

2020-2021

# Cover the Campus Prayer Guide

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Student Edition





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First eBook edition August 2020.

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# Dear CSU Student,

Do you know how loved you are? Do you realize that on any given moment someone at Charleston Southern University is thinking of you? A professor who is grading your paper is marveling how far you have come this semester. A security officer who gave you a lift to class because you have an injured knee is wondering how you are doing. A Senior Officer who has a major decision to make is considering your best interest. You are truly loved at Charleston Southern University.

Our lives are so busy! We truly show one another love when we stop our “busy-ness” and pray to God for each other. This year, we are showing you our love by praying for you in a way unlike we have before. This year, we are stopping our “busy-ness” each week to pray for you in a concerted way. We will lift your needs to God and ask God to be with you. Professors, receptionists, librarians, deans, parents, grandparents, coaches, administration...we are all covering you with prayer.

This prayer guide is designed for you. The topic each week is the same topic that coaches, staff, faculty, and parents have as well. We invite you to spend time with God praying for yourself and your fellow students. By stopping your “busy-ness” for a quiet time with God, you will build your relationship with Him. As you pray for your fellow students, you will build your relationship with other students on campus. When we pray for others, we cannot help but change our relationship with others for the better.

*We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

**-Colossians 1:9-10 (ESV)**

You matter to God. Our prayer every week will be that you walk closer to Him, living and being in a way that brings you to the life He is calling you to. Every week. Unfailingly. We will **Cover the Campus** with prayer.

In God's Love,  
CSU Faculty, Staff, Coaches, and Parents



# August 2020

## Week 1 - Starting Strong: **Dr. Dondi Costin**

*But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*  
- Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

**W**elcome to your first day of a new year at Charleston Southern University. It's hard to believe isn't it? But the day you thought would never come is finally here. As you wrap yourself in Buccaneer blue and gold today, welcome to the starting line. Get ready for the race of your life!

It's no accident that you're here. The Bible tells us that God knew everything about you long before you were born. The God who loves you with an everlasting love and numbered the hairs on your head knows what you're feeling today. The knot in your stomach from leaving home and starting something new is no surprise to Him. That lump in your throat as your loved ones leave campus is all part of His plan. The excitement you feel is evidence that something amazing is about to happen as you take this next step in becoming who God wants you to be.

Before you know it, four years from now (or three, or two... or one) you'll cross the finish line. But today is all about the starting line. Run hard all the way to the end. If you trust Him, God will you get from here to there.

Welcome to the starting line, Buccaneer. The best is yet to come.

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## Week 2 - New Environment: **Dr. Peter Beck**

**Y**ears ago, Sea Life Park Hawaii announced the birth of a wholphin. "Wholphin?" you ask. Yes, a wholphin. A wholphin is part whale, part dolphin. For many of us, that's how the beginning of this semester feels. Part this. Part that. Exciting and frightening. Opportunities and challenges.

If we've learned nothing else this past year, it's that you can't control your circumstances, only your response to them. You can let the past get you down or you can seize the day of tomorrow. You can worry about what might happen or you can relish what is happening. It's all in your state of mind.

The biblical character Joshua must have felt a lot like us when Moses died and left him in charge. But, God had a word of encouragement for him and for us.

"Be strong and of good courage," God told him, and the people would inherit the land of promise (Joshua 1:6). "Be strong and very courageous," He told him, reminding Joshua that if he would be true to God's word, he would surely prosper (Joshua 1:7). "Be strong and of good courage," He encouraged him, because "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Let's walk in bold faith with Joshua into the future knowing God will be with us wherever this semester takes us.

# August 2020

## Week 3 - Physical Safety: **Dr. Robin Franklin**

**F**ather God, I pray for Your protection over my physical safety. May I find refuge and safety from any physical harm. Protect me like a shield and surround me during this challenging season with good health. Protect me from any fear and anxiety and replace it with hope in Your love and mercy. I place myself and each student at CSU under Your watchful care as You cover this campus with grace and peace. “My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” Psalms 62:1-2 (NIV)

## Week 4 - Homesick: **Rev. Johnathan Davis**

*So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*

**-Matthew 28:8 (NIV)**

**W**hen I was in seventh grade, my youth group was leaving for a summer youth retreat. Everyone boarded the bus, except me. I stood in front of the bus with the doors open and froze—suitcase in hand. Here was my opportunity; either I could board or choose to stay.

What happened? I stood there (which probably seemed like forever) frozen, paralyzed by fear. I turned around and walked back to my mom carrying my suitcase. When asked why I did not go I said, “I don’t want to go.” Inside, I was “afraid” of leaving home—homesick. To make matters more interesting, my twin sister boarded the bus with “joy.” She did not hesitate about leaving home. She was not “afraid.”

Why was I “afraid” and paralyzed by fear? Fear controlled my heart. All I could think was I did not want to leave home. What if everyone left me? What if I went on the trip and did not like it? How would I get home? (There were no cell phones during that time.) Fear ruled me. Fear hindered me. Fear stopped me.

Fast-forward to another youth trip. This time it was the summer after High School graduation. My youth group traveled to Virginia Beach. Had I missed this trip I would have missed JESUS. It was there the Holy Spirit awakened my dead heart to see JESUS as LORD. I repented of my sins and trusted JESUS as my SAVIOR. I was saved. Talk about a trip I am glad I did not miss! Wow!

