

30 Days of Prayer

Day 16

Acts of the Apostles 16.13-15

¹³On the Sabbath day we [Paul and other Christian travelers] went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

Lydia was a faithful follower of Christ after her encounter with Paul. Not only did she financially support him on many of his journeys, but she also took her faith beyond herself, and had her entire household baptized.

Our place of worship is a place for the entire household. That includes children. We have many ministers at Shepherd of the Hills who serve children, youth, and families. Today we pray for those ministers, and that God will continue to remind us that young ones are full members of the body of Christ.

God whose children are all ages,

Our children are a precious asset to this congregation. They remind us to pray, laugh, and move with the Spirit. Bless the ministers who make children a high priority, and keep them motivated to grow in faith alongside these little faithful worshippers... (*take all the time you need to name the members of the children, youth, and family team, and thank God for the blessing that each of them has been in your life*).

Bill Essendrup, *Senior High Team leader*, for his faithfulness to the youth in this congregation and his consistency in being a positive mentor and role model...

Richard Hanson, *Post High School Team leader*, for his youthful heart and love and compassion for those who have left our community of faith physically, but not spiritually...

Pastor Kimberly, *Confirmation teacher and CYF team leader*, for her love of young people, and her willingness to shepherd them at a critical time in their faith development...

Kara Larson, *Wednesday Night Team leader, Splash! Choir director, and Sunday School Team leader*, for her huge heart, her love of the children, and her willingness to go above and beyond for the sake of their faith growth...

Sandy Essendrup, *Nursery Team leader*, for her commitment to the families who are able to participate in many church functions because the nursery is available...

Barb Ward, *Library Team leader*, for her love of literature and desire to share Christ through books and media...

Norma Langehough, *Library Team leader*, for her passion for reading and communicating the Gospel through the written word...

You have called us all your children. Bless us as we help each other raise our community's kids to express faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ. In the name of Christ,

Amen.