. Help these tests lead to effective healing. I will trust in your guiding and healing hand, for I know that by your hand this issue may be resolved. AMEN

(OVER)

Using Walker, Hearing Aids

Lord, help me recognize the help I may need as I cope with the inevitable effects of age or infirmity. Deliver me from harmful pride and show me true assistance and helpers who stand ready. Deliver me from falling and injury. Give me a willing spirit, that I may accept and adapt to this walker/these hearing aids. Grant me, my loved ones, and others patience in communication. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and times and give me grace, especially in this chapter of life. AMEN.

Child's First Haircut

God of every moment: I know this is just a haircut. I lift this simple milestone to your providential care because I am mindful that my child will grow and change and encounter more and more of life's blessings and challenges. As this child matures, he/she will press to make their own decisions about hair style and length and so many other aspects of their life. Give me insight and trust in you to be with them always. AMEN.

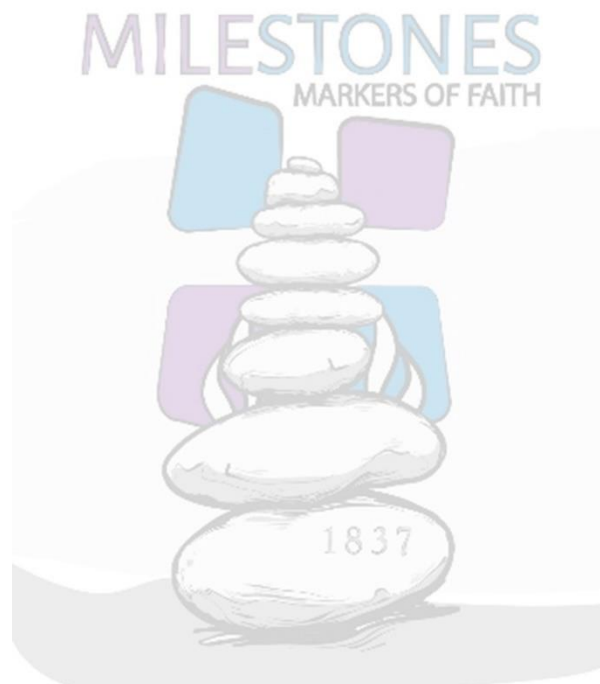
Transitions with a Pet

Loving God, we thank you for all living creatures, especially pets who are companions and who bring such joy and comfort. Kindly bless my pet/s, as we adjust to life together and learn to care completely. Almighty God, when the time comes to say goodbye at the end of their life, we ask proper treatment and a good hold on our fond memories. May we strive to enrich the lives of our pets as they enrich ours. AMEN.

Looking for a New Home

Gracious Creator, you have made a wonderful home for all your living creatures. As we seek a new home, please offer direction and discernment. You alone know what awaits in the future and where true community is found. May this housing search and our new home fulfill your holy will for us and our neighbors. In the name of Jesus our Savior. AMEN.

Adjust the wording of these prayers to fit your journey.
If the topics do not pertain to you, take this opportunity
to pray for those around you.



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Prayers for Week of May 21, for Commencements and New Chapters:

Graduation

Loving God, we thank you for all who graduate from high school and college this time of year. We celebrate their completion of good work and their commencement of new tasks. Thank you for blessing them with years of learning, friendships, and skills. Continue to challenge them to make this world a better place because of their education. Guide our graduates in their next steps. Show them how to serve others in effective and kind ways. Make us all aware that what we do finds fulfillment in doing your will. AMEN

For Job Hunting

Dear God, you know my desire for meaningful work that I enjoy. Please guide me on this job-hunting journey. May I focus first on your will for my life, putting your desires and your plan above my own wishes and wants. Equip me with the skills, knowledge, and wisdom I need to move forward in this process. As I craft my resume, write cover letters, submit applications, connect with new companies and potential employers, and go on interviews, give me the words to speak and the courage to share who I am and what I can do. Thank you for being near me every step of the way and for providing for my every need. May this all be for your glory. AMEN

