

September 22, 2019  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
**Prayerful Living**  
1 Timothy 2:1-7

This week, we are invited to pray for leaders. Strong leaders cast a vision for the community, so that the community can follow the vision, not the leader. Insightful leaders empower others to explore and use their gifts. Compassionate leaders are able to understand the concerns of those they lead without getting drawn into anxiety or drama. Faith-filled leaders seek to understand God's will for themselves and their communities as they make decisions large and small.

Some few people are born leaders, but most people need to grow into leadership. Some leaders become strong, insightful, compassionate and faithful through mentoring or training. In the scripture reading for today, Paul reminds us that praying for our leaders is one of the ways we can help guide them. We can, and should, still ask our leaders hard questions and, when necessary, call them to account. But whether we follow their lead or dig in our heels, the first step is to pray. This week, try adding the leaders in your life to your prayer time, and see how it changes them, and you.

Monday: Pray for leaders of your congregation. Pray for pastors, officers, deacons, lay leaders and teachers.

Tuesday: Pray for leaders of your community, county or city. Pray for elected leaders as well as leaders in local advocacy and activist groups.

Wednesday: Pray for leaders of the nation. Pray for elected officials in the three branches of national government – judicial, legislative, presidential. Pray for the senior staff members in these branches.

Thursday: Pray for leaders of the world. Pray that world leaders understand that we are one global family so they can make good decisions about immigration, climate, economics and other issues that transcend borders.

Friday: Pray for the future leaders being formed now. Pray for children and youth who are making their voices heard, and for those who have no voice yet.

Saturday: Pray for yourself as a leader. Pray to be strong, insightful, compassionate and faith filled. Pray to be shown opportunities where your unique gifts and skills might be used to lead.

Sunday: Today is sabbath day. Pray for adequate rest for all leaders.