

Start with Stones (SWS)
Together, We're Building a
Strong Foundation

SWS Capital Campaign
January 2025 Prayer Calendar

Each of you take up a stone on your shoulder so
that this may be a sign among you.

Joshua 4:5-6



4159 W. Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
www.newriverphilly.org // 215-477-3100
Rev. Eustacia Moffett Marshall, Pastor

Introduction

The Generosity Prayer team is pleased to present to members and friends of New River Presbyterian Church this 2025 “Start with Stones” Prayer Calendar for the month of January.

Steps for Daily Prayer:

Step One: Read the reflection for the month. Be sure to get paper or purchase a notebook or journal to keep your written answers to the question you will be asked to answer regarding the reflection. You will also need a bible and an appointed “quiet time” when you will not be interrupted. We suggest a minimum of 15 minutes per day.

Step Two: Read the scripture indicated for the week, daily. Move through the passage slowly. Try to imagine the place, the sounds, the smells the emotions that are expressed.

Step Three: Keeping in mind the scripture you have read, write down the answer to the reflection questions. These same questions should be asked and answered daily utilizing the same scripture reference for the week. Don’t over analyze your answer, simply list thoughts that come to you.

Step Four: Please end your daily time of reflection in prayer for yourself, the members and friends of New River Presbyterian Church and other prayer concerns you may have.

Step Five: At the end of the week read the answers to your questions. Can you see any pattern in your answers? What is God saying to you?

January Theme: Discipleship Matters

Happy New Year to everyone! I, give thanks to God for keeping us through 2024 and for granting us the opportunity to see another year! This month we will focus on discipleship matters as we embrace our corporate prayer practice and work towards the fulfillment of our “Start with Stones Campaign.”

Discipleship involves many elements. It is about our relationship with Jesus, and how we re-present him. We are called to follow him, to imitate him, to re-present him on our earthly journey. I often say, it takes a moment to accept Christ, but a life time to become a Christian. Discipleship involves an ongoing transformation of our hearts and minds.

My husband, Mondré is a musician. I have learned a lot listening to him teach and lecture the various students under his tutelage. I remember him saying that music, simply put, is “melody, harmony and rhythm.” We are able to detect certain songs and musical genres based on these three elements. They form a noticeable pattern, that makes them unique and distinct. In this sense our lives are like music. As disciples of Jesus Christ, there are certain patterns, certain sounds made by us that distinguish us from other people. If we take time to listen, we may discover some of the melodies we sing that are pleasing to God and honors our call to follow Jesus. We may also notice other tunes that do not resonate with God or dishonors discipleship.

This new year provides an opportunity to reflect upon the song we are singing in order to determine whether or not the sound is pleasing to God and honoring of our discipleship. This first month can be used as a time for ordering our lives according to the unique person God created us to be, so that our disciplines and practice of faith are fitting for our growth and development in Christ. With this in mind, I invite us to listen to the melodies and music of your life in this first month of the New Year. Be intentional in how we incorporate the elements of discipleship - prayer, worship, study, service, and giving of our time and treasure to God and others. In the words of the prophet Habakkuk (2:2), I encourage us to take time and “write the vision.” Make plain the areas of discipleship that you want to grow in this year. Your growth will be a blessing for you and many others.

Friends, each of us has a role to play in helping God’s vision for New River and for our lives come to pass. God’s vision will for our church and our lives will become a reality as we grow in discipleship. May we faithfully follow Jesus Christ in this New Year!

Reverend Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

Weekly Scripture Readings:

January - Week 1: John 15:16

January - Week 2: Matthew 16:24-25

January - Week 3: 2nd Timothy 2:15

January - Week 4: Matthew 28:18-20

Daily Reflection Questions:

What resonates most with you about discipleship as you read the scripture for today?

What evidence for growing in faithfulness can you name now?

What is your response to God's call on your life and how are you sharing God's generosity with others?