

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  
2 Timothy 4:7

**READ:** 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Hebrews 11

I'm often given the privilege of leading spiritual retreats. Getting away for a few days to pray and reflect can be deeply enriching, and during the program I sometimes ask participants to do an exercise: "Imagine your life is over and your obituary is published in the paper. What would you like it to say?" Some attendees change their life's priorities as a result, aiming to finish their lives well.

Second Timothy 4 contains the last known written words of the apostle Paul. Though probably only in his sixties, and though having faced death before, he senses his life is nearly over (2 Timothy 4:6). There will be no more mission trips now or writing letters to his churches. He looks back over his life and says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (v. 7). While he hasn't been perfect (1 Timothy 1:15–16), Paul assesses his life on how true he's stayed to God and the gospel. Tradition suggests he was martyred soon after.

Contemplating our final days has a way of clarifying what matters now. Paul's words can be a good model to follow. Fight the good fight. Finish the race. Keep the faith. Because in the end what will matter is that we've stayed true to God and His ways as He provides what we need to live, fight life's spiritual battles, and finish well.

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**REFLECT:** Imagine your life is over and your obituary is published. What would you like it to say? What changes might you make now to "finish the race" well?

**PRAY:** *Father God, strengthen me to live faithfully for You, right to the end.*

### **PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:**

- Our additional reading today, Hebrews 11, paints a portrait in Scripture of a life for Christ well lived. The saints who came before us were just like us—they got up in the morning, went about their business, and went to bed at night. They weren't perfect. They had good days of following God and doing the right thing, and bad days of sin and rebellion. So take heart, beloved, and give thanks! God's love for you in Jesus Christ is never-ending—on your good days AND your bad days.
- Pray for school students who are winding up the spring semester. May our schools be safe so that students can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.
- Pray for the barbers and beauticians in our community....the restaurant servers.....the nail technicians....for folks who labor unnoticed. May God bless their efforts and give them times of rest and refreshing.
- Pray for the continued recovery efforts in North Carolina, in California, and other places that have been affected by natural disasters.

## CHURCH AT PRAYER

### Current Health Issues:

Joyce Anderson's daughter Cheryl & grand-daughter Kim  
Ed Bachus  
Linda Banks' mother & friend Loretta Martin  
Jean (Les) Bell  
Karen Bowser's granddaughter, Laura  
Clark & Jean Brillhart's friend, Shirley  
Diane Cooper's friends, Jamie B., Ed F. and Terry  
Charlie Costello's great-granddaughter, Scarlett  
Dawn Durling  
Barbara Eisenbach's friends, Mike K. & Rev. Richard Adams  
Diane (Richard) Grant, her sister, Barbara, & brother-in-law, Herb  
Ray & Gayle Green's daughter, Samantha, & grandson Melvin  
Barbara Harding  
Mildred Hartman  
Ron Kelly  
Mary Keogh's friend, Corrine  
Joan Kraftchak's neighbor, Chris  
Sharon Layman's friend, Bill, & sister, Robin DeRosa  
Juanita Leioatts' & sister Shirley  
Betty Letrick  
Lulu Llewellyn  
Doreen Lynch's brother, Richard, friends; Jessica, Judy, Chris, & neighbors, Linda & Al  
Marshall (Patsy) McCammack  
Cornelia Mills' daughter, Dawn and son-in-law, Charles  
Kathy Morrison  
Bobbi Mosley's nephew Sean  
Dan Sharrow & his friend, Charlie  
June Taylor's daughter, Cheri  
Norma (Al) Tebbs' friend, Esther  
Juanita & Bill Welsh  
Jane Wilson  
Carol Wise and her son, Jimmy  
Julie Wylie, and grandson, Austin

### Persistent/Chronic Illness:

Pam Carter  
Pat (John) Carroll  
Stan (Helga) LaVoque

### Homebound/Care facilities:

Ray Bratberg

### Grieving:

Family & friends of Juanita Leioatts on the death of her sister, Suzy (4/25)  
Family and friends of Will Ernst on the death of his wife, Carol (4/25/25)  
Family and friends of Darlene Smith on the death of her husband, Ralph (4/26/25)



### Team Members:

Joyce Anderson, Clark Brillhart, Jane Capo, Pat Carroll, Sally Clark, Barbara Eisenbach, Cornelia Mills, Juanita Welsh (Rev. Jeff Wood)

**Pray with us:** Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m.  
To request prayer, contact the office or speak to a team member.

### Prayer Teaching:

4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.