

## Prayer for our congregation:

- To receive God’s word and messages for us through the pulpit ministry, for truth that conforms us to the image of Christ and calls us to fully participate in His kingdom work- Psalm 119: 11,18,38,73
- Growth, wisdom, faith, and patience as we wait and for God to grow and mature us through this process, that we would be faithful hearers, trust and obey - Psalm 27:14, 28:7-9, 29:10-11
- For the gospel to go forth in power through us – Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16
  - For revival in our city, hearts to reach out and build relationships and boldness to share the Gospel with those in our spheres of influence- Acts 18:9-10, II Thess. 3:1
  - That God will lead us to those whose hearts are ready to trust Christ for salvation
  - That we would be aware of visitors, looking to welcome and include new people to FE.
- That we would be faithful to pray and seek God’s leading in prayer – Matt. 7:7-8, II Chron.7:14, Eph. 6:18, Psalm 107:6,13,19,28,43, Romans 8:26-27
- That we will all faithfully serve where God calls us – I Cor. 4:1-11, Eph. 4:11-16
  - For members of our congregation to listen and hear God’s call to fill roles of ministry to all age groups- Matthew 9:35-38
  - That God’s Word will be faithfully proclaimed in our children’s and youth ministries (Psalm 127:3-5, Psalm 102:27-28), Sunday schools, Bible studies,
  - That God will strengthen and bless the ministries of 1<sup>st</sup> Evaners throughout the city
  - That God will bless and strengthen ministry to our single adults
- That God will show us areas of weakness or sin that we might humble ourselves before Him and repent – Psalm 139:23-24, II Chron. 7:14, James 5:16  
That we would, (from Revelation 2-3):
  - “Wake up, strengthen the things that remain which were about to die, complete the deeds God has called us to...”
  - “...remember what we have received and heard; keep it up and repent”
  - Ask the Lord to let us see where we are lukewarm (“wretched miserable, poor, blind, naked”), where we may have left our first love, to reprove us, allow us to be zealous and repent
  - see the open door before us and hold fast until He comes
- That God would prepare us for the shepherd He will bring.
  - That we will truly love one another, that the world may know that we are His disciples – John 13:34-35, 15:12-17
  - That we will be faithful encouragers of him and pray for him when he comes – I Timothy 5:17-22
  - For thankful hearts as we remember all God has done in and through our body and anticipate what He has in this next season for us – Phil.4:4. II Thess. 5:18, Psalm 103
  - That we would stand against the enemy, for protection from the evil one – John 17:35, I Peter 5:8-9, Eph. 6:10-18
  - For unity! That any divisions in our church will be reconciled, wounds healed by the power and love of Christ, each of us willing to examine our own hearts - Psalm 133:1, I Cor. 1:10, II Cor. 13:11, John 17:20-23, Phil. 1:27,2:1-3, Eph. 4:1-6, 32, Romans 15:5-7  
Psalm 139:23-24, Psalm 19:14

## Prayer for the man to come:

- That we will find a man with the qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9
- That he would be filled with the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit, walk in the Spirit – Gal. 5:16,22
- That the joy of the Lord is His strength – Nehemiah 8:10, John 15
- That the Lord would be preparing him, planting seeds in his heart for transition
- That he is one who truly loves God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength – Matt. 22
- That he loves people, is eager to share the gospel of salvation and life in Christ – John 13:34-35, Phil. 2:1-4, 19-20
- That he has a heart for discipleship and a shepherd’s heart- John 21:15-17, I Peter 5:1-5, that like Rev. Earle Stevens, he “loves to marry ‘em and loves to bury ‘em.”
- That he is a faithful student of God’s Word, loves to study, teach, and preach the Gospel passionately, and is truly called and empowered to do so – II Tim 2:15,24-26, 3:14-16, 4:1-5
- That he is a man of sound doctrine and wisdom – Titus 1:9, II Timothy 1:13-14, James 3:13-18
- That he can bridle his tongue, a mature man – James 3:2
- That he is strong in grace and full of grace – II Timothy 2:1-2
- That he is humble, teachable, and knows how to submit to the authorities God places in his life – I Peter 5:1-6, Titus 3:1
- That he is able to see, confess, and repent of his own sin, aware of his “brand of sinning,” and particular temptations – I John 1:5-10
- That he walks closely and humbly with the Lord – Micah 6:8
- That he can take criticism, take it to the Lord for self-examination, has the strength to deal with critics in love, wisdom, and resilience, that he knows how to deal with offenses and hurts personally – a forgiver –James 1:23-25, Psalm 139:23-24, Eph. 4:32
- That he knows how to care for the weaker brother - Romans 14:1-15:7,
- That he is a man of prayer, totally dependent on God, abiding in Him – Luke 5:16, Mark 1:35, John 17:9, Col. 4:1-4, Eph. 6:18-20, I Thess, 5:16-17, Phil. 4:6, James 1:5, John 15:4-5
- That he is wise, knowing how and where to take stands in this current culture and age, and how to lead us to do so. I Tim. 6:20, Titus 2:9, II Timothy 3:4-5, II Timothy 2: 23-26
- That he can relate to and care for all generations of the church – II Tim. 2:2, Titus 2
- That he will have a true understanding of who First Evan is and sense God’s call to come, coming eagerly, joyfully, knowing our strengths and weaknesses, and sensing that he is a fit for us
- That he is a faithful husband and father- II Tim. 2:2-5
- That his family, especially his wife, would be at peace and excited about the transition
- That he is a wise administrator, knowing how to care for and shepherd a staff and build unity, how/when to delegate, aware of his own weaknesses, surrounding himself with wise counselors, wisdom in choosing, hiring, and letting go of staff -James 1:2-4, 3:14-18
- Able to cast vision for the church – elders, staff, and congregation
- Has God’s heart for the nations- for every tribe, tongue, nation, and culture (and US sub-culture), being able to encourage and support those who minister in these areas –Acts 1:8, Rev. 7:7
- That the Lord would give us a man with some missions experience and a broad burden for foreign, urban, and refugee ministries.
- That he understands spiritual warfare – Eph. 6:10-19, II Cor. 10:3-5

