



Hello Members, Friends, and Family,

I am sending this pastoral email you with (3) three points of focus for the next two weeks. Please prayerfully read and commit to joining together in unity of **prayer, preparation, and presentation.**

A Focus on the 31st (Grand Opening Sunday)

- A. **A Focus on Prayer** – I am asking our members and friends to commit to extra times of prayer (and fasting) during this time, I am specifically requesting that each of you spend extra time in prayer as we do all we can with what we have. The **Grand Opening Sunday** is very important as it will set the tone for our immediate future in ministry and mission in this community.

Prayer sets the tone. Prayer works in us, for us, and through us to accomplish the will of God for our lives and ministry.

This one Sunday matters because we are opening our doors to the community in essence for the 1st time. We are asking our community partners, family, and friends to join in this momentous occasion as we mark this new phase of ministry.

- B. **A Focus on Preparation** – This is one of the “all hands on deck” moments in this phase of our ministry. There is so much to be done and some have been working overtime to accomplish the transition and preparation. I am asking every person to do as much as possible to prepare for the Grand Opening Sunday and Fall Festival.

1. Please commit some of your time (a few hours) to be present on **Saturday, October 23rd** to spruce up the building.
2. **Invite everyone you know**, including, friends, family, strangers, co-workers, and anyone else who does not fit those descriptions.
3. **Send out or hand out the flyers** created for email, text, and hand delivery. One is attached to this email.

- C. **A Focus on Presentation** – We have a hallmark of welcoming people and showing love to others. Let's remember that some who come may have never been inside a church. **Your in-person presence on October 31st is essential!**

In the Love of Christ Jesus,

Pastor Bates