



40 Days of Prayer

Seeking God Together
as We Search for Our Next Pastor



Hunter Street Baptist Church

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*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.*

– Ecclesiastes 3:1 –

For nearly 40 years, Hunter Street has been faithfully led by Pastor Buddy Gray. His ministry has been marked by humility, integrity, a deep love for God's Word and His people, and boldly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Buddy steps into a new season, we are confident in the promise that Jesus continues to build His church. Our trust is not in one leader but in the Lord who has guided us from the beginning.

In this time of transition, the most important work we can do is pray. That is why we are providing a 40-Day Prayer Guide with daily Scripture, prayer prompts, and space for reflection.

We encourage every member of our church family to join in seeking God together, trusting Him to clearly reveal the pastor He has already prepared to lead us into the next season.

Our sincere hope is that this guide will not only focus our prayers but also bring renewal, unity, harmony, and encouragement to our church family as we walk this road together.

Let us trust God to lead—faithfully, unmistakably, and in His perfect time.



The Importance of Prayer in the Search for a New Pastor

Prayer is vital in the search for a new pastor—it's not just a hiring decision but a deeply spiritual process that affects the whole church. Through prayer, we seek God's guidance, wisdom, and unity.

Why prayer matters:

- **Spiritual Discernment:** Prayer helps align the church with God's will, not personal preferences.
- **Guidance:** It invites the Holy Spirit to lead the search team and leadership in wise decision-making.
- **Unity:** Prayer fosters patience, humility, and harmony during a time that can bring differing opinions.
- **Heart Preparation:** It prepares the hearts of the church and the future pastor to be open to God's call.
- **Spiritual Protection:** Prayer guards the church against spiritual attacks during this vulnerable time.

Ultimately, prayer keeps Christ at the center of the process, ensuring the outcome brings honor to Him and blessing to the church.



The Importance of Fasting in the Search for a New Pastor

Fasting, paired with prayer, is a powerful way for the church to seek God during the important process of finding a new pastor. It expresses humble dependence on Him and creates space for spiritual clarity and unity. Here are examples of things you can give up in order to seek God more intentionally: food, drink, media & entertainment, activities, or other comforts.

Why fasting matters:

- **Sharpens Focus:** Fasting removes distractions and helps the church hear God more clearly.
- **Shows Dependence:** It reminds us that we need God's leadership above all else.
- **Invites God's Power:** Fasting opens the door for God to move in ways beyond human wisdom.
- **Builds Unity:** Fasting together fosters humility and aligns hearts within the church.
- **Aligns Our Will With God's:** It prepares the church to accept whoever God is truly calling.

In short, fasting helps the church seek not just a leader, but God's chosen shepherd—with faith, wisdom, and unity.

Please choose a day of the week to fast. Repeat weekly.

Day 1

Jeremiah 29:13; James 4:8

Jeremiah 29:13 promises that when we seek God with all our hearts, we will find Him. James 4:8 encourages us to draw near to God, and He will draw near to us. As we begin this season, let's set our hearts on seeking God Himself, trusting that He desires to meet with us as we seek Him.

■ *Pray the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the church and not in man.”

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Day 2

Psalms 139:23-24

Psalms 139:23-24 invites us to ask God to search our hearts and lead us in His everlasting way. This is a time to open our lives to God's cleansing, asking Him to purify and renew us as a church.

■ *Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, please cause this to be a time of deep cleansing and renewal in our church. May we always be the church You have called us to be.”

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Day 3

Revelation 2:1-4

Revelation 2:1-4 warns us not to lose our first love for Christ. Let's focus on serving Jesus with a sincere heart, remembering that our devotion is to Him above all else.

■ *Pray that the church will not lose its first love and will serve Christ with a sincere heart. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, help us to keep our love for You above all else and serve You with passion and faithfulness.”

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Day 4

John 13:34; John 17:21

John 13:34 calls us to love one another as Jesus has loved us. John 17:21 points to the unity Jesus desires for His followers. Let's pursue love and unity in our church, reflecting the heart of Christ to the world.

■ *Pray for love and unity to fill the church during this season. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, fill our church with Your love and make us one, so the world will see Jesus in us.”