What changed? Fear still ruled me, but it forced me to make another decision: I did not want to miss out. I did not want to be without my friends. I did not want to be home while those close to me were doing something I should be doing. Fast-forward to today. Because of JESUS I am not controlled by fear, but love. The HOLY SPIRIT reminds me constantly that JESUS is in control and everything will be okay. Yes, there are some days I am “afraid,” but because of JESUS I can be “afraid yet filled with joy.”

At this moment you might have moved away from a home that is five miles away or five hundred miles from CSU. Perhaps you are leaving home each day to come to campus. The point, it is okay to be “afraid.” Just let JESUS meet it with “joy.” JESUS has tomorrow under control. You are not and never will be alone (Hebrews 13:5). It might be a new normal, but it is not new to GOD. You are right where you need to be following JESUS “in his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). JESUS has it. You will make it. Take a moment and thank JESUS that HE is in control. Pray that HE will give you “joy” through the HOLY SPIRIT when you are “afraid.” JESUS will not let you down. HE is “faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13).

# September 2020

## Week 1 - Joy: **Dr. Jacquelynn Pleis**

*I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*

**-Philippians 4:11 (NIV)**

**A**nyone can find joy in times of ease. When our world is calm and trouble appears at bay, joy is not far behind. But that was not Paul's situation. You see, when Paul wrote this letter to the Philippians, he was in jail. And yet, he "learned the secret of being content in every situation" (Philippians 4:11) through his faith in Jesus.

Where will you look for joy when your situation is not calm? Will you notice the beautiful image of Lightsey Chapel on the Reflecting Pond? Will you become aware of the dragonflies dancing in the sun? Will you see your friend's smile and recognize the encouragement in their eyes? Unexpected joy can be found all around us, if we look for it. God has created for us the beauty of nature and fashioned us with our senses to smell, taste, touch, see, and hear the joy nature can bring us. God has provided us relationships with our families and friends to laugh, share, and experience joy, no matter our circumstances.

Lord, as I go through the week, help me to become aware of times to experience unexpected joy. When I get caught up in the rough and tumble of life, help me remember Paul's wisdom, that the secret of being content comes, not from this world, but from my faith in you.

Amen.

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## Week 2 - Safety: **Rev. Jonathan Davis**

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?*

**-Psalm 56:3-4 (NIV)**

**W**ith Covid-19 recommendations constantly changing, concerns can arise as we move back into a new normal. What do I do when I don't feel safe? When pondering this thought, the Holy Spirit placed Psalm 56:3-4 in my spirit. Take a moment and read the scripture again. When doing so, some key words jump out: "afraid," "trust," "praise." I believe these three words speak powerfully to what someone might feel or be going through at the moment.

First, let us look at the word "afraid." In Hebrew, this word carries the idea of being made "afraid." In other words, something or someone made us fearful. One thing I know about fear is that it can motivate (though I am not saying it is justified or it is the best motivator, but we feel it regardless). What I noticed about the verses above is that when the psalmist was "afraid" it moved him to "trust in" "God." So, what does that look like? The next paragraph will hopefully give us some ways to respond.

Second, let us look at the word "trust." Here the concept means "secure" and "make to hope" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance). King David realized when he wrote this psalm, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that "trust" is not just a concept but an act. King David experienced that when he "trust[ed] in" "God" he felt "hope" and secure. His relationship with "God" was the key to answering his fear. So, what can we do when we are "afraid?" Here is what I know works: Take some of the promises in scripture



# September 2020

about Jesus' victory over fear and begin to pray them, quote them, and write them on notecards. Place these promises all around you in your room, notebooks, computer and phone screen, etc. Also, another thing my family and I do is pray Psalm 91. I pray the whole chapter out loud. The confidence the Holy Spirit gives me by His presence and His promises build "trust" in my heart and calms my fears.

Lastly, let us engage "God" with "praise." Here is a fail proof plan; if you want to shift the atmosphere around you and inside you, then start praising Jesus. Play Christian music on your phone. Put those air pods in your ears or put your headset on and play worship music that moves your heart to worship Jesus. I give you my word, "praise" always reminds us that "God" is in charge. He is the hero of story! "God" is the one who will never be defeated—never! Worship through "praise" lifts "God" so high fear has to flee. I pray the Holy Spirit will replace the fear of this world with the "fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 2:5). "[P]raise" puts everything in the right perspective; "God" is victorious and fear is not. "May the LORD bless you" mightily as you seek to live and serve Him!

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## Week 3 - Patience: **Dr. Jackie Fish**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*- Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

**Waiting is hard, whether you are in traffic, in line on fried chicken Wednesday, or looking for your grades to be posted** – waiting is usually an irritating inconvenience. As humans, we are not inclined to be patient. In this high-tech world, we want instant gratification. Amazon has taught us that packages can be delivered in a single day, we can order our food cooked and delivered hot to our door, and we can even listen to a summary of a book instead of relaxing and reading the story. Slow down, breathe, and enjoy where you are. God has brought you to CSU for a reason. When you take time to decompress, it is easier to become a more patient person and you begin to trust more in God. When we learn to rely on God's timing, we begin to understand why our plans are not God's plans. When we take time to talk with God, we gain understanding of the need to be patient with others and experiencing the peace that passes all understanding.

