

# Affirmation Sunday Prayers

Lifted up to the Lord on March 20, 2011

As we enter this time of offering our financial commitment to the *Gather Grow Go* expansion campaign, we wanted to wrap your commitment card in prayers that were given on Affirmation Sunday.

These are real prayers, coming straight from the hearts of our OUMC family.

Next Sunday, May 22, is Commitment Sunday, so please prayerfully consider what your commitment will be for the growth of our wonderful church home, so we can continue to *Gather, Grow, & Go*.

*From our hearts and souls  
to your ears, Lord,  
let our prayers be worthy of You.  
We ask for the faith to love you  
as You have always loved us.  
Amen.*



O Lord, guide us along the path and be with us.

I can't give any more money than I am now giving, but I will pray the Lord will guide us.

Lord, please guide us in our decisions on moving forward into the unknown.

Will each phase be considered at that particular time and conditions of the church?

That God's will, will be done and not ours.

I understand the need for new parking and educational building. I don't think a new sanctuary is necessary. I like the closeness and smallness plus the history of our sanctuary.

I pray that each of us hears His word and gives generously so OUMC can Grow, Go and Gather.

That we are unified in mission and service. That we welcome all who join our Lord.

For wisdom, courage, and faith as individuals and a body. For vision to see God's plan.

We would be wise in our decisions and trust the Lord's guidance, plan, and timing.

That we might recognize the hard work of historic Orange that made this building of community and body of Christ possible.

OUMC has been a rich blessing to our spiritual growth and to our family.

May God use whatever comes from the Gather Grow Go expansion to add spiritual bricks to His kingdom.

Guidance and follow through.

Help us discern your will for our faith community at OUMC. Give us the courage to be bold.

Prayers of immense gratitude for the gifts given and the hope and strength to see the impossible!

That we are a unified body of Christ seeking His will for our church and patient enough to follow God's timing. I pray also that everyone in the body seek a personal relationship with Christ.

That God will lead our leaders in the way he needs/wants Orange to go.

Please save as many trees in the forest when the expansion is planned.

That we focus on people and keep facilities always subordinate.

Prayers for the Lord's guidance in all that we do as His servants here at Orange UMC, in this community and in the world.

May God lead us in the direction we should go to follow his will and expand his kingdom.

This church has become a home to me and my children. We have been blessed and nurtured, especially my children, who have grown in their love of Christ through this church. My son has especially been loved and mentored by the youth workers and this church is such an important part of his life since his father left us. He has grown into a young man who is caring and faithful with the guidance of the people who have guided and loved him in this church, and for this, I am so blessed and thankful.

Prayers for the church growing.

As we grow in the size of the church, may we grow even larger in our support of our community around us!

I pray that we all will be able to remain focused and supportive of this great church as we make our vision a reality.

I pray that we will be of one accord and that we will remember Jesus in all that we are, do, and say, and we will be willing to be the light in Chapel Hill and the world.

Since my stroke, I have found the home that I've been a part of, but with a twist. I have found it easy to be "all in" through all of the ministries that I've heard and answered the call to.

That we bring the good news of Christ to non-believers and all men and women.

That this church becomes a home of love for others that is so evident that others want to come to us and stay, that new people find a home here - hear that it is a home to come and learn, share, love, praise the name of Jesus - and that the energy from all of that is the magnet that pulls others to this Christ-centered, loving home.

This may be a different approach to expansion - it doesn't mean we don't "go out" and reach out to others, but we also need to stay mindful of what they find here when they come.

With God's help, let us move forward with the growth plan set before us by our building committee.

I would like to thank Rev. Hall and Rev. Varden for taking the time to host a new members class. Also for welcoming me to join the church.

That we be holy and that the beauty of holiness would draw others into the family.

We pray for God's blessing on the church and the plans.

I pray for the Spirit of God to pour Himself out into the hearts of the people of Orange, bringing spiritual renewal and the transformation of our minds. I pray that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel would invade our spirits for "it is the power of God for salvation." (Ro 1:16) as a transformed people, we will become sensitive to Christ's leading and He will provide the resources for following His will.

19 years ago, OUMC was the oasis of Christianity in a town that felt "foreign" to my family when we moved here. It was the primary reason we stayed in Chapel Hill instead of moving back to where we had come from. Since then, I have grown in my faith; and I now yearn for (and see the church as) not only a place of nurture and edification for "living in the world", but as a "launch pad" for the work of Christ in a lost and fallen world.

The people of OUMC have had such a positive effect on our lives that my husband has actually participated in some events the church body has sponsored! He has never done this before. Thank you.

I pray we can find a way to begin the expansion soon.

Open the hearts of many so they may invite others to see what Christ has to offer them.

Lord, let us get this expansion so we can let more people be a part of this fellowship and worship you. Amen.

Can the Youth help out?

OUMC has taught me about God and the works of the bible.

We pray that the work will unite the church in goal, intention, and outcome.

Lord, may your will be done. Lord, let us trust you for all the finances and wisdom to proceed with the plans. Give us grateful hearts.

We are so blessed. We need to be mindful of those who have less, like churches in India.

Yes! Help me to witness daily, O Holy Spirit!

Give us the courage to reach out to others.

Dear Lord, I pray for your presence in each of our lives as we challenge ourselves to fulfill the dream of this project. Give us faith to make this a reality.

We started attending Orange 11 years ago. My girls have grown up here from preschool to high school youth group. This church is our family, our friends, our support. Praise God for this church and its people in the life of my family!

We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct this move forward and faith and God to bless our congregation, and to bless us richly in faith and forward acts to "gather grow and go" In Christ's name, Amen.

What is the plan for Part 2? (i.e. the larger church building.) Such as date to dig and expected cost?

May we be a church on fire. Not blind to the needs of the world or sin in our life. May we accept correction with open hearts and abide in Christ.

I pray that the people, the body, of OUMC unite.

I pray that the church raises enough money for it.

May the fire and zeal that planted Methodist churches all over NC be our daily motivation to live and speak the life of Christ.

How do we maintain our focus on Christ and not get entangled in a "fund-raising-only" mentality?

The worship and preaching at OUMC inspire me every week.

Lead us down the right path.

Would God approve of spending money in this way as opposed to missions and spreading the Word?

Strive to keep the "small church" relationships even as our church grows bigger.

That OUMC go and make disciples of men in all nations.

Who, what, when, where and how can individuals can help?

May we be given the wisdom to know his will and follow tirelessly, whatever that might be.

We would love to speak to the pastoral staff about the other phases of the campaign and how we can help.

OUMC is our home in our new home. Praise God!

Pray that our dreams are bigger than our fears!

This campaign is a huge undertaking in difficult times.

We continue to grow and reach the community.

Lead us O Lord so that we may follow.

OUMC brought me back to Christ with a new-found passion.

Dear Father, I ask that our church leaders recognize your guidance and follow that guidance to your glory in the expansion of OUMC.

Bless OUMC to grow into the church God has called us to be.

OUMC has been a beacon of light to me and my three children. Thanks be to God.

OUMC has restored my soul and dedication to God. It has been a wonderful testimony to the power of the body of Christ and the love we are called to show others.

That we grow to be a blessing to the entire community in sharing God's love.

It has been a long time coming. Glad it is moving forward!

OUMC is where some of the best of our family's memories have been made. We love to watch the spirit of Christ grow in all of our children and the conversations we have Sunday after we leave church.

I have raised all my kids in this church and will always hold a special place in my heart.

I pray that our expansion brings even more Christian families together to grow in fellowship and the love of Jesus.

Because of OUMC, for the first time in my life, I have friends that I can count on whenever I need help! Amen!!

I pray that during this project everyone will stay safe and we'll challenge ourselves to go out of our comfort zone.

I pray that this church would grow by faith through people being fools for Jesus.

Pray that the appropriate funds come in during this economy.

It's a blessing to be able to come to such a wonderful place and teach the children through youth ministry.

To continue to be strong in the community of Chapel Hill, to be a leader in faith.

I pray that members have the vision to help support this move.

I pray that the expansion will bring more people to OUMC, increasing God's numbers.

Without OUMC, I would not go to church and not have my very best friends.

OUMC is great Due to Pastor Hall!!!!

There has been many who were members of OUMC who have moved, and some here still, have loved and nurtured me in Christ's love. They loved both my husband and daughter. How did they do this? Through Bible Studies, Youth Work, Children's Ministries and Stephen Ministries.

May we truly trust that during this time, Christ is in control of all things material and spiritual. That each step and choice we take might be based on His guidance. That we do this for His glory first and foremost. Amen.

OUMC has changed my life in so many ways. I have been blessed by this church for eternity.

I pray that an expansion will keep Orange relevant.

That I will be able to continue bringing others to faith in Florida.

I will pray for OUMC, its members, and the expansion.

That God will give us wisdom, discernment, and inspiration through the Spirit to be equal to our task.

One of the most significant decisions I ever made - for me and my family - was to join and invest presence, prayers, gifts, and service at Orange UMC!

That you, God, would open the eyes of the membership that growth is the only alternative. The love and sacrifice other put forth years ago is the reason we are here now. We must make the choice.

OUMC has provided a meaningful service each week and inspired us to be better people.

Go forth and share the word to all.

I pray that it is God's will for our church to grow and I will do everything I can to help in prayer, etc. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

That we find the means and commitment to go forward with the expansion.

I pray that God will help encourage and guide the actions of this church. That He would direct the missions and use everyone's gifts to expand the Kingdom.

Lord, help our church continue to grow and serve the people of this community and around the world. Guide us in this expansion; let us have the faith to follow your will.

OUMC has supported and loved me through hard times in my life. Thanks be to God for the people of Orange who make a difference in my life.

Let us follow the example of Christ and our ancestors and predecessors into the unknown service of God.

Focus on what we need and what we can give.

It's vital that there is a place for people to go and just be in the presence of other Christians.

I pray that our expansion will meet the growing needs of our children and youth ministries.

Orange has been a wonderful place for our children to grow up and grow in their faith.

Things go smoothly and we stay focused on the project and get it done.

We are a family and as we continue to grow in Christ, we are also growing in numbers. We welcome people with open arms and pray we keep expanding.

Father God, we answer your call to go ahead even as those before us have gone. And we give thanks for them and their commitment.

That his will be done. That we maintain our financial security and confidence with the entire church.

OUMC is a place to belong and worship with family. It is a place of security.

I pray that our expansion leads to the growth of our church and the people in it.

Without this church, I would not be the person I am today. This church is my life and my family.

That the correct people are leading this campaign.

I pray that Orange would be able to reach everyone in Chapel Hill for Christ. We would be a light for others.

Guide us in the way which we grow so that we provide the guidance and leadership that our community needs - when it is needed.

When you think that things can't get any worse than they are, don't give up because God will answer. Because He has truly changed me.

OUMC = the window to so many sunrises...In my life.

Help me to overcome the reservations and fear of the commitment to the growth of the church.

Guide us financially. Guide us in leadership and cooperation.

Give us wisdom as we go forward to make the best decisions for this church.

Orange has always held my family in love and support.

May God guide us through this expansion journey.

God, give us the peace, faith, and desire to follow your will in the coming days and forever.

Lord, let us grow in your vision. Amen.

I pray that we can expand our place of worship so as to bring more people into the following of our Lord and his son, Jesus Christ. I pray that if we can't grow our campus, we can still grow our believers.

Orange has opened my eyes to the teachings of Christ. It has opened my heart to the needs of others, it has humbled me through the teachings of our Lord.

Lord, help us build the physical building for what you want to do here, and may our family and the members of OUMC obey in regard to all aspects related to this. Lord, also help us all to give wisely and remove barriers to our giving of our money and gifts.

The Lord has used OUMC to minister to all 7 members of our diverse family and to give us greater unity and identity in Christ as a family.

Dear God, thank you for all that you have done in our lives and for how you have not lead us astray, but right to you and your grace.

We would pray that the goals of the ministry the Lord has called the church to will be met.

Do it ASAP - any part!

As we break ground, may our new Sanctuary continue to attract new members to its flock and continue our growth as we become the biggest church in Chapel Hill.

This will be the first church expansion I've seen in 40-50 years. I remember seeing our new Sanctuary built on a daily basis. Sometimes, I was on the bus going to school.

In the name of the Father, we consecrate this ground. In the name of the Son, we consecrate this ground. In the name of the Holy Spirit, we consecrate this ground.

That we go forth with GOD immediately leaving net and boat behind in faith believing.

I hope I will be able to fit in and participate in some way as I do have experience.

Since landing in NC, Orange UMC has been my family's spiritual Home and wish the ministry maximum development as we SPREAD the gospel to ALL.

I pray for all people in our united efforts to support the growth in our church and in our growth in our loving and wondrous God.

OUMC has brought my faith to a new dimension, a higher level.

Dear Father, thank you for those before who built this church with their prayers, faith, and hard work. Help me to continue to be your servant to glorify your name so I may show others your love. I also pray that we do the same as a community of Christ. I pray that OUMC glorify your name to the world through this expansion. In Christ's name, Amen.