

# **40 Days of Prayer**

**A Prayer Guide for  
Pittsboro Baptist Church's  
Pastoral Search**

*I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard me cry. Psalm 40:1*

Over a year and a half ago, Pittsboro Baptist Church began the journey to search for a new pastor. With the guidance of our deacons, assistance from the Baptist State Convention of NC, and the leadership of interim pastor Rev. Allan Blume, a plan was put into motion. The global pandemic of COVID-19 hit in early 2020, striking the entire world's populace in one way or the other. After a brief halt along the journey and in spite of the COVID challenges, the

appointed Transition Team's sub-committees began their work. The reports have now been written, giving the members of Pittsboro Baptist Church a better understanding of who the church is and what it needs in a pastor. Each step of the journey has been covered in prayer. A Pastoral Search Committee has been approved with the directive to find a candidate to fill the position of pastor of Pittsboro Baptist Church. It is imperative that the prayers continue for the final leg of this journey.

This is a guide to inspire you to pray for the Pastoral Search Committee, the Pittsboro Baptist Church congregation, and our future pastor. The guide is for forty days. The number forty is mentioned 146 times in the Bible. Though there is no direct reference to the significance of the number, it is often associated with a period of testing. Jesus fasted for forty days prior to beginning His ministry and was tempted by Satan several times during that period. Satan will be particularly focused on Pittsboro Baptist Church during the next phase of the journey. It is crucial that the Committee, church, and pastor-to-be are covered in prayer.

We ask each of you to pray daily for the pastoral search. The guide is merely a prompt, a place to begin your prayers. We suggest that you pray with your family, including your children. Some may be apprehensive about who will be our next pastor. Be assured that God promises us that if we appeal to Him, surrendering to His will, that He will place the right person in the role in order "to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Ephesians 4:12)

Only the Lord knows when a new pastor will begin serving at Pittsboro Baptist Church. Until that time, please continue to pray. Below are some Bible verses to affirm the need for prayer.

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26*

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2*

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13*

*I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4*

*Take delight in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4*

*People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious He will be when you cry for help! As soon as He hears, He will answer you. Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:19-21*

\*This prayer guide was adapted from prayer guides from Lower Creek Baptist Church, Lenoir, NC; First Baptist Church, Starkville, MS; Delaney Baptist Church, Orlando, FL. Each church in turn referenced *Seeking God to Seek a Pastor* by Gregory Frizzell.

## 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

### *A Prayer Guide for Pittsboro Baptist Church's Pastor Search*

APRIL 5

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 Pittsboro Baptist Church.

**Scripture Reading:** *Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3*

APRIL 6

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee and church to hope in God and seek Him wholeheartedly with the realization that He is in control of the church's future.

**Scripture Reading:** *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:11-13

APRIL 7

Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing, revival and renewal; to be the church He has called us to be.

**Scripture Reading:** *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24*

APRIL 8

Pray for deep spiritual cleansing and fullness of the Holy Spirit in each Committee member. Pray this for each member by name: Ashley Batcheller, Judy Beaver, Matt Cashion, Scott Edwards, Charlie Hudgins.

**Scripture Reading:** *If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. Psalm 66:18 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5*

APRIL 9

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to trust the Holy Spirit's leadership.

**Scripture Reading:** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

APRIL 10

Pray for each member of the Pastor Search Committee to have an overwhelming sense of God's presence and guidance as they work through the steps of the pastor search process.

**Scripture Reading:** *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

APRIL 11

Pray for unity and peace in the church while searching for a pastor. Pray for a strong sense of unity among the Search Committee as they review and discuss potential pastoral candidates.

**Scripture Reading:** *Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8*

APRIL 12

Pray with the understanding that searching for a pastor is primarily a spiritual process, so spiritual warfare will be present. Pray for God's protection on the Search Committee and the church.

**Scripture Reading:** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:10-11*

APRIL 13

Pray the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor, to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the church, not man.

**Scripture Reading:** *You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13*

APRIL 14

Pray for the Committee to have wisdom and discernment as to the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our church in a pastor.

**Scripture Reading:** *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6*

APRIL 15

Pray for a season of fruitful ministry as the church prepares for our next pastor. Pray for the Search Committee to be blessed with answered prayers.

**Scripture Reading:** *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other." John 15:16-17*

APRIL 16

Pray that the church as a whole would trust the Pastor Search Committee through the process of finding a new pastor. Pray that the congregation would trust that the Pastor Search Committee is being led by the Spirit as they search for the man God is to bring to Pittsboro Baptist Church and there would be no division.

**Scripture Reading:** *The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, and their tongues speak what is just. The law of their God is in their heart their feet do not slip. Psalm 37:30-31*

April 17

Pray for the Committee to have no timetable but God's. They must be determined to find God's perfect will in God's perfect time.

