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Why We Pray?

By Dawnn Brown, Prayer Ministry Leader

Prayer is our direct line of communication with God and helps us to build our relationship with Him. We pray as an expression of gratitude to God for Who He is and what He has done. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says "Oh give thanks to the LORD for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever." Prayer helps us to humbly put The Lord God first and acknowledge Him as The Source of all we need. Matthew 6:33 reminds us to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." In prayer we express our love and adoration to The Lord as in Psalm 9:1, "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works." Through prayer we can confess our sins, ask, and receive forgiveness from God. First John 1:9 mentions, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Prayer helps us to focus on The Lord and to trust Him to lead us. Proverbs 3:5-6, reminds us to "Trust in The Lord with all our hearts and lean not on our own understanding, in all our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths." Praise God that our prayers allow us to express our love for God, recognize Him as our true Source, receive forgiveness, and gain wisdom and direction for life's journey.

Let us pray...Father God, we are thankful that as soon as we pray, You answer,

encourage, and give us strength. By Your Spirit, teach us to pray without ceasing and grow in trusting and believing You more. Amen.

Join us for Live Prayer Monday through Friday at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm at (267)807-9601, access code 966-614-722.

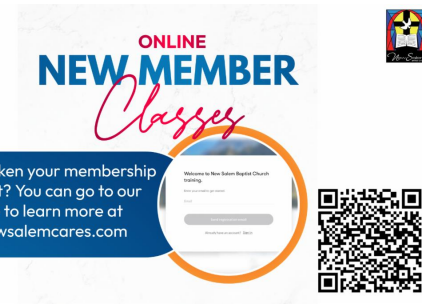


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Join the Young Adult Choir!

If you are between the ages of 18-34 and want to lift up your voice in worship, we encourage you to join the Young Adult choir. Come to the next rehearsal TONIGHT, February 12th, from 6pm-8pm. To register, scan the QR code or visit our website. If you have any questions, please connect with the Director of Magnification, Rev. Dr. Merlyn Ruffin, at mruffin@newsalemcare.com.

Register for
YAC



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Membership Classes

Do you want to be a member with us? Or did you miss the last in person class? Well there is still room for you. You can simply join us online and take advantage of taking the classes through our website. Go to www.newsalemcare.com and register today!

Membership
Classes



Black History Month

By Adam K. Troy, Director of Missions &
CEO of Community of Caring Development Foundation

Throughout history, great leaders have emerged to rebuild, restore, and revitalize their communities in the face of adversity. One such leader in the Bible is Nehemiah, who saw the broken walls of Jerusalem and was moved to act. With faith, strategy, and perseverance, Nehemiah led his people in rebuilding the city's walls, ensuring both physical security and spiritual renewal. His story is a powerful example of how vision, commitment, and collaboration can transform a community. Today, this same spirit is reflected in the work of New Salem's non-profit arm: The Community of Caring Development Foundation (CCDF), which is dedicated to uplifting, connecting and empowering neighborhoods in need. This work aligns deeply with the Kwanzaa principles of Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), and Imani (faith) each of which played a role in Nehemiah's efforts and continues to inspire community-building work today.

Nehemiah's journey began with deep concern for his people. When he heard that Jerusalem lay in ruins, he wept, fasted, and prayed, seeking God's guidance (Nehemiah 1:4). But he did not stop at prayer, he took action. With permission and resources from King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah returned to his homeland to organize the rebuilding efforts. Similarly, CCDF recognizes the challenges facing our Linden community and takes action through initiatives that address housing, education, health, and economic empowerment. Like Nehemiah, the Foundation stands as a bridge between vision and execution, ensuring that those in need receive tangible support. This embodies Ujima, which calls us to take collective responsibility for our communities, recognizing that our well-being is interconnected.

One of Nehemiah's greatest strengths was his ability to unite the people. He delegated responsibilities, encouraging families to rebuild specific sections of the wall (Nehemiah 3). He understood that lasting change requires collective effort. In the same way, CCDF fosters collaborative partnerships with local organizations, churches, and government agencies to address systemic issues. Programs such as Leadership Linden Academy and Linden Fresh Market empower residents to take an active role in rebuilding their own community, just as the people of Jerusalem took ownership of their restoration. This reflects the principle of Ujamaa, which emphasizes cooperative economics and building systems that allow communities to sustain themselves through shared resources and mutual support.

Despite facing opposition from critics like Sanballat and Tobiah, Nehemiah remained steadfast, declaring, that I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down (Nehemiah 6:3). His determination serves as a reminder that community-building is never without challenges. Likewise, the work of CCDF requires resilience in the face of economic disparities, food insecurity, and social injustice. Yet, just as Nehemiah relied on faith and strategy, CCDF continues to press forward with innovative programs and unwavering commitment to community transformation. This unwavering belief in a better future is rooted in Imani, which calls us to maintain faith in our people, our struggles, and our collective ability to overcome adversity.

More than just physical rebuilding, Nehemiah's mission was about restoring dignity and hope. He confronted oppression, ensured fair treatment of the poor, and led spiritual renewal among the people (Nehemiah 5). Similarly, CCDF's mission is not just about services but it's about empowerment, equity, and uplifting the human spirit. Whether through youth leadership programs, housing initiatives, or access to fresh food, the Foundation embodies the biblical principle that true restoration is holistic, addressing both material and spiritual well-being. Ujima, Ujamaa, and Imani all work together in this mission, reminding us that our progress is tied to how well we support one another.

The legacy of Nehemiah lives on in every community that rises to rebuild itself. Through vision, faith, and unity, New Salem's Community of Caring Development Foundation stands as a modern-

day Nehemiah, ensuring that Linden's walls, its homes, families, and opportunities are fortified for generations to come. As we reflect on Black History, we celebrate the countless Nehemiah's who have worked tirelessly to restore and uplift their communities, knowing that with God's guidance and the principles of Ujima, Ujamaa, and Imani, the work will not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). See more about Missions and CCDF at our website, www.newsalemcares.com

A graphic with a background of green leaves and white flowers. The text "New Salem Hospitalization & Bereavement Line" is written in a large, black, serif font. To the right of the text is a caduceus symbol. Below the text, it says "To report a hospitalization or death in the family, contact the church, at 614 554-6417 or email us at crt@newsalemcares.com". In the bottom right corner of the graphic is a small logo for New Salem Church.

New Salem Hospitalization & Bereavement Line

To report a hospitalization or death in the family, contact the church, at **614 554-6417** or email us at **crt@newsalemcares.com**

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This is an important reminder to all New Salem Members. If you need to report a hospitalization or death to the church, please call **614 554-6417** or email [**crt@newsalemcares.com**](mailto:crt@newsalemcares.com).

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Worship Recap

February 9, 2025 | 10 AM

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Valleys

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eNewsletter Editor/Designer Dr. Monica J. Lowe and Kara Brooks

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