

Russell Baptist Association



Prayer Guide
January-December 2026

Introduction

As Southern Baptists, we are familiar with a common call to action in fulfilling The Great Commission: "Pray, Give, Go." The words are in that order for a reason.

Prayer is the key.

This prayer guide is meant to help us be intentional in our efforts to fulfill the instruction that we are given in **Colossians 4:2** to "*continue steadfastly in **prayer**, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*"

The pages in this guide are filled with prayer concerns specific to our community, Russell Baptist Association. These are people and places and needs that are close to home.

We invite you to use the suggestions listed here to guide you as you pray each day. As you pray for these needs, remember that you are called to be God's hands and feet. Ask Him to guide you in doing your part to share the good news of His love in our community.

Instructions

1. There are 31 Days of Prayer. **START DAY 1 ON THE FIRST DAY OF EACH MONTH** and continue praying through each day of each month for the entire year.
2. Pray regularly for our associational staff, our church pastors, church staff members, and their wives.
3. Pray regularly for AL State (www.alsbom.org), NAMB (www.namb.net), and IMB Missionaries (www.imb.org).

Pray For SPARC

Russell Baptist Association (RBA) is currently cooperating with The Alabama State Board of Missions (ALSBOM) in a new process called ***Strategic Planning for Associations in Rural Contexts*** (or **SPARC**.)

The goals of **SPARC** are to take a fresh look at all the ministries in which we cooperate, suggest improvements where needed, and to discover potential cooperative ministries to make us as effective as possible in carrying out *The Great Commission* here in Russell County and Smiths Station, Lee County.

Pray regularly for The SPARC Team that was selected to lead us into the future.

Day 1

Praying for our Baptist Association

- Our Association will engage in a process or strategic planning to consider ways our churches can work together to reach people more effectively for Christ and develop disciples.
- Pray for our Associational Missionary Marty Holley, Moderator Chris Webb, Vice Moderator Jonathan McLain, and Ministry Assistant Shari Holley.
- Ask God to guide the Strategic Planning Team as they study and bring recommendations to the member churches.
- Pray for the Lord to direct each church as we implement the plan.
- Pray for the churches which have not been actively involved in working with the Association.
- Pray that as a result of this process, we will all make more new disciples.

¹² But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, ¹³ and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

1Thessalonians 5:12-13 NASB

Day 2

Praying for Ministry Advance in Our Churches:

- A church thinks either strategically or selfishly. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of our congregations to make strategic, evangelistic choices.
- Ask the Lord to direct our steps in determining a path forward for effective ministry and outreach in our communities.
- Ask God to give us eyes to see the lost we are supposed to reach.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us where to join Him.

Day 3

Praying for Members of Law Enforcement:

- Ask God to protect them and keep them safe.
- Ask God to give them wisdom, strength, guidance, and quick judgment as they serve.
- Pray for officers who have been deeply affected from having seen things no one should have to see and ask for God's healing.
- Ask the Father to guide the Sheriff and Police Chief in directing officers.
- Pray for officers to be effective at identifying, locating, and capturing criminals who need to be taken off the street.
- Ask the Spirit to empower the Christian influence of believing officers as they relate with fellow officers who do not yet know the Lord.
- Pray for officers who do not yet know the Lord to come to Christ.

Day 4

Praying for the Holy Spirit to Work in the Hearts of the Lost:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will place Christian witnesses in their paths.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will cause people to understand the Gospel.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will make people feel the need of Jesus.
- Ask the Father to attract people to Jesus.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to enable people to respond to Jesus, empowering saving faith and repentance.

Day 5

Praying for Marriages in Our Community:

- Ask the Father to protect and nurture those in marriages which are strong and happy.
- Ask God to intervene in marriages that are in a crisis and in peril.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in that spouse who is holding out, to be willing to make the corrections needed to repair the relationship.
- Pray for salvation of the lost spouse, whose salvation would fix everything.
- Pray that the Lord will remind couples why they married each other in the first place.
- Pray that God will grant repentance to people who have poisoned their marriage with ungodly lives and values.

Day 6

Praying for Christian Students at the Middle and High Schools:

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead Christian students to network together to reach their lost classmates and friends.
- Ask the Lord to send them encouragement from Christian members of the faculty.
- Pray for them to learn skills in evangelism and prayer that will help them serve the Lord as adults.
- Pray for a spiritual movement of God in the Middle and High Schools that will impact the community.

Day 7

Praying for Our Local Fire Department:

- Ask God to see that each department has the equipment it needs to do its job and save lives. Ask God to protect them and keep them safe.
- Ask God to give them wisdom and quick judgement.
- Pray for firefighters who have been affected by having seen things no one should have to see. Pray for God's healing.
- Ask the Spirit to empower the Christian influence of believers as they relate with fellow firefighters who do not know the Lord.
- Pray for firefighters who do not know the Lord to be saved.

Day 8

Praying for Those Working to Dig Out of Poverty:

- Pray for the talented student in school who swims upstream (against the pressure of his family and peers and society) to study hard and to succeed.
- Pray for the parents who are trying to train their children to live a better, more responsible life.
- Pray for those with dreams, but not the skills, to get connected with those who can help them develop the skills they need.
- Ask God to show them a clear path forward.
- Pray for those who succeed not to learn the wrong lesson from that experience - of self-reliance - but rather of dependence upon the Lord.
- Pray that they may find Godly mentors.

¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

1Thessalonians 5:14-15 NASB

Day 9

Praying for Senior Adults in Our Community:

- Pray for the widowed. Pray for their comfort.
- Pray for those who are homebound with no family to check on them or whose families neglect them.
- Ask the Father to sustain those who are his people, but lonely.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt Christian neighbors when they need to minister and show them how to do so.
- Pray that Christian retirees, who still have their health, will make these years count for Christ.
- Pray for those who are lost, with little time left, to be saved.

Day 10

Praying for Church Members in Our Community:

- Pray that God will work in each believer to be faithful in supporting their churches in attendance, giving, and spiritually.
- Ask God to give each Christian the desire to get into the Word.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in those who merely attend church - that He will prompt them to become involved in the mission of the church.
- Pray for more church members to become Christian witnesses.
- Ask the Lord to put fresh fire into the hearts of believers so that, as they go to church, they bring the fire into the room with them.

Day 11

Pray for the County Commission

- Pray for God to raise up wise and Godly people to run for office and to win the seats where that is not the case.
- Pray for the commissioners to work well together.
- Pray that God will guide the Commissioners in getting the most efficient services with limited funding and resources.
- Ask God to protect elected officials and county employees from temptation, including in areas of corruption. Pray that the Lord will show them how to make our county attractive to the right businesses and to new residents.
- Ask God to guide them to creative solutions as needed.

Day 12

Praying for Christian Benevolence Ministries in Our Area:

- Ask God to bless the work of those involved in community food banks and clothes closets in the community.
- Ask the Lord to guide the leaders and volunteers in knowing how to help people, but without enabling them to continue in a life of dependency.
- Pray for the clients of these organizations, that God will awaken in them a desire for a more responsible lifestyle, when needed. Some people have merely hit a rare rough patch. They work hard, but circumstances hit them suddenly and hard.
- Ask God to help them to know it's OK to accept this assistance.
- Ask God to provide the resources to help everyone who truly need it.
- Pray for the workers to be empowered as loving witnesses for Christ.

Day 13

Praying for Single Mothers:

- Pray for single mothers who feel like they are drowning as they work and take care of their children.
- Ask the Father to give them wisdom. If there is an estranged husband whose repentance could improve the situation, pray that the Lord will work powerfully in him. Otherwise, ask the Lord would send Godly men as a good influence in the lives of her children. Some will be tempted to settle for any man who can take some of that pressure off her. Ask God to protect

her from the temptation to “settle.”

- Pray she will not feel so overwhelmed that she will seek first the Kingdom.
- Pray that the Lord would provide for the needs of her family.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would guide her in planning finances and meals and getting each child where that child needs to be.

Day 14

Praying for Spiritual Growth of Christians in Our Community:

- Pray that each believer will have a strong devotional life with Bible Study and prayer that “fills their tank.” Pray that those who do not have good devotional life will be prompted to get started in Bible study and prayer.
- Pray that more and more believers in our community will be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that believers will discover their spiritual gifts and will use them to help strengthen their churches.
- Ask God to open doors for believers to witness and prompt them when the opportunities come.

Day 15

Praying for the City Government:

- Pray for our mayors and for the council members by name. Ask God to guide them in working together.
- Pray for the employees at City Hall, in utility services, etc.
- Ask God to guide them in doing all they can do with the available resources.
- Pray that God will send the city honest and conscientious employees as hiring needs arise.
- Ask God to create such a good spirit in our town that it will make it an even better place to live.