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## Week 4 - Big Decisions: **Dr. Edward Gravely**

**This is the time of year when you are probably facing big decisions**—decisions related to work, your degree, relationships, and money. God has given you a mind with which to make these decisions, and he has given you friends, family, a church, and your professors to give you guidance along the way. When you are faced with big decisions, it is more important than ever to seek God in his Word. As you do that today, pray the words of Psalm 119:9-16.

"Father, as I make these big decisions, help me keep my way pure. Guard my heart according to your Word. With my whole heart I seek Jesus. Keep me from wandering from your commandments! Help me to store up your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Lord, show me the direction you want me to go! Help me to delight in your Word as much as I delight in riches and to declare it. As I make big decisions in my life, help me to meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. Regardless of what I decide, help me to never forget your word."

# October 2020

## Week 1 - Focus: **Dr. Peter Link**

*And Abraham arose in the morning. Then, he girded his donkeys, took two of his lads with him and Isaac his son, and cleaved the wood of the burnt offering. Then, he arose, and he went to the place of which God had spoken.*  
- Genesis 22:3 (KJV)

**G**od tested Abraham's heart in Genesis 22. He commanded him to put the son whom he loved to death as a burnt offering on a mountain: agony, pain, and heartbreak. Yet, we read not one emotion from him. Instead, the author draws our eyes to Abraham's obedient actions.

Despite his fear, in Genesis 22:5 we learn that Abraham understood that God's good presence would allow his son to return from the mountain. He trusted that God would be good in life and death and could bring Isaac back to life (Hebrews 11:17-19). We also see this trust grounded in a fear of God that allowed him to keep focused even in the face of death.

My students, I pray that God will grant you focus on His call that brought you to CSU to study as part of His mission. May you discover His good hand as He helps you walk through midterms step by step so that you may delight in His good presence.

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## Week 2 - Time Management: **Dr. Jonathan Denton**

**Y**ou are nearing the mid-point of the semester. Just when you are getting used to the rhythm of a college week, multiple assignments begin to be due. Your calendar gives you a reminder that you have two tests tomorrow. And your week can become overwhelming. Paul in Galatians gives you an important reminder to pray this week:

*Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.*  
-Galatians 6:9 (CSB)

Father, thank you for giving me this opportunity to attend CSU. Papers, assignments, tests are beginning to be due. Please help me to complete the tasks that are due today. Help me to stay focused, to have the strength and energy I need to finish the task, and to ease any stress and anxiety that I may have of future assignments. Help me to do the assignment well and to do it as unto you. Thank you for giving me the wisdom to know what to do today and for helping me complete it. Though I may not see the harvest immediately, I know that you are using this time to grow me.



# October 2020

## Week 3 - Worry: **Dr. Michael Bryant**

**W**hat are you worried about? A major test or project? Passing a challenging class? Getting that guy or girl to notice you? Finding enough money to pay for the semester? In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus addresses people who are extremely worried about life. To help them, he shares several cures for their anxiety. One cure is to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness (Matt 6:33). Seeking first God's kingdom involves making one's first priority expanding His influence in the lives of others for their spiritual flourishing. Pursuing first His righteousness means to follow His standards as found in the Bible.

A second cure mentioned by Jesus is to recognize God's role as our Father (Matt 6:26, 32). Recognizing His role as our Father involves reflecting on the fact that He understands, values and loves us far more than anything else in His creation.

What are you most worried about? Have you taken it to the Lord in prayer? Are you putting your worry in perspective by making His kingdom and righteousness your greatest priority? Are you viewing Him as your loving, all-wise Father? Read Matthew 6:25-34 carefully. Jesus' words will help you focus on your Father and the greater purposes of His kingdom.

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## Week 4 - Discernment: **Professor Julie Henderson**

**T**his week, we will pray scripture-based prayers for God's provision for discernment on big decisions (such as majors and relationships).

Dear Heavenly Father,

I ask that you lead me in the right path, O Lord, ... please make Your way plain for me to follow. (Psalm 5:8 NLT)

Please help me to trust in You, Lord, with all my heart. Help me to not depend on my own understanding. Help me to seek Your will in all I do. Please show me which path to take. Lord help me to not think too highly of my own wisdom. Instead, lead me to fear You, Lord, and turn away from evil which will bring health for my body and strength for my bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8 NLT)

Lord, please help me to not act thoughtlessly, help me to understand what You want me to do. (Ephesians 5:17 NLT)

Please lead me to commit my actions to You. Please guide me in establishing my plans. (Proverbs 16:3 NLT)

# November 2020

## Week 1 - Perseverance: **Dr. Jonathan Watson**

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

- John 16:33 (ESV)

**D**ifficulties are inevitable. Jesus said so. Even if you hadn't read the verse above, you've lived long enough to know that life is filled with difficulties and challenges. Since Adam and Eve were exiled from the Garden of Eden, life and its attendant work has been difficult. We only eat bread "by the sweat of our face" and difficult labor (Gen 3:19). All of this is a result of our sin. This is not how things should be, but it is how things are.

