

The Grapevine



One of the greatest joys in the Christian life is witnessing God answer prayer. When we experience His tangible response, it strengthens our faith. Many new believers begin praying with the correct conviction that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Yet, when bold requests go unanswered—or are answered differently than expected—they can become discouraged and pull back from prayer. This disappointment can be overcome. As we grow in spiritual maturity, we often gain clarity on why certain prayers were not granted in the way we desired. Still, one of the best ways to sustain a vibrant prayer life is to regularly pray the kinds of prayers Scripture shows us God always answers with an enthusiastic "Yes."

These prayers may not appear dramatic at first glance, but do not underestimate their power. Over time, many believers have found they bring profound transformation one's walk with God. One example is an apostolic prayer from Paul that God delights to answer:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. —Ephesians 1:17–19a (NIV)

This prayer beautifully acknowledges two vital truths:

We need divine help to truly know God. No amount of intellectual effort or Bible study technique can replace the illumination of the Holy Spirit. Praying this before opening Scripture places us in a posture of humility and dependence.

God eagerly grants deeper knowledge of Himself when we ask. The promise is clear: He will give the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know Him better.

If you've never done so, I encourage you to make this prayer a regular practice—especially just before reading the Bible. Speak it over yourself (replacing "you" with "me") and, if possible, over others as well.

The experience of many believers is that consistently praying this prayer leads to far more "aha!" moments—those sudden insights where a passage leaps off the page and speaks directly to one's my life.

If you'd like to explore more prayers that align perfectly with God's will—and therefore always receive a "Yes"—consider these additional passages:

Praying these biblical prayers builds an unshakable foundation for your prayer life. You'll grow in prayer confidence, and—most importantly—come to know the heart of God more deeply. Faithfully, Pastor Greg



Ephesians 3:14–19
Colossians 1:9
1 Thessalonians 3:12
Philemon 1:6
2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

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IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 4 – Communion
 JAN 5 – Deacon Bd. Mtg, 7pm
 JAN 11– Cove Spring Kids, after church
 JAN 11 – Parent's Bible Study, after church
 JAN 13 – Women's Fellowship
 JAN 13 – Church Business meeting, 7pm – all are encouraged to attend
 JAN 18 – Youth Group

*Happy Birthday*

Jenna Hershberger, Tim Fine
 Austin Sutherly, Ethan Howell
 Hannah Freshour, Mandy Paulus
 Paul Gearhardt, Angie Uhlenhake
 Lou Ann Jess, Wade Wilhelm
 Adam Bensman, Genevieve Benham
 Jason Meyer, Luke Daniel Long
 Peyton Douthit, Journey Oakley
 Kathy Sturman, Dustin Fox
 DeeDee Freshour, Joseph Sutherly
 Jill Wright, Ella Boyer, Bill Hamiel
 Thomas Wallace, Gambyll Flora
 Madison Dunivan, Jeff Uhlenhake
 Amy Eidemiller

*Joys and Concerns***JOYS**

- * Pam (Donna Owens daughter) biopsy came back negative
- * Betsey Berke (friend of Michelle R) Home after her heart replacement!
- * Congratulations to Nick & Bridget Percel on the birth of their son Benjamin
- * Congratulations to Emma Sutherly, who graduated from Kansas State and is moving to Michigan to begin her career
- * Randy Conaway – is in full remission

Concerns:

- * Bob Owens – knee replacement recovery
- * Atlas – born 2 months premature
- * Susie Everheart (Trudy's friend) – regained use of left side. Starting chemo & radiation
- * Cyndi Rose – chemotherapy
- * James – Dick Hill's cousin
- * Debbie Shellhaas – knee surgery recovery
- * Mike Mullin's spinal surgery recovery

Ruth Caldwell	Julie Kurtz
Nevin Elleman	Ryan Rice
Lee Harrison	Richard Speir
Kathy Shellhaas	Betty Trostel
Suzan Suber	Ben Wilson
Zach Hodges	John Jess
	Patricia Smith

LIFEWISE ACADEMY - MIAMI EAST

JAN. 7, 2026 at 7pm
Informational meeting will be held
at Union Baptist Church
1833 Peterson Road

There are many different ways to volunteer and many different needs that this group is in need of.

This nonprofit organization is for Bible education during school hours.



ANGEL TREEE

On behalf of Children's Services & myself, I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas for Kids Program.

Gaile Knife



COVE SPRING KIDS



JAN 11: Cove Spring Kids, meeting after church until 11:45am.

PARENT'S BIBLE STUDY

JAN 11: - After church

This is the first meeting of the Parent's Bible Study for 2026. All parents are welcome. This group meets during the same time as Cove Spring Kids.



YOUTH GROUP



JAN 18: Youth Group - grocery shopping for local food pantries.

Thank you to all the youth for leading the service on Dec. 21st. Excellent job!!

Youth group is for Jr High & High School age youth. Please join us!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We gather every **Wednesday at 12:30pm** in the church basement. All ladies are welcome to join us!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We are meeting at the church on January 13, at 10am. We will be working on jeans and making meals for shut-ins.

RSVP to Diana 937-875-1004



DENIM RUG'S & PLACEMAT'S FOR SALE

Machine washable, repurposed denim, made by Women's Fellowship. These make wonderful gifts! Rugs and placemats are displayed in the East Vestibule. Placemat pictured.



JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Communion	5 Deacon Bd Mtg 7pm	6	7 Women's Bible Study 12:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	8	9	10
11 Cove Spring Kids Parent's Bible Study General Fund Offering	12	13 Women's Fellowship Church Business Mtg 7pm	14 Women's Bible Study 12:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	15	16	17
18 Youth Group Basement is reserved at 4pm	19	20	21 Women's Bible Study 12:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Women's Bible Study 12:30pm Choir Practice 7:30pm	29	30	31



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