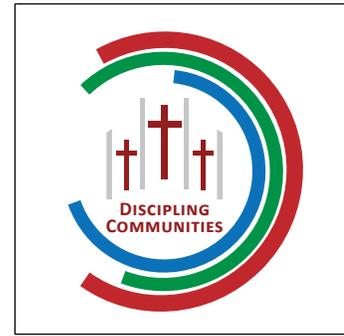


Discipling Community Prayer Initiative

Prayer is the Primary Work of God's People



We believe that prayer is an essential part of the life a believer and the life of a church. The C&MA believes that "Prayer is the first work of God's people" and one of the Core Competencies of a Disciple at First Alliance Church is Prayer.

Prayer is engaging in daily conversations with God that include praise, repentance, asking, and yielding that are a continual part of life. This includes listening and intercession both individually, in community, and as a corporate body.

The evidence of the core competency of prayer in a disciples' life is that he/she

- Cultivates the regular spiritual discipline of communing with God through listening and yielding to His voice (Deuteronomy 17:18-19).
- Intercedes for others rather than judging, criticizing, or condemning (Romans 14:1-7, Ephesians 1:16).
- Prays with perseverance, and that the prayers are not only requests, but also includes thanksgiving and confession (Ephesians 1:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 John 1:9, Philippians 4:6-7, Ephesians 6:18).

Prayer is powerful. It is a vital component of kingdom life. In prayer, we converse with God, we align with God, and we see God move in power and might. Through prayer hearts are transformed, sins are forgiven, lives are healed, attitudes are changed, and God is glorified.

We want to be sure that disciples know about prayer, understand prayer, and are actually praying individually and corporately. One of the best ways to learn about prayer is to do it with others, learning from the example of more mature disciples. This is true of all ages of disciples. Unfortunately, many disciples are intimidated by prayer. The power of prayer comes not in the leaders of the church praying (although that is important), but the people of the church praying in one accord.

To that end, **we are calling every Discipling Community at First Alliance Church to participate in a quarterly Day of Prayer** as part of their time together. This means:

- Once a quarter, the church leadership will designate a "Day of Prayer." While this is the "official" day, Discipling Communities have the freedom to adjust the when as necessary based on their schedule, etc.

- Discipling Communities will forgo their normal routine and devote their entire time together to prayer.
- If a particular Discipling Community does not meet on the designated day, then they will do it at whatever their closest meeting date is to that day.
- The intent will be to model prayer, teach briefly on prayer, and to actually pray.
- Yes, it is ok and encouraged to forgo the normal “lesson” on these days.
- The focus will not just be on wants and needs, but the entirety of prayer - praising, repenting, asking, yielding, and listening.
- Resources are available to help leaders facilitate their group through this extended time of prayer so that it is not intimidating for any of the group. These resources are available at www.firstalliancetoccoa.com/dcleaders under *Prayer*. We will also provide some corporate prayer requests as part of the entire church praying together. This will be distributed via email a few weeks before the “official” day. We encourage leaders, especially those of kids and younger youth, to adapt as necessary.
- *Every Discipling Community* includes all of the different types (Sunday School, Bible Studies, Home Groups, etc.) starting with 1st grade and on up.
- This is in no way diminishes or replaces the prayer that is already happening as part of group life. On the contrary, it is meant to enhance the regular practice of prayer in both group and individual life.

Weeks of Prayer for the 2017-2018 Ministry Year

September 24 - 30

January 7 – 13

April 8 - 14