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Day 5

James 1:5; Proverbs 2:6

James 1:5 promises that God gives wisdom generously to those who ask. Proverbs 2:6 reminds us that the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. As we pray for our Pastor Search Team and leaders, let's trust God to provide the wisdom needed for every decision.

■ *Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team and church leaders.*

“Lord, give wisdom and discernment to those leading the search, so every step honors You.”

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Day 6

Ephesians 4:11-13

Ephesians 4:11-13 teaches that Christ Himself gives leaders to equip His people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up. As we pray for our next pastor, let's remember that God is the one who calls and prepares those who lead His church.

■ *Pray for God to prepare and call the right pastor. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, prepare the heart of the one You are calling to lead us, and make the way clear for both our church and that person.”

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Day 7

Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 27:14

Isaiah 40:31 promises renewed strength for those who wait on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 encourages us to wait for the Lord and be strong. In this season of waiting, let's look to God for patience and renewed faith.

■ *Pray for patience and faith as the church waits on God. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, help us to wait on You with hope, trusting that You are working for our good.”

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Day 8

Proverbs 3:5-6

Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and submit to Him, and He will make our paths straight. As we look to the future, let's commit our way to the Lord and trust Him to guide us.

■ *Pray for the church to trust God's plan. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, help us to trust You completely and follow wherever You lead.”

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Day 9

Matthew 9:37-38

Matthew 9:37-38 shows Jesus' heart for the harvest and His call to pray for workers. Let's ask God to give us a renewed passion for reaching people with the gospel and to send out workers into His harvest field.

■ *Pray for a renewed passion for evangelism and outreach. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Lord, give us a heart for the lost and boldness to share Your love in our community."

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Day 10

Psalm 46:10

Psalm 46:10 tells us to be still and know that He is God. In the midst of uncertainty, God invites us to rest in His presence and trust His sovereignty.

■ *Pray for stillness and confidence in God's sovereignty. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Father, help us to be still before You and trust that You are working all things for Your glory."

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Day 11

John 15:9-15

Jesus calls us to remain in His love and to love one another as He has loved us. As we seek a new pastor, let's pray that our church will be marked by Christlike love, both among our members and with the one God is preparing to lead us.

■ *Pray that the church members will abide in the love of Christ and love one another with the love of Christ. Pray for God to bond the church and future pastor together in love. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, help us to remain in Your love and express that love to one another. May the bond within our church and with our new pastor grow stronger through Your grace.”

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Day 12

Jeremiah 33:3

God invites us to call to Him, promising to answer and reveal great and hidden things we do not know. Let's ask God to give our church a deep burden for prayer as we seek His will for our next pastor and His vision for our future.

■ *Pray that a burden for deep and urgent prayer permeates the church not only as we seek God's will for a pastor, but also as we seek God's vision for the church. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, we call upon You and ask for Your guidance. Reveal to us the things we need to know and give us a heart that seeks You in prayer.”

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Day 13

Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus warns the church against being lukewarm and calls us to be zealous and repent. As we search for a pastor, let's pray for renewed passion and wholehearted devotion to Christ in our church.

■ *Pray for the church to fight against lukewarm spirituality. Pray church members repent of a lukewarm spirituality and become filled with a zeal for Jesus and His Kingdom work. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Jesus, ignite in us a fervor for Your work. Let us not be lukewarm, but instead, blaze with passion for Your kingdom’s cause.”

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Day 14

John 15:1-8

Jesus teaches that He is the vine and we are the branches, and that fruitfulness comes from abiding in Him. During this transition, let's pray that our church will remain closely connected to Christ and bear much fruit for God's glory.

■ *Pray for church members to continually abide in Christ and produce much fruit that glorifies the Father during the transition period. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, help us remain connected to You as our vine, so that we may bear fruitful works that glorify Your name.”

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Day 15

James 4:1-12

James calls us to humble ourselves before the Lord, resist the devil, and seek God's cleansing. Let's pray for humility and repentance in our church, so that God's Spirit can bring true revival.

■ *Pray for the church to humble themselves before the Lord and seek His cleansing power for revival to come. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Merciful God, humble us as we seek Your cleansing. May the purity of Your Spirit lead us to revival."

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Day 16

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul urges Timothy to preach the Word faithfully and with courage. Let's pray that our next pastor will have a deep passion for God's Word and will boldly proclaim the truth.

