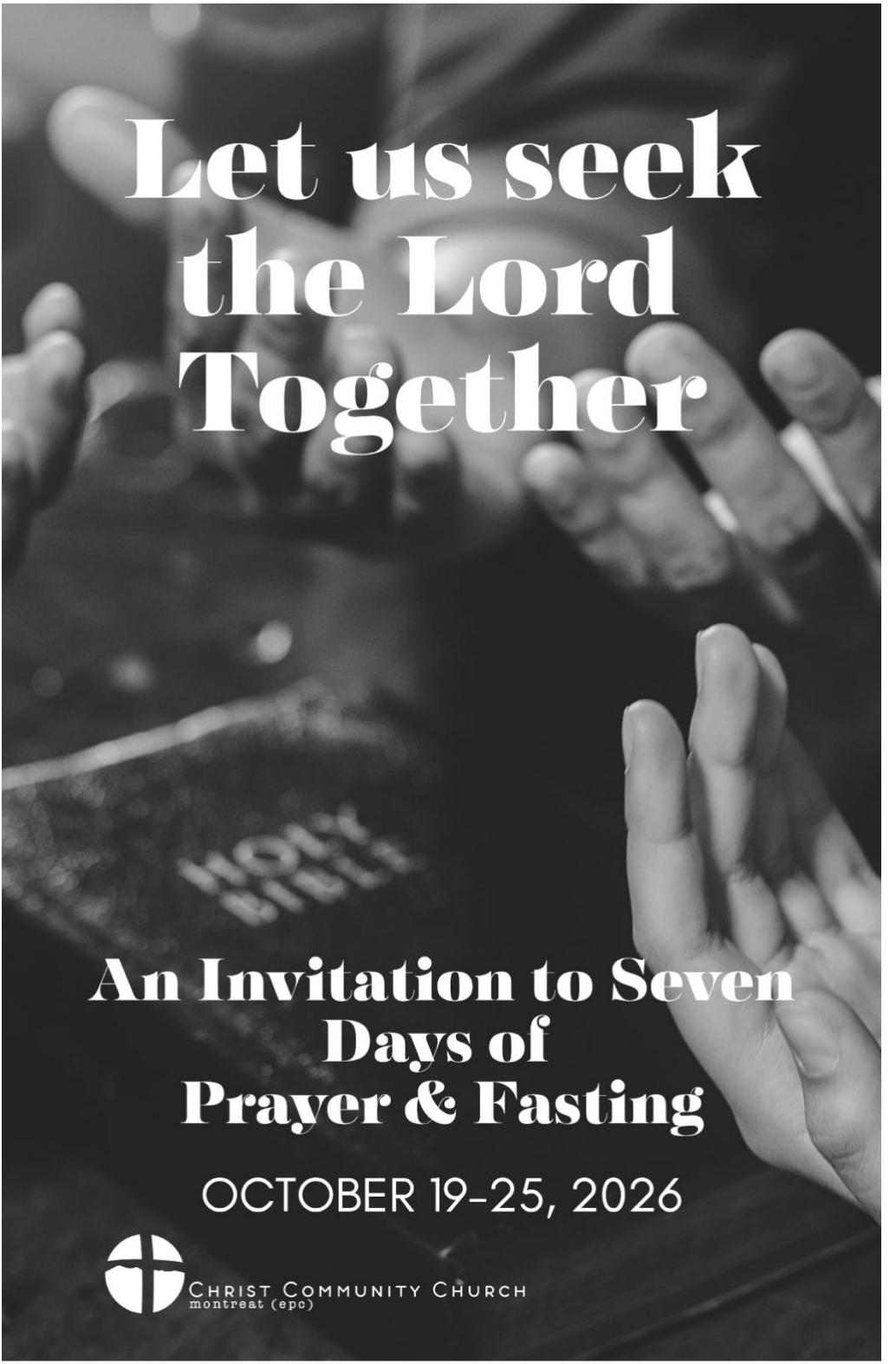


Let us seek the Lord Together

An Invitation to Seven Days of Prayer & Fasting

OCTOBER 19-25, 2026

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
montreat (epc)

Let us seek the Lord ~ Together

An Invitation to Seven Days of Prayer & Fasting

After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

~ Matthew 6:9-13

Christ Community Church
October 19 - 25, 2026

An Invitation to a Time of Prayer & Fasting

Greetings Christ Community Church Family,

The Pastoral Search Committee has been stirred to ponder collectively since our earliest meetings concerning inviting the entire church to engage in a week of prayer and fasting. We perceived a holy invitation, beginning a few weeks past, in the verses from Revelation 4:1-2 NIV which read:

> "After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it."

