

15 DAYS OF PRAYER

August 18th – September 1st

*Remembering our Church's Mission,
Vision & Standards and Why it Matters
in our Church and Family*

OUR MISSION

We Grow Disciples Who:

*Live in His Presence
Love One Another
Lead Others to Jesus*

We Grow Disciples

Pastor Anedra | August 18th

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” - **Matthew 28:19**

Why it Matters

These are Jesus's final words, known as the Great Commission. They are the marching orders that Jesus has given us, his disciples and followers of Christ, while we are here on earth. The first word used is "Go!" It means we must go outside our four walls, into the community, and often out of our comfort zones to reach the lost.

Our Church

Many people believe the lie that the Kingdom of this world has much more to offer them. They spend many of their days searching for that thing that will satisfy their desires. However, what they really need is Jesus Christ. He's the only one who can give them what their soul desires. And it takes someone like you and me, with our unique experiences, to tell them!

Your Family

The effectiveness of the church is not measured by the amount of people we get in a seat – it's discipleship. It's not enough for us to go and invite someone to church. It's also our responsibility to walk with them and teach them - it's growing disciples. A disciple is a learner who seeks to become like the one he follows. The goal of growing disciples is for us to become more like Jesus and help others do the same. It's a marathon, not a sprint. We are becoming more like Christ, one next step at a time.

Live in His Presence
Pastor George | August 19th

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” - **Mark 12:30**

Why it Matters

To live or to enjoy someone's presence, you first must love that person. It makes no sense to enjoy being in one's presence you do not love. When we love God, however, we say no to our selfish way and allow Him to take his rightful place in our hearts. I have seen my life change by living in God's presence daily. I found myself overwhelmed by stress, in conflicts with my spouse, and harboring a negative outlook on life. Persistent challenges with maintaining pure thoughts, insecurities, etc. But when I love God by living in His presence, most of my worries and weaknesses don't even show up because I am not selfishly thinking of myself but rather seeing myself in view of who God is. For us who love God, living in His presence should be like breathing because we can't function without it.

Our Church

Find opportunities to be with those who gather for prayer or worship during the week. There are daily prayer meetings all through the week at Cornerstone. Our Sunday services are a great place to do what we all should be doing at home and in our alone time, worshipping the Lord in Spirit and in truth.

Your Family

Make it a daily joy to spend time in God's presence every morning before you do anything else in your day with whoever you live with. Take joy in loving God.

Love One Another

Yulieth Castaneda | August 20th

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” - **John 13:34**

Why it Matters

Jesus embodied the essence of love in every aspect of his life. One of the most profound demonstrations of his love was when he willingly gave His life for us, even for those who betrayed and abandoned him. Jesus knew Judas would betray him, yet he still showed love and compassion towards him. He knew that Peter would deny Him three times, yet he still forgave and continued loving Him unconditionally. This is the ultimate mark of a disciple - to love one another, even in the face of betrayal and abandonment.

Our Church

As followers of Jesus, we are called to emulate his example and love one another fiercely and unconditionally. One simple yet powerful way to show love to others is by inviting them to spend time outside the church building. It could be as simple as inviting a fellow church member for a coffee, a walk in the park, or a meal at your home. Being a true follower of God goes beyond attending church services and participating in activities. It is about embodying the teachings of love, compassion, and kindness in our everyday lives.

Your Family

At the core of family values is the belief that when we show love to others, we are instilling important values in our children. We believe that by teaching our children to show love and kindness, we are creating disciples of God at heart. Showing love and kindness to others sets a powerful example for children.

Lead Others to Jesus
Pastor Anedra | August 27st

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”.
- **Luke 19:10**

Why it Matters

Luke 19:10 reminds us of Christ’s heart and mission on Earth. His mission to seek and save the lost shows His profound compassion and relentless pursuit of every soul. He didn’t wait for people to come to Him; He went to them. He reached out to the marginalized, the broken, and the estranged. This verse is a reminder to us that no one is insignificant – we all matter greatly to Him.

Our Church

As a church, our mission is to grow disciples who Live in His Presence, Love One Another, and Lead Others to Jesus. This threefold mission reflects the essence of Luke 19:10. To lead others to Jesus, we must start from a place of deep love for God, which then flows into a genuine love for His people. When we truly love God, we naturally develop a heart for those who are lost, hurting, or disconnected. This love compels us to step into their lives, share the Gospel, and recount our own stories of how Jesus has transformed us. By creating spaces for others to encounter Jesus, we become active participants in His mission.