The good news for followers of Jesus is that we have been given the Holy Spirit to empower us to persevere and to give us peace in the midst of difficulties. In fact, much of the "these things" that Jesus had said to his disciples in this farewell address (John 14-16) pertained to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete (lit. Helper or one who comes along side) that Jesus and the Father would send (John 15:26). As you seek to persevere through the tough assignments and life circumstances that may arise, remember that (as a believer in Jesus Christ) your Lord has not left you alone. He has sent his Holy Spirit to strengthen, guide, and refine you. These difficulties are inevitable, but by the grace of God through his Holy Spirit, you can and will overcome them and even grow through them. This week depend on the Father through the Son and by the Spirit and persevere to the end by the grace and strength that only the Triune God can supply!

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## Week 2 - Christian Walk: **Dr. Ryan Gimple**

*How I love your instruction! It is my meditation all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are always with me. I have more insight than all my teachers because your decrees are my meditation. I understand more than the elders because I obey your precepts.*

- Psalm 119:97-100 (CSB)

**H**ow can you stand firm through the storms that life throws at you? Whether enemies, teachers, or authorities in your life, how are you going to face them? The Bible is the instruction God has given you to overcome enemies, rise beyond your teachers, and grow in understanding even over those with more experience than you. The Bible is the most valuable of all your textbooks, and it is a better guide than any of your professors. Psalm 119:97-100 gives you three action points regarding the Bible. 1) Love it! Cultivate a desire to read and understand God's word. 2) Meditate on it! Meditation means thinking patiently and persistently about a text of Scripture. It's not mystical. Just focus your thoughts on the words of God. 3) Obey it! God's instructions are meant to be lived out. Delight, meditate, obey! Like a house built on a firm foundation you will stand firm through the coming storms.

Lord, help me to learn to love the Bible, to persist in meditating on it, and to courageously obey it.

# November 2020

## Week 3 - Finishing Well: **Dr. Edward Gravely**

*The farmer waits patiently for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near*  
- James 5:7-8 (NASB)

**M**argret Thatcher once insisted, “I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end.” I chuckle when I hear her words. But then I remember that I often don’t get my way... and when I do, my way sometimes goes sideways. God offers something better.

James encourages us to be patient like a farmer, doing what we should, waiting for God to bring the harvest. A farmer’s patience is active, not passive. Farmers work the soil and wait for the rains with the end in view. The harvest James spoke of is the return of Christ, when the wheat will be gathered and the weeds burned. Being patient means trusting that what God will bring in the end is far better than what I can seize right now with my own strength.

Father, may Your Spirit produce in us the kind of godly patience that we cannot find in ourselves. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

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## Week 4 - Loneliness: **Dr. Edward Gravely**

**T**he holidays can be a joyous time of family, friends, and relaxation. They can also be a time of loneliness and disappointment. This is the time of year when some students begin to experience holiday anxiety and others begin to experience painful homesickness. As you work hard to finish the semester well while anticipating the holidays, remember that though you might feel lonely or anxious, you are not alone. Take a moment to read Ephesians 3:14-23 and pray this prayer along with the Apostle Paul.

“God grant me to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in my inner being, so that Christ may dwell in my heart through faith—that I would be rooted and grounded in love and may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that I may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

# December 2020

## Week 1 - Rejuvenation: **Dr. Jennifer Zakrzewski**

*Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Then come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis. Simply join your life with mine. Learn my ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in me. For all that I require of you will be pleasant and easy to bear.*

**Matthew 11: 28-30 (TPT)**

**T**ake a moment to close your eyes and envision your own personal oasis. Maybe it is a beach, maybe it is a mountain, maybe it is being home with your family. Your semester has been long, but the holiday is here. It is time to rest. However, as you rest in your oasis, remember to include the Lord. He wants to be there for you and listen to every minute detail of your day. He wants to carry your load on the tough days by sharing your yoke and celebrate with you on the fantastic days as you develop into the amazing creature of His design. So, as you prepare for rest and envisioning the Spring remember to bring God with you. He is your cheerleader and your confidant. Let's pray.

Lord,

Thank you for helping me through this semester. You have guided me and supported me through every moment of every day. Thank you for being with me as I now rest and recover. Allow me to be present during this time of rest and truly enjoy each moment. Bring me peace and joy as I prepare for the upcoming semester and help me remember to come to You to share my burdens and joys. Thank you for being my light in the darkness and always being in my corner.

In Jesus' Name

Amen.

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## Week 2 - Celebration: **Professor Julie Henderson**

**T**hen the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." (Luke 2:9-12, NKJV)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:8-14 NKJV)

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)

Dear God,

Thank you for coming for me! You are Wonderful! You are my Counselor. You are Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. I celebrate You with the angels! Glory to God in the highest!

Amen.

## How Do I Become a Christian?

**T**he story of the Bible is simple: We were created “in the image of God” and made for a relationship with HIM! That relationship was ruined by sin, that is, any action, deed, thought that goes against GOD. The effects of sin are felt with “shame,” confusion, emptiness, etc. The world around us demonstrates the effects of sin. But the good news is that GOD, by his “love,” has provided a way for us to forever be in a relationship with Him through Jesus.

How do I become a Christian? God’s Word gives us two responses to JESUS’ sacrifice for our sins—trust and repentance.

