

## Observing National Day of Prayer

Prayer has been a long-standing and important part of our American history. Due to the faith of our early leaders, in 1775 the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray. Public prayer and a National Day of Prayer have been part of our nation's heritage. Representing various religions, our founding fathers understood the value of prayer and the importance of asking God for wisdom in forming a new country. Later, in 1863, President Lincoln proclaimed a day of "*humiliation, fasting, and prayer*." However, it wasn't until 1952 that President Harry S. Truman set aside the first Thursday in May as a day to invite people to pray for our nation.

Across the United States, on the first Thursday of May, people are asked to turn to God through prayer and meditation. In small communities, cities, and metropolitan areas, prayer breakfasts are scheduled. Local, state, and federal officials as well as all citizens are invited to participate in asking God's guidance and wisdom as decisions are made and laws enacted that impact the lives of people.

Who should you pray for? Seven centers of influence include: our government, military, media, business, education, church, and family.

The Bible provides wisdom in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "And (if) my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

How can your church participate in the National Day of Prayer? How can you as an individual support this date?

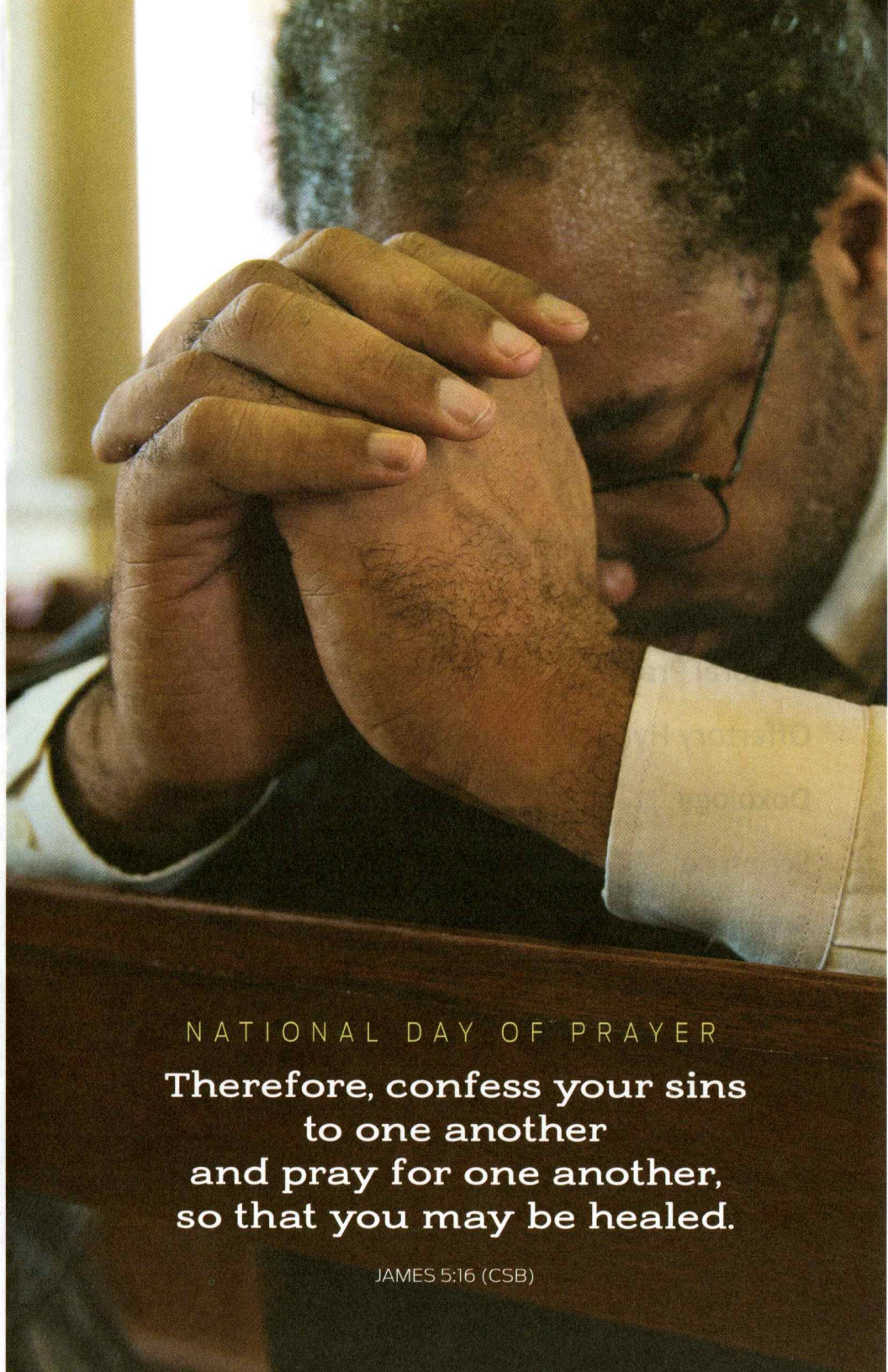
*Carolyn Tomlin, Jackson, Tennessee, writes for numerous Christian publications and teaches the Boot Camp for Christian Writers.*

3500 042824 081407464619

Photo by iStock  
© Copyright 2023 LifeWay Press®, Printed in the United States of America.  
Scripture taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by  
Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible®  
and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

**Lifeway**™

[lifeway.com/worship](http://lifeway.com/worship)



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
**Therefore, confess your sins  
to one another  
and pray for one another,  
so that you may be healed.**

JAMES 5:16 (CSB)

# SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Michael Dickey

April 28, 2024

[www.sapponybaptist1773.org](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.org)

Invocation and welcome

Hymn No. 546 "Love Lifted Me"

Hymn 208 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

Missionary Prayer Calendar Ann Lewis

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Hymn 564 "Make Me a Channel"

Doxology

Scripture 1 John 4:7-21

Sermon Rev. Mike Dickey

"Love One Another"

Invitation Hymn 300 "Without Him"

Benediction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are unable to be here with us.

The children will be collecting soap and washcloths for the month of April for The Shoe Box Ministry.

PBA Complex Clean-up Day is on Sat. May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon. Please join us as we purge unused items no longer needed at the PBA Complex. Everyone is invited to join in, but especially men and youth would be welcome for this endeavor.

Look for our daily devotional on our website [www.sapponybaptist1773.com](http://www.sapponybaptist1773.com).

To subscribe to our text alerts, text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282. We send out prayer requests and reminders.

Missed a sermon? Or just want to hear it again? Our past sermons are available on our website, Facebook, Youtube, and your favorite podcast app.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: 1 John 5:1-13