Your Family

As we meditate on this verse, let it remind us to reach out with the same love and compassion that Jesus showed. May we seek opportunities to share His message and reflect His heart in our daily interactions. Let us pray for wisdom and guidance as we strive to be a light in our communities, drawing others closer to Him.

OUR PRIORITIES

We Grow Disciples Through Our:

Discipleship Pathway

Small Groups

Spirit-Led Services

Bilingual Ministries

Ministry Teams

Next Generation

Discipleship Pathway

Tim Joyce | August 22nd

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.”

- Acts 2:42

Why it Matters

Devoting their selves to the apostles’ teaching means that they were led on a journey to learn more about their savior, Jesus Christ. But they had to want to learn. Do you want to really know more about Him? Are you “disciplining” yourself? Your journey begins with but a first step of seeking to know Christ, risen, alive, and loving you beyond any measure of imagination that you or the world can have. Where do you find him? Obviously, in his word, the Holy Bible, and “from the apostles’ teachings” of those around you.

Our Church

First, in prayer seek the spirit of our living God to guide you and to open your heart to hear his voice through his word. Second, spend time daily reading some part, any part, of his word. A great place to begin is a daily chapter from Psalms and Proverbs. Let God take it from there. And thirdly, gather around apostles. We are about to launch our fall Small Groups and Discipleship Pathway courses. Sign up and devote yourselves to the apostle’s teaching. It launched the church of God over 2000 years ago and it can rekindle and bring to a blaze a revival in your heart.

Your Family

You cannot lead someone to something unless you are going there yourself and leading your family there. In truth, we cannot disciple others unless we are being disciplined ourselves and our family is in the mix. Do you want to lead others to a saving relationship and life with Christ? Then start the journey for yourself and your family.

Small Groups

Pastor Kenny | August 23rd

“They devoted themselves... to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.” - **Acts 2:42**

Why it Matters

Small Groups exist to give people a place to connect and get to know each other on a deeper level. God performed many signs and wonders after Peter's sermon in Acts chapter 2. The verses that stand out to me are the ones about the disciples devoting their time to breaking bread and prayer (verse 42), and day by day, attending the temple and in their own homes (verse 46). Because of this, it says in verse 47 that the Lord added people to the church every day. Community, support, and encouragement are so important in the life we live. There is a better version of you when we all come together.

Our Church

Be sure to be in attendance on September 22nd on Sunday morning so you can find the right group for you at the Small Group Fair. If you are passionate about leading a group, contact me at Kenny.mason@cornerstone.ag to schedule a time for our Small Group Leader Training on September 8th. Our goal is to grow disciples and we believe small groups are one of the best ways that this can be possible. Help us fulfill this mission by being where you're supposed to be!

Your Family

Having your own family as a small group at home fosters deep spiritual growth and connection. It creates a nurturing environment for sharing, prayer, and studying scripture together. Embracing this practice nurtures each member's walk with Christ and fortifies your family's bond.

Spirit-Led Services

Pastor Shawn | August 24th

“Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles” - **Acts 2:43**

Why it Matters

The early church loved to come together to experience the miraculous power and presence of Jesus in their midst. Today, many of Christians treat services as a concert, a lecture, or an inspiring TED talk, but that’s not what our gatherings are supposed to be. In 1 Corinthians 12, we are told that when we come together, the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people so that we can hear what He has to say and receive the healing and miracles that He longs to give us.

Our Church

When we gather on Sunday mornings, a worship night, a sacred assembly, or in a time of prayer, we should expect God’s power and love to pour over us in the same way it did in the early church. Let’s pray that we never fall into a religious routine in our services or prayer times. May our services be examples of that and for our times together and His Kingdom come, and His will be done in us as it is in Heaven!

Your Family

When you’re with your family, Jesus, the King, comes and is present in your home in the same way when you gather in the sanctuary. You and I have blind spots, deaf spots, and even dumb spots. We only see and hear Jesus so well on our own. But when you add worship, prayer, and hearing His Word in your home, you’ll learn to see more of Jesus and hear more of what He is saying because of the different ways that He wants to utilize our families.

Bilingual Ministries

Maria Rodriguez | August 25th

"All the believers were together and had everything in common" - ***Acts 9:11***

Why it Matters

"They had all things in common." It is impossible not to try and logicize this part and question its content when we understand "common" means having the same interests and the same characteristics. As a believer, we have the same interests in glorifying God, and as we are molded in the character of Jesus diversity is a great tool used by the Holy Spirit to achieve that "all in common" in us.

Our Church

Our church embraces diversity, with members from various nations and backgrounds. Bilingual small groups, events, and services help us explore our commonalities. Discover the similarities you share with our English/Spanish-speaking community as we grow together in faith and unity.

Your Family

Discovering whether you were born and raised in a Caribbean island called the Dominican Republic, or a southeastern island in New York called Long Island, because of similar economically challenged backgrounds that led to favorite foods becoming favorites because that food was repeatedly eaten due to affordability, that favorite food of white rice with a fried egg on top and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich are now "common." Can you see how it works? It is a gift from the Lord to be able to have this maturing realization that brings heaven to earth (Revelation 7:9), brings us closer, brings us light, brings us Jesus (John 8:12) and it also brings such delight to the Father (Philippians 2:2). Let us join the Holy Spirit in keeping His kingdom unified.

Ministry Teams

Austin Pacheco | August 26th

“They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.” - *Acts 9:12*

Why it Matters

In this verse, we see a demonstration of good stewardship by these believers using their resources to serve others in their community. Similarly, as a part of a ministry team, we are giving our time, talents, and skills to be used to serve our community both within the walls of Cornerstone and beyond. Let us remain focused not on what we are giving, but rather on how the body of Christ is coming together to advance His kingdom and grow disciples every day.

Our Church

One of the best ways to begin to get involved in one of our many ministry teams here at Cornerstone is to attend our ministry tour! Our goal with these tours is to not only tell you about each of our ministries but to see them in action. Every 4th Sunday at 9:15 am, we gather as a group and walk through every area of the church to help give you a clear picture of where God is calling you to invest the talents He's given you. If you would like to join our next ministry tour happening September 29th, please email me at apacheco@cornerstone.ag.

Your Family

In the same way that we tithe a portion of our finances, we should also make it a standard in our personal lives and the lives of our families to do the same with our time and talents rather than giving that portion of our time and talents to things of this world. Serving as a family will strengthen the foundation of Kingdom principles and begin to give us an inside look of His glory.

Next Generation

Edgar Ruiz | August 27th

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” -
Acts 9:14

Why it Matters

It is often said that the Next Generation is the future of the Church. However, the Next Generation is the Church today. We must include, encourage, and disciple them just as much, if not more, than everyone else in the Church. Young people often take things to one extreme or the other, and this is often perceived as a bad thing. But imagine if we had students with extreme faith, boldness, desire for God, and hearts to see the lost come to Jesus. What would our community look like if it was filled with students who had “extreme” faith?

Our Church

At Cornerstone, we offer many opportunities to pour into the Next Generation and fuel their faith. Whether it is with our Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, or Young Adult Ministry, we have plenty of areas where you can partner with the Next Generation as a leader, prayer partner, or financial supporter for students who cannot pay for events like retreats, or camps.

Your Family

As a new dad to a 7-month-old baby girl, I've been learning the importance of discipling and leading the next generation in my own family. Making the time at home to disciple our kids is vital to adding to the daily number of those who are being saved. As you disciple your kids well, you equip them with the ability to disciple their friends and other kids whom we would otherwise not have the ability to reach.

OUR STANDARDS

We Grow Disciples Who Have:

*Personal Integrity
Ministry Competency
Team Building Mindset
Consistent Communication
Honor for One Another*

Personal Integrity

Tracy Hartman | August 28th

“...known to be full of the Spirit...” - **Acts 6:3**

Why it Matters

Being full of the spirit means that we are being influenced and guided by the Holy Spirit. If we submit our lives and are full of the Spirit, then we cannot help but strive to display personal integrity. Simply put, integrity is doing the right thing even when nobody is watching. It is being honest, doing your part (without complaining); and being reliable in your words and actions.

Our Church

The church's work requires resources and cooperation from all members. Each of us has a vital role. For God's will to be fulfilled, we need every part of the body intact and working together. Seek God's guidance and discover your role in our church family. What role do you play at Cornerstone?

Your Family

Do you desire for you and your family to grow as followers of Christ? Do you want to walk with God in such a way that you are positioned to be greatly used by Him? Ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have a reputation for being honest, reliable, and respectful?
- Am I submitting to the Holy Spirit?
- How can I do my part to advance the powerful work of Christ within our church body?

Ministry Competency

Steven Allen | August 29th

“...We will turn this responsibility over to them.” - **Acts 6:3**

Why it Matters

None of us should do ministry alone! In Acts, the disciples recognized this and set structures to meet the needs of the church by dividing work among those qualified to perform it. They saw two main qualifications: being full of the Spirit and full of wisdom. We can operate wisely and become more competent in our areas of ministry by seeking training and counsel from both those we are serving alongside and those in the greater Christian community who have walked in our shoes.

Our Church

At Cornerstone we want to be sure you are equipped for ministry! Most areas within the church have a leader, a staff member, or both available to help you serve God to your full capacity. We encourage you to meet with this person regularly to help them understand your needs and unique situation in life. Your ministry leader can offer training, wisdom, and Godly counsel as you serve God's people through Cornerstone.

Your Family

In family life, this means recognizing the gifts in your wife and children and trusting them with responsibilities. Empowering them fosters growth and unity. Encourage them to serve in church. Encourage them to use their God-given talents, creating a home where everyone contributes and feels valued, strengthening your family bond.

Team Building Mindset

Pastor Kenny | August 30th

“...choosing seven men from among you.” - **Acts 6:3**

Why it Matters

It's important to select capable and trustworthy individuals for specific tasks within the church. It ensures effective teamwork and division of responsibilities. This approach fosters a mindset of intentional team building, where diverse talents are recognized and utilized for the great commission. Acts 6:3 emphasizes unity, efficiency, and collective growth in fulfilling God's purpose to choose the very first set of deacons of the church.

Our Church

Here at Cornerstone, there are many ways to serve to help us win souls to the kingdom of heaven. Pastor Anedra Butler is the leader of the deacon ministry. If the Lord has given you the heart and vision to help serve in any capacity or for deaconship, you can email her at abutler@cornerstone.ag

Your Family

Recognizing and utilizing each family member's gifts and strengths for the common good is the goal. Just as the early church appointed capable individuals to serve effectively, families can foster a team-oriented mindset by assigning roles and responsibilities based on each person's talents and abilities at home. This approach encourages unity, accountability, and mutual support within the family, mirroring the principles of organized and purposeful teamwork seen in Acts 6:3.

Consistent Communication

Sara Franco | August 31st

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men....full of wisdom” -
Acts 6:3

Why it Matters

Have you ever tried to communicate with someone who speaks a different language? You may start speaking louder, pointing at objects around you to help get the message across, and eventually maybe even give up out of frustration. It can feel like that in communicating with anyone around us who views life differently than we do. God calls us to a higher standard of loving and communicating by using wisdom in our words.

Our Church

So, how does this translate to our church family when we have so much diversity in ages, cultures, languages, and opinions? It means that we take the time to get to know one another and hear stories of what God has done in another's life. God has given such power to our words! After all, He simply SPOKE this world into existence and Proverbs 18:21 says the tongue has the power of life and death! We have great power in how we communicate with one another, so let's remember, first and foremost, to communicate HIS love as the world watches us.

Your Family

All of this begins in our homes with those closest to us...our family. These actions are more caught on our children than taught, so may we use our words to build up one another in our families and speak life to each one. Talk to your children and spouse and listen to their joys and sorrows. Speak prayers over each of them and communicate the truth of God's Word to keep that the center of your family's life. May God continue to grow each of us beyond our own ability and allow His Spirit to speak through us to those we love most.

Honor for One Another

Gina Campagnini-Ruiz | September 1st

“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Phillip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism” - **Acts 6:5**

Why it Matters

Acts 6:5 is countercultural to how we are naturally inclined to look at how a church, especially its leadership, is made up. In the context of this scripture, these men all have Greek names, indicating they were most likely Hellenists themselves. Not only did this show a sensitivity to the offended Hellenists, but it also showed that the church chose Greek-speaking leaders instead of the familiar Aramaic-speaking Christians. It's an example of the diversity of the Kingdom of God, how we honor one another, and how it is beyond what we think it should look like or sound like.

Our Church

Here at Cornerstone, we honor one another with the understanding that a diverse church isn't just filled with different nationalities. It's different walks of life, different generations, different political beliefs, different personalities, and all are used for the glory of God. As a church, we can honor one another by taking time to understand one another. Just as James 1:19 states, be slow to speak, slow to anger, and quick to listen.

Your Family

Even in our own homes, there are different generations and different personalities. A way to honor one another is to have grace for one another and remember that each one of us is made in the image of God. Taking time to understand one another and being together is one of the best ways to honor one another.