If you want to be saved and experience eternal forgiveness of sins, have the righteousness of JESUS given to you, and live daily in a relationship with GOD through JESUS, then you must “believe” that you have sinned against a perfect and holy God. Through prayer, “confess” that you are a sinner and ask for forgiveness of your sins. Scripture teaches us to “Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9, ESV). Call out to God now and place your trust in Him!

Second, repent of your sins. This means a 180 degree turnaround. Instead of living life your own way now you live it God’s way. Start by reading a chapter in 1 John each day and praying. Next, join a Bible study with believers who are excited about Jesus so you can be discipled. Third, join a church that believes in the infallible, inerrant word of God and that Jesus is the only way to be saved. Lastly, contact us as soon as possible so we can give you more information and celebrate with you on the best decision of your life (jdavis@csuniv.edu or 843.863.7218).

If you just experienced salvation through Jesus the Christ, you made the greatest response to the greatest news you could ever make! We, like all of heaven, are rejoicing with you! Remember, your walk with JESUS is a journey. Jesus calls us, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19) We cannot wait to rejoice with you. We look forward to hearing from you. Your “new” life will never be the same!

# January 2021

## Week 1 - New Semester: **Dr. Jonathan Denton**

**W**elcome back to campus! We are so glad to have you back! We hope that you have had a great time with your family celebrating the birth of Christ and just being together. This week, you will be praying that God will help you adjust back to campus life. Though many elements will be the same, there will also be new elements to your semester: new classes, new classmates, new assignments, etc. Today, spend some time praying that God will help you to adjust to your new environment.

Dear Father, thank you for the opportunity to be back at CSU. Thank you for last semester and the ways that you grew me. Thank you for the time to be with family and friends to celebrate the birth of your Son. Thank you for the time to be refreshed and prepared to start this next semester. Please help me to adjust well into the new semester. Help me to do well in my new classes. Please bring new classmates that will encourage me and help me to grow. And please give me opportunities to be salt and light into my new classes, activities, jobs, teams, etc. Thank you for your faithfulness last semester and I am trusting in your faithfulness again.

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## Week 2 - Strength: **Professor Julie Henderson**

**T**his week, we will pray scripture-based prayers as a new college student or as a new year begins.

Dear Heavenly Father,

As I begin this new adventure, I ask that You help me to remember that You, the all-powerful, all-knowing God of the universe are my helper. (Psalm 54:4 NKJV)

I pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will empower me with inner strength through Your Spirit. I pray that, Christ, You will make Your home in my heart as I trust in You. I pray that my roots will grow down into Your love and keep me strong. Please help me to have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love is for me. Allow me to experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Please make me complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3:16-19 NLT)

I praise You, Lord; I praise You, God our Savior! I thank you that each day as I learn and orchestrate my work that You will carry me in Your arms. (Psalm 68:19 NLT)

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied in my life as I begin this new chapter. (Jude v.2 NKJV)

In Jesus' name, Amen.



# January 2021

## Week 3 - Time Management: **Dr. Jonathan Watson**

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

- Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)

**D**id you hear that? It was a second ticking off the clock. Each one is a gift. It can only be used once. Further, it is something for which you and I will be held accountable before God. How did we use it? Was it used for God's glory and the good of others? Or was it wasted?

Paul challenged his readers to live (i.e., "walk") wisely, not unwisely, by "making the best use of the time." Making wise choices with our time is not always immediately clear. What is the best use of my time right now? This is why we need wisdom. We need to know what the will of the Lord is to guide us in these choices. Wisdom begins with a healthy reverence and respect (i.e., "fear") of the Lord (Prov 1:7). Further, such wisdom is available to all who ask God in faith (Jas 1:5). Furthermore, it is a gift that comes to us through God's word (Psa 119:9; 2 Tim 3:15) and by God's Spirit (Isa 11:2; Gal 5:16). As you read God's word day by day, meditating on it (i.e., prayerfully and deeply contemplating it), God's Spirit will give you wisdom for making all of life's decisions in ways that fit with God's will. This includes how you spend your time in study, work, play, corporate worship, and even rest. Are you looking carefully to how you walk and making the best use of the time? Are you making use of resources of wisdom God has given to guide you in your choices? If so, keep it up. If not, pursue God's will today through his word and his Spirit!

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## Week 4 - Finances: **Dr. Peter Link**

**E**ventually, everyone discovers his own limits. We often run out of time, but we also regularly run out of money because the world requires it. Money is the means whereby needs and wants are met, but how should a Christian ponder money in life? It is needed, and God knows that we need it. Yet, God also knows that our craving for money in both wealth and poverty may mean that our money has us. That is, God knows this struggle and often restrains us from the money we want.

Why would God as a good Father do such? It is because He knows that when his children set any part of the creation as ultimate, even money, such an idol also rules us as a cruel master. He wants us to have money, but He also desires that it not become our lord. In the model prayer (Matt 6:9-13), the Lord teaches us to pray for "our daily bread," enough to meet our needs and to keep us from temptation as part of waiting for God's Kingdom.

My students, may God in Christ go before us and behind us, giving us money to meet how He sees our needs so that we might enjoy Him more than we love even the best parts of the world.