The following day, one of our committee members was reading their devotional's meditation for the day which coincided with this same verse. "The same trumpet-voice I heard speaking with me at the beginning said, 'Ascend into this realm! I want to reveal to you what must happen after this,'" (TPT).

The committee had a sense of confirmation that it is now time to extend the invitation to the entire church to join in a concerted, unified "ascending" in prayer and fasting during the week of October 19 - 25, 2026.

Fasting is a means to humble ourselves, to become more sensitized to the Holy Spirit and the Word, and to give earnest importunity in our praying. Edith Schaeffer in her book, *The Life of Prayer*, reflects on Ezra's mission,

saying, “This serious fasting and prayer, bowing humbly before God with repentance and concern for His mercy, took place in the context of practical need – for protection and guidance, for help in choices and for the supply of material things.”

We are specifically asking that God would reveal His will and His way to us as we walk in this process, co-laboring with Christ in the choosing of our next under-shepherd. As such, we are asking the Father to give us eyes to see and ears to hear His Spirit. We are seeking that He would draw our hearts to Himself, and that as we bow together in His Presence that we may also arise in the Spirit to meet with God.

We pray that He would grant us godly practical and supernatural understanding related to this pastoral search. Our desire is that we, as a people, would accept the invitation of Jesus to come, to ascend, to sit, to listen, to receive, and to know more of Him. Our ultimate goal is to glorify God in all things.

We thought it good to have some lead time to seek the Lord to prepare our hearts and bodies for such an undertaking and so have provided some written materials to assist you.

These include this booklet with fasting encouragements and a general, unified focus for each day of prayer; and a separate outline of “Spiritual Encouragements to Fasting & Prayer with Practical Guidelines.” We also highly recommend the book, *God’s Chosen Fast*, by Arthur Wallis which is available free online.

We encourage you to prayerfully read the materials provided, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal God's chosen fast specifically for you. In your sincere seeking of the Lord, you may find your determined fast may look different from someone else's. Your contribution is as valuable as another's to the Lord when done in obedience to Him. Let us pray:

O God, we ask for the experience of "deep calling to deep," described in Psalm 42:7, such that our overwhelming human need meets with the infinite, faithful response of our loving Creator. Sweep over us with your love. We desire Spirit to spirit communion with You.

We first ask Your blessing over this next week's time as we seek You to prepare us for this endeavor. Help us to seek Your face and to yield to Your Holy Spirit as we step into Your Presence and Your Word. Let us rightly hear what You are speaking to each one of us individually.

May we agree with You in faith and walk in obedience. Help us to be bold and courageous. Strengthen us in Your power. May Your radiant light fill us, and may Your Spirit of Truth guide us, so that we might know the will of God in these matters.

We praise You and thank You our Savior and our God.

"For all this was lavished upon us through the rich experience of knowing him who has called us by name and invited us to come to him through a glorious manifestation of his goodness," (2 Peter 1:3b TPT).

Thinking Biblically ~ This is an incredible time in the history of our church. As we seek the Lord's heart, help and ways related to:

- God's raising up of the pastor of His choice in His timing for Christ Community Church.
- The Pastoral Search Committee's co-laboring with Christ in this process.
- The Lord's good work and preparation in the congregation in the interim time.

Let us set our faces towards this task with sober-mindedness and joyful expectation. Please consider setting aside special times of prayer throughout October 19-25, both in your private time and with brothers and sisters in the church. Lift up the Word in prayer as led by the Holy Spirit, undergirded with fasting, as we, together, seek the will of God.