■ *Pray that God would increase our next pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and he would boldly proclaim the truth. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Grant our future pastor a fervent passion for Your Word, enabling him to preach boldly and without compromise."

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Day 17

Philippians 1:3-11

Paul expresses his love and prayers for the church at Philippi. Let's pray that God will give our next pastor a deep love for our church and guide him and his family as they discern God's will.

■ *Pray that God would give our next pastor a love for our church and strength to leave his current position. Pray that God would make His will known to him and his family. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Loving Father, fill our future pastor with affection for us and guide him with clarity in his calling."

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Day 18

Colossians 1:9-12

Paul prays for believers to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, strengthened with His power, and filled with joy.

■ *Pray for our next pastor's family. Pray that God, who knows who they are, would strengthen and guide the new pastor's family as they are led toward ministry at our church. Give them peace in knowing God's will. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Sovereign Lord, guide and fortify the family of our future pastor. Let them be at peace, knowing Your divine plan."

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Day 19

Romans 12:9-13

Paul encourages sincere love, zeal, and faithfulness in serving the Lord.

■ *Pray that God would prepare our pastor to always have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in his ministry. Pray for God's strength in his weakness and may he be faithful in prayer. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Inspire unyielding zeal and fortitude in our pastor, O Lord, that he may serve in Your strength, always uplifted by prayer."

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Day 20

Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:16

Paul urges us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. He also calls us to take up the shield of faith.

■ *Pray for our future pastor and his family to have certainty in their calling and to walk in faith as they follow God's direction. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Almighty God, provide absolute certainty and discernment to our future pastor and his family as they follow Your path."

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Day 21

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

God's power is made perfect in weakness. As we trust Him, His grace is enough for every challenge, both for the pastor leaving and the one coming. May both rely on God's strength in this season of transition.

■ *Pray for God's strength and guidance in the pastor's former church. Pray that those with whom he is currently ministering would trust God's plan for his servant in leading him to a new location of ministry. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Lord, show Your strength in our weakness and guide both our former and future pastor by Your grace."

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Day 22

Amos 4:13

God is the Creator who reveals His thoughts to His people and brings His plans to pass. May our new pastor receive a clear vision from the Lord for ministry in our church and community.

■ *Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Hunter Street Baptist Church and the surrounding community. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Father, reveal Your vision to our new pastor and use him to bring many to know Christ."

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Day 23

Luke 12:22-31

Jesus teaches us not to worry, but to seek God's kingdom first, trusting Him to provide for every need. As our new pastor and his family prepare to move, may they rest in God's faithful care.

■ *Pray that the new pastor and his family will be able to smoothly transition to our church. This would include the needs of his wife and children in making new friends. Also involved would be physical needs such as housing, schooling, etc., that must be settled upon when moving to a new area. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, provide for every need of our new pastor's family and give them peace as they transition.”

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Day 24

Psalms 133

Unity among God's people is precious and brings His blessing. Pray that our new pastor will find harmony and deep fellowship with the church family, working together for God's glory.

■ *Pray that our new pastor would be able to work effectively with the church staff, committees, deacons, and others that are already serving our church family. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“God, grant unity and joy as our new pastor joins and serves with our church family.”

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Day 25

Joshua 1:8-9

God calls us to be strong and courageous, meditating on His Word and trusting His presence. As our pastor prepares to leave one ministry and begin another, may he and his family find courage and peace in God's promises.

■ *Pray that God would protect the new pastor's heart as he prepares to leave his current ministry and move to a new ministry. Pray that the stresses of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships, etc., would not interfere with his need to continually develop his relationship with God. Pray that God would give him and his family peace knowing they are in God's will. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Lord, give our new pastor and his family courage and peace as they follow Your call."

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Day 26

Colossians 3:12-17

God calls us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, and love, letting Christ's peace rule in our hearts. As we seek a new pastor, may God's wisdom and peace guide every step.

■ *Above all, pray that God's will would be done through the entire process of finding a new pastor. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give everyone involved in this process wisdom and peace. Pray that God will show us whom He is calling. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Holy Spirit, fill us with wisdom and peace as we seek the pastor You have chosen for us."