# February 2021

## Week 1 - God's Direction: **Dr. Ryan Gimple**

*Now if any of lacks wisdom, he should ask God—who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly—and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting.*

- James 1:5-6 (CSB)

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.*

- James 3:17-18 (CSB)

**F**or most students, college is a time of consequential decisions. Perhaps you are struggling with choosing a major, finding a job, choosing friends or a spouse. There are smaller decisions too that require wisdom. James tells you that you can ask God. But often, even after much prayer, the exact direction may look fuzzy and unclear. Faith is always exercised in these conditions. Do not look for a mystical “sign,” but ask God. As you make your decision, your motivations matter. James warns against selfish motivations—that is not the path of God’s wisdom. Instead, wise decisions are made with wisdom that is “pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering without pretense.” Is it a decision that is cultivating peace and righteousness? If so, you can confidently step forward in faith.

Lord, please give me wisdom in my decision regarding \_\_\_\_\_. Help me to discern what is peace-loving, merciful, and righteous, and to place your goodness over my own selfish ambition.

## Week 2 - Chastity: **Professor Andrea Raines**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?...But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God.*

*You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

- 1 Corinthians 6:15, 17, 19-20 (ESV)

**L**ord, please empower me with the knowledge of your divine design. Allow me to embrace my femininity/masculinity as a blessing and use my unique gifts to glorify your kingdom. Remind me, always, of your plan for me, and to practice chastity in the stage of life with which I am currently blessed. Open my eyes, at the times I find it most difficult, to see the beauty in my current station, and to feel your desire for my true fulfillment of purpose.

Lord, allow me to accept your invitation for new life through your forgiving love. Remind me of the release from past transgressions through your grace.

Lord, help me to recall that I am your hands and feet here on this earth, and that all which you have made possible through my physical being is designed for your greater purpose. Feed me with your strength, Lord to consistently strive to listen for your calling, follow your guidance, and embrace your mission.

# February 2021

## Week 3 - Safety: **Dr. Jacquelynn Pleis**

**D**ear Lord,

I ask your protection over me as I live, work, and play. As I live out my daily activities, be with me to protect me from accidents and harm. Safeguard me during my studies and employment. Help me take care of my body, supporting the health you have provided me through sleep, nutrition, and water. In this way, I can perform at my best.

Lord, I pray for my fellow students on campus. Be with our student athletes during practice and competition to shield their bodies in safety. Provide traveling mercies for our commuter students during their commutes. Watch over our nursing students, education students, and students completing ELI classes as they travel to and from their placements.

Lord God, as I work hard to perform my best, please help to balance my studies with recreation. Be with me as I spend time with friends, celebrating in well-deserved relaxation.

During times of strife, I pray for healing of my mental health. I pray that any student who feels the troubles of life are simply too much reaches out to receive help. Let those who come into contact with these students be in tune with their needs and provide a path toward safety and healing.

Lord, watch over me lovingly. Watch over all the students at CSU, protecting their safety, health, and well-being.

Amen.

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## Week 4 - God's Presence: **Professor Julie Henderson**

**T**his week, we will pray scripture-based prayers about God's promise of His presence.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for going before me in all that I do. You have promised that You will be with me, that You will never leave me or forsake me. Help me to remember that. Help me to not fear or be dismayed with anything that I may face, because You are with me. (Deuteronomy 31:8 NKJV)

Thank you, Lord, that you hold my right hand, saying to me, 'Fear not, I will help you.' Please help me to feel You at my right hand. (Isaiah 41:13 NKJV)

Please help me to remember that no matter what happens, Your love for me is unfailing and will not be shaken. Help me to remember that I can find peace in You. Thank you for your compassion. (Isaiah 54:10 NIV)

Lord, thank you for your promise to be with me wherever I go. (Joshua 1:9 NKJV)

Let me be persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 NKJV)

Amen.

# March 2021

## Week 1 - Discernment: **Dr. Benjamin Phillips**

*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.*

- Philippians 1:9-10 (NASB)

**G**od, grant us grace to love the Charleston Southern community the way Paul loved the Philippians. May Your Spirit protect them from the mere acquisition of cold, dead knowledge that only inflates the pride of those whom it possesses. Instead, warm their hearts with love for You, for each other, and for the world that so desperately needs to know Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let His love motivate them to seek what You know to be truly good for others through the knowledge they are gaining.

Father, grant them wisdom and discernment that they may not only seek the good with a good heart, but work for it in the best ways. May they know when and how to apply the things they've learned. In all these things, may they more and more reflect the righteousness of the Savior who died for them and who will return to reward His faithful servants.

## Week 2 - Self-Confidence: **Dr. Michael Bryant**

**W**hat is your level of self-confidence? Self-confidence may be understood as a realistic trust in one's abilities, skills and capacity for decision-making. You must develop a healthy level of self-confidence in order to be successful in life.

Too much self-confidence results in arrogance, yet too little self-confidence results in failing to reach your full potential. You can develop an appropriate level of self-confidence by understanding the following truths:

- » Your value is not based on human factors such as social standing, financial capacity, physical appearance, intellect or how others view you; rather, your value is the result of having been created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). God, not others, bestows upon you dignity and worth.
- » You should not compare yourself with others; rather, you should give thanks for how God has uniquely gifted you and use your gifts to serve Him and others.
- » You should respect others, but not fear them or allow their opinions (e.g., criticism) to control you (Isaiah 2:22). God alone is to be feared (Proverbs 1:7), and He alone judges the merits of your contribution (1 Corinthians 4:3-5).
- » God can use you even after times of tremendous failure and sin. You are not beyond His redemption.
- » You should regularly study the Bible to see God, His world and yourself from His perspective. Viewing things from a biblical perspective will help you make wise decisions, and wise decisions will lead to greater confidence.

Read Exodus 3 and 1 Timothy 4 (esp. verse 12) to learn important lessons about self-confidence as found in the lives of Moses and Timothy. Afterward, ask God to give you a healthy level of self-confidence.

# March 2021

## Week 3 - Patience: **Professor Andrea Raines**

*Therefore I implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

-Ephesians 4:1-3

**L**ord, please renew your presence in my heart at this time; restore to me your loving sense of calm. Assist me with being slow to anger in those times which I find to be most trying. Please, Lord, send your Holy Spirit to bestow upon me the virtue of patience to trust in Your plan for me, and listen for your call with a peaceful heart.

## Week 4 - Time Management: **Dr. Ryan Gimple**

*Complete your outdoor work; and prepare your field; afterward, build your house. day of Christ.*

- Proverbs 24:27 (CSB)

**L**ife always involves competing priorities, and one aspect of what you learn as a college student is how to manage a schedule that pulls you in every direction.

Hopefully you have already been “preparing your field” by consistently doing your class work. In this proverb, “the outdoor work” is the important work of planting, cultivating, and harvesting. This is the work that is productive. “Build your house” is the work that is self-indulgent and caring for your own comfort. As a college student, your main work is learning. This is your field work. Your classroom studies are preparing yourself for service to others. Your schoolwork is a spiritual responsibility. Give your studies the priority they need right now. After final exams, you can take time to “build your house.”

Lord, help me to focus on the papers, projects, and assignments that will prepare me to serve you in the world around me. Help me to do the hard work assigned in my courses, and to put off attention to my own comfort until after the hard work that you have assigned me now is complete.

## Week 5 - Perserverance: **Dr. Peter Beck**

**T**here's a reason the Apostle Paul used so many sporting analogies in his letters.

They're abundant and nearly everyone can relate. To the church in Corinth, not far from the birthplace of the Olympic Games, Paul wrote, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?” (1 Corinthians 9:24a).

At this point in the school year, Paul's words are a good reminder about the nature of the academic enterprise. We began this race months ago in August. Like every new school year, we exploded out of the starting blocks with excitement. Now, in the middle of the Spring Semester, we're heading toward the finish line but it still seems miles away.

About this time of the year you may hit what marathoners call the “wall.” The wall comes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the race. The end is now closer than the beginning. But you're getting tired. Some of your fellow runners have given up and dropped out of the race. Your mind is telling you to slow down. It's all you can do to put one foot in front of the other and keep moving forward.

You've come too far to quit. There's no going back. So, keep your eyes on the prize and “run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor 9:24b).

## Week 1 - Empowerment: **Dr. Jonathan Watson**

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.*

- Acts 2:1 (ESV)

**Imagine yourself in the disciples' shoes.** Their Lord and leader has just risen from the dead and has ascended into heaven. He promised that he would return one day for them, but in the meantime, they have been commissioned to go make disciples of all nations by declaring the gospel to them. This is a daunting task. After all, Jesus had been killed for preaching the good news of his kingdom. They probably felt alone. They likely wondered if they could do it.

Thankfully, Jesus not only told them to go and make disciples, he sent the Holy Spirit to empower them for this task (John 15:26-27). Not only did Jesus send them the Holy Spirit to indwell them, be with them, and empower them for witness (John 14:17), the Holy Spirit also drew them together in fellowship with one another (see Acts 2:41-47).

At this early point in the semester, you may feel that the task is daunting. You may feel alone. You may wonder if you can do all that your syllabi say you must to complete the term successfully. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, know that he is with you this week through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. Know that he has not left you alone and that the Holy Spirit is always working to establish fellowship between the followers of Jesus and empower them for mission together. He is at work in you to empower you to do his will. Walk in this confidence and in dependence on him this week as you study and seek to make new friends. You are not alone!

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## Week 2 - God's Direction: **Dr. Benjamin Phillips**

*...in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*

- Proverbs 3:5-6

**“Just wish God would show it to me in black and white!”** Even if you've never said exactly those words, you've probably thought something like it. The truth is, we rarely know all we need to know. Yet we can't avoid making decisions, some with large consequences, such as: how to move forward in a time of uncertainty; what to do and say to foster reconciliation; the right thing to do when facing a moral dilemma.

Praying for discernment is always a good idea. But prayer apart from obedience is still disobedience. After all, the Bible is where God has actually shown it to us “in black and white!” Perhaps God's plan is to teach us discernment in the big things by guiding us clearly in the “little things.” Perhaps those “little things” aren't so little after all.

Lord, help me and those around me to obey Your word. In that way, we will acknowledge You as the true source of wisdom with our words and deeds. Then grant us discernment to act wisely in the issues that seem so big to us.



## Week 3 - Strong Christian Walk: **Dr. Peter Beck**

**L**ike many of us, my spiritual heroes made resolutions. Some were New Year's resolutions. Some were life resolutions.

Matthew Henry, a 17th century Puritan, once prayed,

"Lord grant that this year I may be more holy, and walk more closely than ever in all holy conversation; I earnestly desire to be filled with thy holy thoughts, to be carried out in holy affections, determined by holy aims and intentions, and governed in all my words and actions by holy principles. O that a golden thread of holiness may run through the whole web of this year."

When he was 19, Jonathan Edwards, an American Puritan, wrote 70 resolutions. We would do well to emulate his resolve.

"Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory and to my own good, profit, and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now or never so many myriads of ages hence."

As the school year ends and the rest of our lives begin, it's a good time for us to reflect on the past while focusing on the future. We do this every January 1st. We ought to do so the other 364 days of the year, too. Let's do it now. Let's exercise great resolve that we may be found faithful to God in all things so that one day He might remark, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

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## Week 4 - Generous Spirit: **Dr. Michael Bryant**

**D**ear Father,

Help me to be generous toward my friends, family and fellow students. May I be generous in the grace and forgiveness I give toward those who have wronged me. In fact, may I measure out the same amount of grace and forgiveness I would want shown to me (Matthew 7:2b). May I be willing to go the extra-mile when called upon to serve (Matthew 5:41). May I show mercy to people who are hurting and need my help, even to those who are different from me or who are not my friends (Luke 10:25-37). May I be willing to love and pray for my enemies (Matthew 5:44). May I be slow to become offended or angry (Proverbs 19:11b; James 1:19-20). May I hesitate to think the worst of others' motives; may I be generous in regard to their intentions.

Read the following passages that provide examples of a generous spirit, then ask God to give you a generous heart:

- » Joseph's generous spirit of forgiveness toward his brothers (Genesis 45, esp. verses 5, 7-8, 10-11, 20)
- » Moses' generous spirit of self-sacrifice as shown in his willingness to suffer for the people (Exodus 32:30-32)
- » God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit's generous display of love (Romans 5, esp. verses 5b, 6-8)

# May 2021

## Week 1 - Peace: **Dr. Skylar Stewart-Clark**

**A**s the semester ends, you are probably trying to juggle your typical responsibilities along with any unfinished business. What a great time to bring up the topic of peace, right?

The dictionary defines peace as “freedom from disturbance; tranquility”. You may find it hard to encounter peace in your current situation. In fact, you may not know where to look. Well, here is a reminder that we are purposed to experience a special kind of peace.

The Apostle Paul shares in Philippians 4:7 ESV “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

This peace is not just any peace—it is God’s peace. And God’s peace is beyond that which you might seek elsewhere. We see that this peace will guard or protect your heart and mind. When we lack this peace, what we feel emotionally and what we think about are subject to disturbance. We should seek His peace daily.

Father, Thank You for the promise of perfect peace. When I start to see that life is controlling my emotions and thoughts, let me yield to Your peace to shape my outcome and outlook. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## Week 2 - Ending Strong: **Dr. Dondi Costin**

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

**- 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)**

**Congratulations, Buccaneer.** You made it through year one. Your first lap is in the record books, but the race is far from over. Exhaustion will soon give way to a sense of exhilaration as you reflect on this fact: you’ve just done something less than half the country has ever done.

Did you know that only 35 percent of Americans have earned a college degree? Keep running hard so you can be in that number. It will be worth it in the end.

Nobody said it would be easy. Nothing worth doing comes without a fight. If it were easy, everybody would have a diploma. But it isn’t. And they don’t.

Technically, a diploma is just a piece of paper. But it’s a piece of paper in the same way a marriage certificate is “just a piece of paper.” Its real value lies in the degree it represents, the hard work it took to earn it, and the character it built in you along the way. It represents a credential earned in a community of scholars who commit themselves to living for the things that matter most—in this life and the next. That’s why it’s worth it.

Keep fighting. Keep running. Keep the faith. Because the best is yet to come.

See you in August as you toe the line for the next lap

# May 2021

## Let Us Go Forth...

Dear Lord,

As I come to the end of yet another academic year, may I take to heart the lessons learned through prayer. My sensitivities to perseverance, patience, joy, chastity, and discernment have been heightened. I have been comforted through my troubles of homesickness, worry, and loneliness. Celebration and rejuvenation ring true through my soul as I come to worship and find respite in You. My decision-making has been honed through awareness of Your presence even when I manage my time and finances. By walking close to You, I have felt empowerment, a generous spirit, and peace. I started strong, and I have ended strong. I am strong in You.

Thank you, Lord, for those who have prayed for me. May each person who prayed for me find multiplied blessings in their own lives. Together, our prayers have truly *Covered the Campus*.

Lord, my everlasting thanksgiving is for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who shed his blood on the cross for my sin and for the gift of your beautiful Creation. All honor, glory and praise be to Your name. I love You.

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen.

*Pray without ceasing.*

-1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

# Contributing



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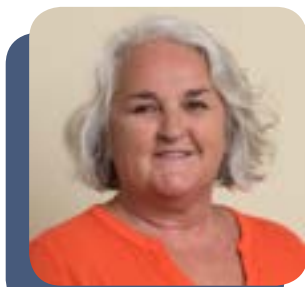
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