Day 16

Praying for Local Christian Business Owners:

- Pray for hard-working, small business owners, trying to provide a service for their community and to make a better life for their children.
- Ask the Father to guide them in making sound business decisions.

- Ask the Father to send them reliable and honest employees.
- Pray that their every honest venture will be blessed with fair profit.
- Pray for Christian business owners to use their influence for Christ.

Day 17

Praying for Children with No Christian influence at Home:

- These are children for whom Sunday is just another day to play. They know few Bible stories. They do not know the gospel. Many are “raising themselves.”
- What you grow up with is what you think is normal. Praying that the Lord will work in their lives in such a way that they will grow up knowing that the secular home they came from is abnormal.
- Ask God to place Christian friends in their lives to be a positive influence.
- Pray that the Spirit will prompt their classmates to invite them to attend Christian events such as church like Vacation Bible School, Wednesday night Youth Bible Study, etc.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in these children’s hearts, creating a

¹⁶ Rejoice always; ¹⁷ pray without ceasing; ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NASB

desire to know Him and to walk with Him.

Day 18

Pray for the US Military

- Pray for the safety for each military man and woman serving our country.
- Pray for their training to include God and His truth to cover them in combat as well as at home. Pray that they will remember their training while in combat.
- Pray for peace to reign in their minds, after serving in war raged combat.
- Pray for their families as they move from post to post to find Godly friends

to support them.

- Pray for God to go before them and behind them in physical battle, as well as spiritual battle.
- Ask the Spirit to empower the Christian influence of believing service members as they relate with fellow service members who do not know the Lord.
- Pray for service members who do not know the Lord to come to Christ.

Day 19

Praying for Those Who Work in EMS:

- This is stressful work. Pray that God will prompt them to rest in Him.
- Sometimes, they must evaluate a situation and think extremely fast; ask God to guide them and enable them to quickly remember their training.
- Pray for those who are deeply affected by having seen things no one should have to see.
- Ask God to keep them safe when they are responding to accidents on the road.
- Ask God to give them the right words to show comfort or speaking with someone who is afraid or dying.
- Ask God to save those EMS workers who need Christ.

Day 20

Praying for the Local Hospital:

- Local hospitals are a significant factor in the economy of their towns and as an employer – in addition to taking care of their patients' health needs. However, many struggles are due to changes in government policy.
- County hospitals face many challenges. Pray for the hospitals to find ways to thrive with the limited resources they have.
- Ask God to enable local hospitals in recruiting the doctors they need to serve the community. Sometimes, these are hard to find for small towns.
- Pray for the Christians who serve as doctors, nurses, administrators, staff, and board members to be empowered in a special way to think creatively and to overcome challenges. Ask God to anoint their efforts.
- Ask God to bless our local hospital and to make it a blessing.

Day 21

Praying for Hurting Children:

- Pray for those children who are being neglected due to their parents being addicted to drugs or alcohol.
- Pray for children who do not get enough to eat at home.
- Pray for children who are being abused – violently, sexually, or verbally.
- Ask the Father to send Christians into the paths of these children who will show them godly love and concern.
- Pray that the Spirit will prompt Christian neighbors and schoolteachers when they need to say or do something.
- Ask the Father to send law enforcement to intervene when needed.
- Ask the Father to give these children a clear picture of Himself and of the gospel – despite everything that has happened to them – so they will come to Christ.

Day 22

Praying for Sister Churches in our Association:

- Ask God to guide each Southern Baptist Church in Kingdom ministry.
- Pray for the churches that are in communities with declining populations. Ask God to direct their steps.
- Evangelism is more challenging than it used to be. Ask God to guide each church in forming a clear strategy to reach people in their communities who do not know the Lord.
- There are some strong, vibrant churches that could be a great blessing to sister churches or a partner in a specific work. Ask the Lord to show them how and to make them generous.
- Some congregations need assistance. Ask God to impart the humility to accept input from the Association or help from a sister church.

Day 23

Praying for Youth League Sports in Our Community:

- Baseball, softball, soccer, travel ball, etc. For some, this becomes a replacement for the fellowship of their church.

- Pray for the coaches who have so much influence on the lives of the players. Ask God to make them the right kind of influence.
- Pray that Christian parents will show the kind of commitment to Christ that sets a good tone in the group and sets a good example.
- Pray for players who are Christians, that they will influence their teammates toward Christ.
- Pray for the boards of each sport, that in scheduling practice and game times they will show respect for the church and for that which is sacred.
- Pray for safety for the players.

Day 24

Praying for those in our Community Who Hinder the Gospel and Hurt the Spiritual Climate:

Ask God to work in the hearts and minds of those who are:

- Involved in the occult.
- In homes without fathers.
- Trapped in substance abuse.
- In sexual addiction of some form.
- In whom abuse their children in some way.
- With explosive anger issues.
- Who are hard-hearted rebels against God.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit; ²⁰ do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹ But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 NASB

- Ask God to deliver them by the power of the blood of Jesus.

Day 25

Praying for Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren:

- Grandparents may have to rear their grandchildren for various reasons. Perhaps, their children are incapable of parenting due to an addiction. Sometimes, the grandparents are helping a working single mother.

- Pray for these grandparents to have the physical energy needed for this.
- Ask God to guide them as issues arise with their grandchildren.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in their adult children engaged in irresponsible lifestyles – that He would cause them to step up and do the right thing.
- Ask God to provide for their needs, considering the extra expenses this incurs.
- Some of these grandparents are not believers. Pray for their salvation.
- Ask God to work in their minds to show them how Christ and his church can make a difference.

Day 26

Praying for People Who Think of Themselves as Christians or as Spiritual, Though Without a Vital Connection to Christ:

- Pray for people in our community who would tell you they are very spiritual, they just do not believe in organized religion. Ask the Holy Spirit to meet them in their thoughts and reason with them.
- Pray for people who have attended church and professed faith in Jesus Christ, but they are not in church, and they do not read their Bibles. Ask the Lord to wake up those who are “professors without being possessors.”
- Ask God to work in such people, awakening a desire within them to see what the Bible really says, instead of hiding behind religious-sounding excuses.
- Ask God to cause them to understand that the church is the body of Christ and you cannot experience the best of one without the other.

Day 27

Praying for School Teachers and Administrators in Our Community:

- Ask God to lead each teacher to rely on Him to empower them in being the best teacher they can be.
- There are students who suffer at home; ask God to prompt the teachers to notice it and to know the appropriate response.
- Ask God to lead the believing teachers in being a witness to teachers and students who do not know the Lord.
- Pray that teachers to be enabled to build up students who are “beat-down”

and how to give them dreams for a better future.

- Ask God to guide the teachers in knowing how to help each individual special needs student.
- Pray that teachers will exercise balance of tough love and tender love.
- Pray for the teachers to have renewed strength each day to continue their responsibilities as teachers.

Day 28

Praying for Our Local High School and College:

- For a large percentage of the town's population, the high school sets the tone and the calendar.
- Pray for the superintendent and school board to keep the "weird stuff" out of our high school.
- Pray for them as, each year, they hire new teachers.
- Pray that the superintendent and school board will hire the right people as coaches and leaders of extra-curricular activities such as choirs.
- Pray for the Christian members of the faculty to set the predominate tone and to have the greatest influence.
- Pray that many students, during these young years, will be open to the gospel and will come to Christ.

Day 29

Praying for Families with a Family Member Who Has a Severe Physical or Learning Disability:

- When a family has a member, whose needs drains the efforts of all to take care of them, ask God to send inward renewal.
- Sometimes, this person may be an adult, and their parents are concerned about how things will work out after they are gone. Ask God to help them form a good plan and then, not to worry.
- Ask the Father to direct each family to the right available resources.
- Pray that churches will have the resources to help them – and they will find that church which is best for them.
- Pray that instead of this keeping them from Christ, this circumstance will draw them to Christ.

Day 30

Praying for the Kingdom to Advance in Our Community:

- Ask God to bring more people – in this community –into his kingdom. “Thy kingdom comes.”
- Ask God to promote a spirit within his people in the community that says: “Thy will be done.”
- Pray for those who fear what God would do if He were in control: Ask God to show them how their lives would be better with Him in control.
- Pray for those who love their sins and prefer their way to God’s way. Ask God to show them how His way is better. Ask the God to show them how His way is better.
- Pray for those who live self-determined lives—determined to oversee their own lives (even if in a moral and respectable way). Ask God to show them that He is the Creator, and they are a creature, and they have a duty to their Creator.

Day 31

Praying for Large Extended Families in the Community:

- Some large extended families are like an unreached people group. The culture is very secular. They may be a close family, ask God to be working ahead, preparing hearts to hear the gospel.
- Ask God to show off His great power by bringing people to Christ from this resistant group.
- Pray that the gospel will begin to spread through this family, and from them to others.

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. ²⁵ Brethren, pray for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 NASB