The Bible is filled with examples of the people of God setting aside time for prayer and fasting when faced with critical challenges. With a mighty hand, God answered prayer.

Ezra and Nehemiah were tasked with re-constituting the people of God in Judea following the exile. They were surrounded by enemies intent on preventing their success. They called for prayer and fasting to appeal to the God of Heaven for direction, help, deliverance.

When faced with the threat of the genocide of the Jewish people in Persia, Esther called all the congregation to fasting and prayer for the direction, help, and deliverance of the Lord.

In Acts 13:1-2, prophets and teachers attended to the Lord when faced with the task of taking the Gospel to the world. The Lord, in response, raised up Barnabus and Saul, particularly chosen for a specific task within that season. This was revealed by the Holy Spirit and recognized by the community after prayer and fasting.

Consider, the Lord addresses fasting in Scripture often, noting that motive is critical. It is as our hearts are brought into deeper surrender to the Lord, seeking His glory and will alone that we will find His sure help. Prayer and fasting assist to bring our hearts to this posture, as David expresses in Psalms 69:10 and 35:13.

There are cautions related to fasting when it is secretly motivated to advance our own agendas, to attain our own lusts, to gain power over others – fasting for strife, or in pride to lay claim to superior spirituality seeking to be admired. [See James 4:3, Isaiah 58, Col. 2:23.]

This does not mean we are not to fast, for Jesus himself addressed his disciples saying, "When ye fast…," (Mt. 6:16a,17a), presupposing His disciples would fast.

Prayer and fasting in humility and faith invites the Holy Spirit to further shape us for and lead us to obedient, courageous action on behalf of the kingdom of God. It helps to focus our prayers to the God who answers prayer.

The following pages outline directions for prayer for each of the seven days to help to stir our hearts and promote unified, concentrated prayer related to certain concerns we felt led to highlight. Please follow the Lord above all.

Day One: Surrender in the Inner Life

"Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting," (Ps. 139:23-24 ESV).

Our Lord Jesus in Gethsemane, *"...not my will but thine be done,"* (Lk 22:42b).

George Mueller wrote, "I begin to seek the will of God by getting my heart into such a state that it has no will of its own in regards to a given matter."

Invite the Holy Spirit of Truth to search your innermost being with His Word in His graciousness (Heb. 4:12). Then pray for all the family of CCC and the new pastor (yet-to-be & known by God) & family to be so dealt with by the Lord so as to purify our motives, enliven us in our callings, and set us free to serve Him with glad and willing hearts. For the glory of God. *"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure,"* (Phil 2:13).

Father, please direct our attention to what You consider needful that You might remove that which hinders us from Yourself and Your will, so that I, and we, might enter prayer with a clear conscience, a hearing ear, and with great boldness of faith. (See 1 John 1:9; Heb 4:14-16; Eph 4:20 -24; 1 Tim 1:5).

Thanksgiving & Adoration

Day Two: God's Appointment

It is the Lord who gifts, prepares and appoints His leaders for His people and makes evident His appointments in various ways.

Eph 4:7, 11-12 says, *"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift…And he gave apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ…."*

The Lord also often commissions certain ones to seek out his leaders whom God has chosen & bring them in. In 2 Samuel 16, God sends the prophet to Jesse's family, to anoint the next king & opened Samuel's eyes to discern which son God chose. In Acts 9:10-19 God sends Ananias after Saul, confirming Saul's call.

Yet God's people also play a continuous role praying for God's leaders, which helps them fulfill their roles throughout their lives. Paul depended on the prayers of God's people for deliverance, open doors of ministry and the courage to preach boldly to the end. (Phil 1:19; Col 4:2-4; Eph 6:19-20). Peter was released from prison after God's people prayed. (Acts 12:5-12).

Pray for the concert of God's orchestration of His work in the matter of this pastoral search, and for our persevering prayer and obedience in this season. Please pray as well for our dear interim pastor and his wife, Andy & Carolyn Wells, for our staff, elders & deacons. Pray for God's orchestration of the connection & confirmation process between the PSC and the pastor God desires to bring.