New Job

Almighty Father, I am excited and a little nervous as I begin a new job. Please watch over me and anoint my working life by your Spirit, that I serve many faithfully and responsibly. Lead me each day, that I may be effective and appreciated. Fill my heart that I may feel enthusiastic and energized as I work. May my daily actions show integrity and wisdom, that others may see your Spirit in me. Thank you for this new opportunity. AMEN

Hopes of Promotion

Gracious God, I am so grateful that you have blessed me with the means to a livelihood. Keep me mindful of those who struggle for work and to provide. So it is with gratitude that I lift to you my desire for new opportunity, greater responsibilities, and results. Make me worthy of consideration in vocational growth. AMEN

Moving to a New Place

Creator of all times and places: Hear our excitement and apprehension about our upcoming relocation. Please go before us to make the crooked places straight and any rough ways smooth in our new home (Isaiah 45:2). We commit this move to you, knowing you will provide for us new friends, experiences, and joys. AMEN

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Prayers for Week of May 14, Marking Mother's Day and Family Life:

Hope for Child Bearing

God of faith, hold our dreams for a child within your loving hands. Help us to trust when time passes and times get trying that this journey will draw us closer to you, no matter where our road turns or leads. Strengthen us if we suffer a loss. Bless our dreams for a family and draw us deeper in your covering love. May we wait in joyful hope for a child to welcome with love. Prepare us for parenthood and hold us close. AMEN

Pending Adoption

Please help all parents in our role as mother or father. Make us worthy models, providing the best example for our children in words, actions, and temperament. Help us as adoptive parents to be merciful and patient in our thoughts and daily actions, for children, their birthparents, and their new family. Prepare us for motherhood and fatherhood, granting wisdom to care for our children in every way. AMEN

Newborn

We lift to you, O God, this little life. Watch over this child every step of the way. Grow this baby into a person that reflects your light and love in the world. May this child grow closer to you with each passing day. AMEN

Baptism

Merciful God, fulfill your promises to us, and receive our child in holy baptism. Fill her/him with the Holy Spirit and receive our child into the family of your church. May all our children walk with us in the way of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Empty Nest

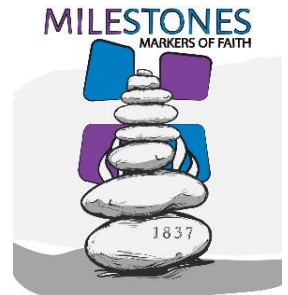
Heavenly Father, life is full of endings and beginnings. You are doing a new thing in our family; help us see this milestone as you see it. Help us embrace this empty nest fully as we let go of the old and comfortable daily experiences that will change. Protect and guide our child, giving him/her stamina, wisdom, and courage for the journey. Help her/him seek you in times of anxiety or loneliness. As we adjust to a quieter home, guide us in this new chapter. AMEN

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Prayers for Week of May 7, Older Adult Emphasis:

Retirement

Loving Lord, thank you for the opportunity to step aside from the hustle and bustle of work-a-day living. Help me/us enjoy a slower pace of life in the years of retirement.

As You, O God, have been with me throughout busy days of work, I take heart that You will not forsake me now that I enter a time for new activities and, perhaps, a slower pace.

In this new stage of life, help me to seek You more and trust that new horizons and opportunities will come. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Aging

O Lord God, look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring isolation, distress, or weakness. Provide for us/them homes of dignity and peace; give us/them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help; and as strength diminishes, increase faith and the assurance of your love.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Move to Care Facility/Assisted Living

God of our lives, give me/us the ability to see good things in unexpected places. Grant me/us courage and hope in an anxious time of change. Leaving my/our familiar home brings grief and fear about what may come. May this move see me/us surrounded by attentive care and agents of your holy love. Your Spirit watch over me/us as I/we depend more on others and seek grace in each moment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Nearing End of Life

God of grace, bring this servant [name] and our/their family peace. Provide us/them comfort and needed care. Holy One, sit with us all in our waiting and help us:

recall all the good you gave to us/them throughout life;

remember with thanksgiving all the goodness you have given the world in [name];

hold fast to your promise that we will find a place of rest when and as you will.

We rejoice, even now, that love covers all ages and stages of life, even earthly life's end. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life. AMEN