### **Prayer for the elders:** Hebrews 13:7, 17

- God’s wisdom and leadership through Jim Fleming, for God’s protection of Jim’s health and stamina, that Jim can draw wise boundaries for himself
- For Jim as he leads the Shepherdology class, that God will teach through Jim and shape those in the class to be good shepherds
- Time, energy, and wisdom for elders and shepherds, and for the nominations, that God would raise up additional elders and deacons of His choice to lead and serve – Matt.9:35-38
- For the transition committee especially, and all those elders who are doing double and triple duty during this time, for them not to be weary – Gal. 6:9, I Timothy 5:17
- For wisdom regarding :
  - hiring a search firm
  - developing the candidate profile and job description
  - an accurate profile of our church that we give to the candidates
  - communication with the church – to keep us informed and encouraged
  - all elders to continue to rise to the occasion, fulfilling roles and duties with joy and diligence

### **Prayer for the staff:**

- Many with extra duties, burdens, and concerns at this time: to fully rely on the Lord, finding time with Him daily for strength, wisdom, and faithfulness- John 15, Gal. 6:9
- To be supported and encouraged by the congregation – I Timothy 5:17
- To trust and rest in God’s sovereignty as they anticipate and adjust to a new “boss,” transition, and a new season of ministry- Psalm 27:14
- For the Lord to bring additional staff- roles and people- according to His will – His choice for youth pastor; a pastor for seniors? Singles minister? Support staff? Matt. 9:35-38
- For those who counsel people through trial and tragedy- strength and wisdom to come alongside, bear the burden, counsel with truth and compassion, for the Holy Spirit to work mightily through their ministry.

### **Prayer for the pastor search committee:**

- That we would trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding- Prov. 3:5-6
- To be people of prayer, acknowledging the Lord in every step of the process and allowing Him to direct our steps, waiting on Him in faith -Prov. 3:5-6, Luke 6:12-13a, Eph. 6:18
- That we would individually be faithful in God’s Word and prayer, that we will listen and hear His voice- John 10:3-4
- That God’s Word would guide our search and we will have wisdom as we evaluate sermons
- For wisdom as we work with elders in developing the profile for our next pastor
- That we would seek the mind of Christ and the kingdom of Christ in our deliberations, laying aside our own agendas and preferences, seeking the welfare of our church –Phil. 2:3-4, Matt. 6:33

- That we would not be focused on pleasing people, rather on pleasing God and finding His choice for our congregation – Gal. 1:10, I Thess. 2:4, Acts 5:29
- That we would be diligent to seek and find God’s leading regarding each applicant, that God would provide each of us the time we need to diligently, faithfully perform our duties.
- That God would direct and bless the process, specifically give wisdom regarding using a search firm or not.
- That the team would be unified, growing in love and respect for each other, in humility and grace, being good listeners and debaters – James 1:19-20
- That we would work through any conflict that may arise, submitting to God and one another in love- James 3:13-18
- That we would patiently wait for God to provide applicants- Psalm 27:14, 31:24, 32:8, 33:20-22
- That we would seek God’s glory and honor throughout the process and in the final selection –Psalm 115:1, 108:5, 103:19-22, Habakkuk 2:14
- For wisdom and discernment as we review candidates, that God will reveal what we need to see about each one- James 1:5
- That we will be diligent to follow through with each candidate well, not making quick judgments, asking the right questions
- That we can accurately portray who First Evan is to our candidates
- For a spirit of thankfulness as we watch God lead and provide – Psalm 103
- For wisdom to see the match between the needs of our body and the gifting of the candidates