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Day 27

Romans 10:15; Matthew 28:19-20

God sends His people to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

■ *Pray that our new pastor will lead us in sharing Christ boldly and equipping us for the mission. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, empower our pastor to lead us in reaching the lost and making disciples for Your kingdom.”

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Day 28

1 Corinthians 9:27; Romans 15:18-19

Paul speaks of discipline and the power of the Spirit in ministry.

■ *Pray for a fresh divine anointing on the pastor’s ministry as he continues God’s work at Hunter Street Baptist Church. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“God, anoint our pastor with Your Spirit and keep him faithful in all he does for You.”

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Day 29

Hebrews 13:17

God calls pastors to shepherd faithfully and the church to follow with joy.

■ *Pray for our future pastor to faithfully shepherd the church and for members of the church to place themselves willingly and joyfully under his servant leadership. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, help our pastor to lead with humility and our church to follow with joy and unity.”

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Day 30

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul urges Timothy to preach the Word faithfully in every season.

■ *Pray for our future pastor to faithfully preach the Word of God. Pray the Lord gives the church a hunger for the Word of God and receptivity to the sermons that are preached by the new pastor. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, give our pastor boldness to preach Your Word and give us hearts eager to receive it.”

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Day 31

Psalm 78:70-72

God chose David and led him with integrity of heart and skillful hands.

■ *As we pray for our new pastor, ask God to give him a shepherd's heart and wisdom to lead with both integrity and skill. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, give our new pastor a heart like Yours—full of integrity and wisdom to guide Your people well.”

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Day 32

1 Peter 5:1-4

Peter urges church leaders to shepherd God's flock willingly and eagerly, being examples to those they lead.

■ *Pray that our new pastor will serve with humility and be an example to the flock, always looking to Christ as the Chief Shepherd. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Jesus, help our pastor to lead with humility and always point us to You, our Chief Shepherd.”

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Day 33

Philippians 2:1-11

Paul calls us to have the same attitude as Christ, marked by humility and selfless service.

■ *Pray that our church and new pastor will walk in unity and humility, putting others before themselves. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Father, give us the mind of Christ—humble, united, and eager to serve one another.”

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Day 34

Ephesians 6:10-20

Paul reminds us to put on the full armor of God and to pray at all times.

■ *Pray that our new pastor and church will stand strong in spiritual battle, clothed in God’s armor and persistent in prayer. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“God, clothe us in Your armor and make us steadfast in prayer as we follow Your lead.”

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Day 35

Psalm 23

The Lord is our Shepherd who leads, restores, and comforts us.

■ *Pray that our new pastor will follow the Good Shepherd and lead our church with His heart. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Jesus, be our Shepherd and guide our pastor to lead us with Your love and care.”

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Day 36

Colossians 4:2-6

Paul urges us to devote ourselves to prayer, to be watchful and thankful, and to speak with grace.

■ *Pray that our church and new pastor will be devoted to prayer and speak the gospel with clarity and grace. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

“Lord, make us a people of prayer and give us words of grace and truth to share with others.”

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Day 37

Psalm 90:12-17

Moses prays for wisdom to number our days and for God's favor to rest on His people.

■ *Pray that our new pastor and church will use their time wisely and that God's favor will rest on them. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Father, teach us to use our days for Your glory and let Your favor shine on our church and pastor."

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Day 38

Romans 15:5-6

Paul prays for unity and a spirit of harmony among believers, so that with one voice we may glorify God. Pray that our church and new pastor will be united in heart and purpose, bringing glory to God together.

■ *Pray for unity and a spirit of harmony in the church and with the new pastor. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"God, unite us in heart and purpose so that we may glorify You together."

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Day 39

Psalm 100

We are called to worship the Lord with gladness and come before Him with joyful songs.

■ *Pray that our church and new pastor will be marked by joyful worship and gratitude for God's faithfulness. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Lord, fill our hearts with joy and thankfulness as we worship You together."

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Day 40

Jude 24-25

God is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before His presence with great joy.

■ *Pray that our church and new pastor will trust God's power to sustain and guide them. Pray for wisdom, unity, and discernment for the members of the Pastor Search Team.*

"Mighty God, keep us faithful and joyful as we trust You to lead us into the future."

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Thank you for praying with your church family
as we seek God's direction for our next pastor.
Please return to Day 1 and continue praying with us
throughout this important season.

