



WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED, EVEN ONLINE!

Since mid-March, Pastor Justin and Pastor Alex have hosted a weekly online morning prayer gathering. And God is there as members of the Carmel family sign on to pray together. Below, Ashley and Tonya reflect on the impact of this weekly time together.



ASHLEY - Carmel member since 2010

"Where two or more gather together in My name, there I am with them." - Matthew 18:20

Every Wednesday morning, God is there, ready to be praised and to hear the prayers of His children.

My name is Ashley, if you have been part of a Wednesday prayer time, I am the little circle image marked as "HOST" who likes to say "hi" and prays for those who comment. If you haven't been yet, it means I have the privilege of worshiping God, praying for others in the Carmel Family and meeting many new "family" members. I do hope you'll be the next!



Wednesday morning is my favorite time of the week. I wake up early, spend time in His Word and preparation for prayer and then sign-on, anxious to see which of my Carmel friends are there! I get excited to see "the regulars" - Meg, Tonya, Phil, Courtney, Kim, Hema, Robin, Inna, Oleg, Alyssa and SO many more whose faces and names I may not see, but know they are praying. I love the connection that has been built among this faithful group. It has truly become an extended family who walks through life together through prayer.

We hear stories of struggles, have opportunities to encourage one another and watch as God works as only He can in each other's lives. All the while, we are praising our great and faithful God.

What comfort it is, during social distancing, that we can still gather "together" in His name to seek Him and His best for those in our lives. I used to think with an immunosuppressant condition there wasn't much I could do for others during a pandemic. God, through our Wednesday Morning Prayer time, has shown me just how wrong I was in my thinking. I now get to do the *most* important things - point others to Him and intercede on their behalf.

*"Carry each other's burdens and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ."
- Galatians 6:2*



TONYA - Carmel member since 1997

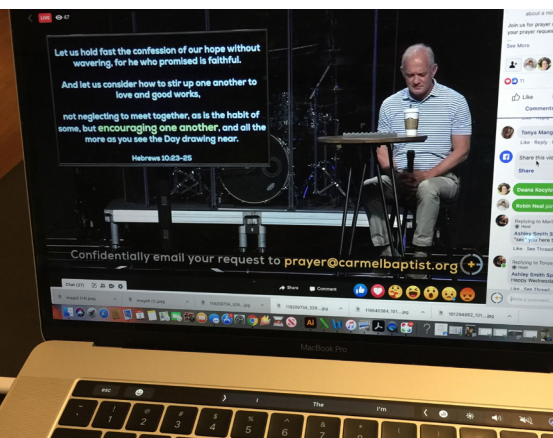
I was able to attend one or two Prayer Gatherings in person when Pastor Alex began the monthly "Prayer Gathering" in 2016. I loved the idea of getting together with my church family specifically to pray, however with my schedule I wasn't able to continue coming in person. I have been blessed to participate in the Online Prayer Gathering since March. I also love having the option to catch the gathering later if life is crazy on a Wednesday morning.

*In the morning, Lord,
you hear my voice; In
the morning, I lay my
requests before you
and wait expectantly.*

- Psalm 5:3

The most meaningful things about participating in the 30 minute Online Prayer Gathering to my weekly rhythm:

- I look forward to coming together on Wednesday mornings, starting my day off with my Carmel Family in prayer.
- I love the format of worship and guided scripture-based prayer. I sometimes find myself in a bubble lately and Pastor Alex's prayer points have helped keep me up to date.
- The Online Prayer Gathering helps me know God better.
- Life is hard. The Online Prayer Gathering allows me to cast my cares upon the Lord, pause and seek his will.
- The Online Prayer Gathering anchors me for the rest of the week.



Make this investment of time with God. The rhythm of morning worship and prayer will set the tone for your day and inspire a closer and more intimate relationship with God. We all absolutely need the word of God and prayer is how we talk to God. Come join us at the weekly Online Prayer Gathering - it is a great way to worship, be guided with scripture, pray and ask for prayer.

A week or so ago, my Aunt Patsy, who lives in Georgia, joined us for the Online Prayer Gathering. Just like all of us, life is hard for her right now. Her marriage is failing. I thank God that even from afar, she can come, participate in worship and pray.

I truly love and look forward to gathering online each Wednesday.



*I love the Lord
because he
hears my voice
and my prayer
for mercy.
Because he bends
down to listen,
I will pray as long
as I have breath!*

- Psalm 116:1-2

JOIN LIVE OR LATER

Participate LIVE in Online Prayer Gathering Wednesdays from 7:00-7:30am. Can't join live? Catch it later on the **Carmel YouTube Channel**.



Carmel is committed to making disciples of those Nearest, our Neighbors and the Nations.

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