**Scripture Reading:** *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:17*

APRIL 18

Pray for the Search Committee to make wise use of their time during their meetings. Pray for the Lord to reveal His will to our future pastor.

**Scripture Reading:** *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16*

APRIL 19

Pray for the Search Committee to seek God's wisdom as they review resumes, prepare to contact potential pastoral candidates, and conduct interviews. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.

**Scripture Reading:** *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. Philippians 1:9-10*

APRIL 20

Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the Committee.

**Scripture Reading:** *Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3*  
*"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19*

APRIL 21

Pray that we be prepared to make necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry with a new pastor. Pray that the Lord will help us grow with graciousness and unity so that we can be the church God has called us to be.

**Scripture Reading:** *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be*

patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

APRIL 22

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee and the church to be obedient to Christ's command to love one another. Pray the church's Christ-like love will be seen by the world.

**Scripture Reading:** "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

APRIL 23

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.

**Scripture Reading:** I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1: 3-11

APRIL 24

Pray for our church to be filled with life through the Holy Spirit. Pray for Pittsboro Baptist Church to be strengthened to carry out God's vision.

**Scripture Reading:** 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

APRIL 25

Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor. Spirit-led thoroughness is essential. These are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit.

**Scripture Reading:** The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

APRIL 26

Pray that God would increase our next pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and that he would boldly proclaim the truth.

**Scripture Reading:** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4: 1-5

APRIL 27

Pray for us to reflect the elements of a healthy church both in the interim period and when the new pastor is called to serve (worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, evangelism, and prayer).

**Scripture Reading:** *Those who accepted His message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:41-42*

APRIL 28

Pray for the prevention of Satan's influence in misleading or rushing the Search Committee (one of Satan's tactics is deception). Pray for a powerful hedge of protection around the Committee and their families.

**Scripture Reading:** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:10-12*

APRIL 29

Pray for the future pastor and his family to have absolute certainty in their sense of call to our church. He must know God's direction. Pray also for protection from the evil one and for our future pastor and his family.

**Scripture Reading:** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Ephesians 6:16*

APRIL 30

Pray the power of Christ would be known in and through the church and that all glory would be given to Him throughout the pastor search process.

**Scripture Reading:** *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21*

MAY 1

Pray for the Search Committee to remain humble before God and that they will not be anxious, but trust God's leadership. Pray that the church will stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**Scripture Reading:** *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8-9*

MAY 2

Pray for our next pastor's family. Of course, the new pastor may be married or single, may have children or not. God knows all of that. Pray that God, who knows who they are, would strengthen and guide the new pastor's family as they are led toward ministry at Pittsboro Baptist Church. Give them peace in knowing God's will.

**Scripture Reading:** *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:9-12*

MAY 3

Pray that all church members will set aside individual expectations for the new pastor and decide in unity who God is calling to lead Pittsboro Baptist Church to be the church God has called us to be.

**Scripture Reading:** *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4*

MAY 4

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.

**Scripture Reading:** *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:9-13*

MAY 5

Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their previous pastor. Others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God's doing a new thing in the congregation and accept His perfect will above our own desires.

**Scripture Reading:** *See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. Isaiah 42:9*

MAY 6

Pray for 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.

**Scripture Reading:** *But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may*

*rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

MAY 7

Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Pittsboro Baptist Church and the surrounding community. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church.

**Scripture Reading:** *He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals His thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name. Amos 4:13*

MAY 8

Pray for the Search Committee to not grow weary in their work. Pray that the Search Committee and the church will be able to see God's hand at work bringing us and our future pastor together.

**Scripture Reading:** *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9*

MAY 9

Pray that the new pastor would be able to work effectively with the other church staff and deacons that are already serving at Pittsboro Baptist Church.

**Scripture Reading:** *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore. Psalm 133*

MAY 10

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 moving to a new area. Pray that they will feel they have always been with us.

**Scripture Reading:** *Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"*  
Luke 12:22-26

MAY 11

Pray for our future pastor to faithfully shepherd the church and for members of the church to willingly and joyfully place themselves under his servant leadership.

**Scripture Reading:** *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*  
Hebrews 13:17

MAY 12

Pray that when the time comes to extend a call to our next pastor, God will make it unmistakably clear to the future pastor and church. Pray for the Lord to work powerfully in the church to make disciples.

**Scripture Reading:** *Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*  
Colossians 1:24-29

MAY 13

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.

**Scripture Reading:** *Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*  
Joshua 1:8-9

MAY 14

Above all, pray that God's will would be done through the entire process of finding a new pastor for PBC. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give everyone involved in the process wisdom and peace. Pray that God will show us whom He is calling to Pittsboro Baptist Church.

**Scripture Reading:** *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* Colossians 3:12