Day Three: We have an adversary

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," (James 4:7)

Be sensitive to the leading of the Lord and pray against inclinations of the flesh and the wiles of the devil.

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires," (Rom 13:14). God help us each to crucify daily our fleshly tendencies. Pray that we will stay the course, and not yield to carelessness, manipulation, slander, jealousy, strife, factions, pride, fearfulness, unbelief or disobedience.

"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy…" (Luke 10:19 ESV). Lord, lead us in taking authority against the devices of the kingdom of darkness including all manner of deception, confusion, hindrances, provocations and harm. Unmask any camouflage that obscures our sight, and counterfeit plans intended to supplant the true plan of God.

Read & ponder all of Ephesians 6:10-18, including:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil…Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm," (Eph 6:10-11, 13 ESV).

Thanksgiving & Shouts of Victory

Day Four: The new pastor & family yet to come

As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father; and I lay my life down for the sheep," (Jn10:15). Pray above all that God would raise up a shepherd after His own heart.

Pray for the call of God to be made clear, revealed by the Holy Spirit and confirmed to the one God desires to bring to CCC.

Pray that the Lord goes ahead and sets this one and their family free from every circumstance to be able to answer the call wholly and in God's time.

May God work in their heart to shape and incline them to us and the family of CCC to them. Pour out your grace. Lord, to enable this coming shepherd to lead and carry the flock of CCC, and to have a heart to contend for the Gospel in this region.

We trust you, Lord to protect, provide and equip and go before the one upon whom You have placed Your hand to bring to us. We ask the choicest blessings and Your spirit of encouragement to rest upon them now. Thank you, Lord.

"Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd." (Numbers 27:16).

Thanksgiving & Singing

Day Five: The Gift of Discernment

Lord, we need to see beyond the outer presentation to the heart!

Note qualities True Shepherds & False Shepherds. Contrast 1 Timothy 3 w/ 2 Peter 2; Jude; Is 56:10-12. John 10 – The Good Shepherd vs the hireling.

1 John 4:4, *"Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."*

2 Samuel 16:6-7 *"When they came, he [Samuel} looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'"* When they brought David to the prophet, the Lord said to Samuel in 2 Samuel 16:12b, *"Arise, anoint him, for this is he."*

In Luke 6:12-13 Jesus, after praying all night and hearing from His Father, went out and chose in supernatural discernment the twelve. So too, in Acts 13:1-2, after prayer, God raised up Barnabus and Saul from amongst their peers to be tasked to go on mission.

May it be so with us, O Lord. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and our hearts to receive Your guidance.

Thanksgiving & Dancing

Day Six: The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) members and their families ~ Ephesians 1:17-23

Kevin Auman
Robert Barker
Kris Bartman
Nathan Beuchler
Russell Boardman
Karen Collins
Bill George
Breena Schermerhorn
Natalie Schermerhorn

In addition to the prayer covenant in "How can I pray for & support the PSC?" contained within the CCC website in the "Pastor Search" page: Pray that our Lord will *"…equip [them] with everything good that[they] may do his will…."* (Heb. 13:21a ESV).

Strength: Pray *"…according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,"*(Eph 3:16).

Protection: May the Lord Himself *"…cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler,"* (Ps 91:4).

Hope: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope,"* (Romans 15:13).

Psalm 31:24 *"Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!"*

Thanksgiving with expressions of love for the sacrifice of these brothers and sisters. God bless them, their families, and this endeavor.

Day Seven: Day of Reflection & Celebration

Let this day ring with Exuberant Praise, Thanksgiving and Worship. May we continue to lift up our expressions of confidence in our King.

"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples," (Psalm 77:11-14 ESV).

To the One who makes all things new. Glory!

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness," (Lam. 3:22-23).

Your Testimony:

Thank YOU for all your love, prayers, fastings and commitment to our Lord and to all the family of CCC.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

~ Num 6:24-26

Further Reflections:

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence
of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with
oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever.