



# Wesleyan Covenant Association Prayer Guide May 2024 Author: Alan Campbell

In our 21st century culture we oftentimes look to new ideas to revitalize our lives. At times, the church is not immune to conformity to cultural temptations. I wondered about the early Christian church and what it was like to gather and live out their faith in the face of enormous challenges and distractions. In Alan Kreider's book, **The Patient Ferment of the Early Church**, we have a glimpse how church members persevered in the list below;

- Meeting frequently,
- Standing in prayer, arms raised praising and thanking God,
- Making the sign of the cross,
- Eating together,
- Giving the kiss of peace,
- Memorizing texts,
- Visiting the poor the sick and prisoners,
- Exercising hospitality,
- Putting money in the collection box,
- Replenishing stocks of food and clothing,
- Feeding needy people,
- Discerning carefully,
- Being truthful,
- Maintaining sexual purity,
- Observing disciplines that limit impatient behavior,
- Being willing to lose out (in business, law, and verbal arguments),
- Allow people to leave the church,
- Facing death without fear,

How do we measure up today?

Am I encouraging other believers?

In our respective churches, am I living out my witness, making disciples?

Will I listen more carefully and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit?

Are my actions and thoughts glorifying God?

## **Suggested themes of prayer for each week of May 2024**

During the month of May, please meditate on the following Scriptures.

### **Prayer Points**

#### **May 1 – 4; Psalm 51:9 -12, John 12:43 UMC General Conference – April 23 – May 3, 2024**

Pray that the UMC delegates and leadership gathered for General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina will have the faith to lay aside personal agendas and to be truly present to listen to the Holy Spirit and submit to God's will.

#### **May 5 – 12; James 2:1-13, Acts 10:34**

Pray that partiality is confessed and repudiated in the church.

#### **May 12 – 18; Psalm 6:2, Psalm 147:3, Jeremiah 30:17, James 5:14**

Pray for healing in the church and reaching out to those in need.

#### **May 19 – 25; Matthew 28:18-20, John 8:31-32, Ephesians 4:11-17**

Pray for renewed commitment to make disciples.

#### **May 26 – 31; Psalm 100:4, Psalm 106:1, Colossians 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Pray for hearts of thankfulness.

### **Closing Prayer**

Most Merciful God whose son Jesus Christ was tempted in every way yet was without sin, we confess before you that we have sinned. We have hungered after that which does not satisfy- we have compromised with evil- we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith and have mercy on our weakness. Forgive us for what we do and what we fail to do. Heavenly Father set us free from the past that we cannot change; Open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen