

PRAYER & *ACTION* GOALS

AUGUST 2025 - JULY 2026

Our Year of Abiding



Peninsula Community Chapel

Our Year of Abiding

We don't use the term "abide" much anymore, so why would we make it our central focus for the year?

The simple answer is because it is a major focus of Jesus's teaching in John 15. There, Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever *abides* in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

The modern definition of abide is simply to accept, tolerate, or act in accordance with something, but the biblical usage of the word refers to so much more! Biblically, to abide in Christ means to remain with, dwell in, and maintain an intimate relationship with Jesus. It refers to how we live out our ongoing union with Christ every day.

Abiding in Christ means being deeply connected to Him, like a branch is connected to a vine. This connection is not an abstract theological concept but a real, living, and vital relationship. It means depending upon Jesus for life, strength, and growth; it means maintaining a continuous state of communion with Jesus; and it also means trusting in and turning to God's Word to shape your deepest desires, thoughts, and actions.

Abiding in Jesus is important because it is how we bear fruit in our lives. God created you to bear fruit. He created you to do good works and to grow in godly character in ways that reflect his life and goodness. Apart from Jesus, our lives will lack fruit, and worse yet, they will produce thorns.

These goals are designed to help us abide in Christ so that we can live lives that bear fruit. If PCC is your church home, we hope you will pursue these goals along with us. Below each goal are several suggestions for how it can be pursued. Feel free to make these goals your own by pursuing them in other creative ways as the Lord leads you.

As a disclaimer, the goals this year recommend many books. Seeing all those titles may overwhelm you, but do not fret! They are a buffet of options to choose from. If you love reading, feel free to read as many as you like. If you're not a big reader, try to read just one of them. These goals are meant to stretch us, not stress us.

Abiding in Him,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Garrett Spitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Garrett Spitz
Lead Pastor



WORD »

Go deeper into my union with Christ by hearing and studying the second half of the Gospel of John (Chapters 11-21).

I will pursue this goal by doing one or more of the following:

- » Prioritize regular Sunday morning attendance where I will listen to sermons on the Gospel of John with my church family so we can help each other better understand and live out our union with Christ.
- » Study the Gospel of John (Chpts 11-21) or the theological concept of union with Christ on my own or with others (Home Group, Bible Study, or Discipleship Class).
- » Read, discuss, and apply one or more of the following resources:
 - *One With My Lord* by Sam Allberry (184 pages)
 - *Home With God* by Kyle Worley (192 pages)
 - *Union with Christ* by Rankin Wilbourne (320 pages)
- » Watch the Bible Project's animated overview of John (Part I & II)
- » Listen to a playlist of songs that focus on themes from the Gospel of John available on Apple Music (bit.ly/applejohn) and Spotify (bit.ly/spotifyjohn).

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- John 15:4-5



WORSHIP »

Experience more peace when feeling anxious or fearful by abiding in God's Word.

I will pursue this goal by doing one or more of the following:

- » Spend time memorizing and meditating on Bible verses that will help me to experience more of God's peace when I am feeling anxious and afraid (e.g. Psalm 23, Psalm 27:1-5, Isaiah 41:10).
 - An extensive list of suggested verses is available here: pccyorktown.com/anxiety-verses. Use it to create your own list.
- » Ask friends or family members to memorize Bible verses with me so that we can encourage each other and provide accountability.
- » Learn the best way for me to memorize Bible verses by trying different methods (e.g. Scripture memory apps, Scripture songs, PCC Scripture cards for Lent).
- » Embrace the daily practice of "Bible before phone" by reading and meditating on Scripture before I look at news, social media, or games.
- » Read, discuss, and apply one or more of the following resources on anxiety:
 - *Anxious* by Scarlet Hiltibidal (176 pages)
 - *A Small Book for the Anxious Heart* by Ed Welch (192 pages)
 - *Anxiety: Knowing God's Peace* - a 31-day devotional by Paul Tautges (104 pages)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- John 14:26-27



EQUIP »

Transform my schedule so that my daily routines of work and rest better reflect the work and rest of the Savior I abide in.

I will pursue this goal by doing one or more of the following:

- » Prioritize consistent involvement in healthy Christian community outside of Sunday mornings (e.g. a Home Group, Bible study, other small group, one-on-one discipling relationship, Summer Interest Group, etc.)
- » Evaluate and change what commitments I say “Yes” and “No” to so that I can experience consistent rest and have margin for the unexpected, while still using my gifts to serve the body of Christ.
 - For some, this will mean backing off from some church or other extracurricular activities, for others it may mean engaging in more church or extracurricular activities. Seek wise counsel from others and rely on the Holy Spirit as you make these decisions.
- » Explore what God’s Word says about sabbath rest and make it part of my rhythms and routines.
- » Read, discuss, and apply one or more of the following resources on honoring God with my schedule:
 - *Faithfully Present* by Adam Ramsey (154 pages)
 - *Rest: Creating Space for Soul Refreshment* - a 31-day devotional by Heather Nelson (96 pages)
 - *You’re Only Human: How Your Limits Reflect God’s Design and Why That’s Good News* by Kelly Kapic (272 pages)
 - *You Were Never Meant to Do It All* - a 40-day devotional by Kelly Kapic (176 pages)
 - *Redeeming Your Time* by Jordan Raynor (194 pages)

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- John 17:15-18



ENGAGE: Local »

Abide in Jesus so that my love for God will flow into the everyday interactions I have with the people that he puts in my path.

I will pursue this goal by doing one or more of the following:

- » Read, discuss, and apply one or more of the following resources on talking to others about Jesus:
 - *Sent: Living a Life that Invites Others to Jesus* by Heather and Ashely Holleman (208 pages)
 - *Living Out Loud: Letting Your Love for God Flow into Your Everyday Language* by Kevin King and Christine Daniels (169 pages)
- » Participate in a workshop and/or discipleship class on how to talk to others about Jesus.
- » Pray in the morning for God to provide me with opportunities to talk with others about him, add some margin into my day for such opportunities, and make use of those opportunities when God provides them.
- » Share with my Home Group, Bible study, or small group about spiritual conversations that I have had so that we can encourage and pray for each other.

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- John 17:20-21



ENGAGE: Global »

Take practical steps to help raise up the next generation of Global Ministry Partners who will abide in Christ as they go into the world.

I will pursue this goal by doing one or more of the following:

- » Pray regularly for God to raise up more Global Ministry Partners for PCC to send. Pray about whether I might be one of those people.
- » Provide prayer and financial support for someone going on a PCC Global Ministry trip or a STINT (short-term internship).
- » Provide prayer and financial support for youth going on the EY2S trip (Peninsula Student Ministry service trip to Norfolk), which is great preparation for going on a Global Ministry trip.
- » Take steps to help others get to know and develop a heart for one of our three adopted unreached people groups (the Aweer of Coastal Kenya, the M-People of East Asia, and the Silk Road People of Central Asia).
- » Take a new step in using my gifts to support and serve in KidzMin, PSM, and/or the College Ministry in ministering to the next generation.
- » Pray for and support the work that will go into hosting a Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course in Fall of 2026 or Winter/Spring of 2027.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

- John 20:21



Why Have Goals?

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 3:14

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul declares that even he hasn't "arrived" yet and still has room to grow. He invites us to adopt the same mentality. This spiritual "pressing on" is what our yearly Prayer & Action Goals are all about. Our church elders have identified several goals for us to pursue as a church this year. Some of these goals will excite you while others may make you say, "Ehh..." And that's kind of the point!

Your walk with God is a community project. Because of that, some of our goals will relate to things that you are already passionate about. Others will stretch you to take action and pray for an area or topic that you might not have that much interest in at first. That's the beauty of growing as a community. When we grow together, we help one another to address blind spots and areas that we could use shoring up in. None of us has "arrived" yet, and we all have areas in which we need to grow. By growing together as a church family, we help to ensure that our growth is biblically balanced and nourished by other people's perspectives and experiences.

If we only pursue goals that we are already excited about, our spiritual growth will be stunted as we simply reinforce our own interests and passions. But when we grow together, we stretch ourselves to explore new areas and press on to know the gospel's influence in every corner of our lives.

So join us this year in using these goals to guide your prayers and actions. Look for ways to incorporate these goals into your own personal study, your discipling relationships with each other, or in family devotions. We are excited to see how God will use them to help us grow together!



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Making Disciples Who Know His Joy and Change His World