

Supporting New Church Starts

There are many ways existing churches can support new church starts. Below are just a few ideas.

Enthusiasm: Present the facts of the new church to your congregation in a positive light. A new church represents an opportunity for evangelism; it's not a competition for members.

Expenses: Materials, supplies and money make great gifts for new churches. "When I started, I didn't even have a paper clip," said Carolyn Moore of Mosaic UMC in Evans.

Contact: Make contact and reach out to a new church start. Find a church planter to "adopt" and write letters of support and encouragement. Consider partnering with a church plant outside your community or a church planter of a different racial or ethnic background.

Expertise: Volunteer to help with the business side of a new church. Perhaps a financial secretary or church administrator might donate time to help establish bookkeeping or organization systems for the new church.

Volunteer: Send volunteers to help with the new church nursery, to be greeters, to teach Sunday School, or to serve coffee.

Prayer: Add new churches to your personal prayer list and incorporate them into your prayer ministry. "Prayer is by far the greatest thing existing churches can do for new church starts," says church planter Andy Postell of The UMC at The Well in Cartersville.

Prayers for New Starts



If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
—2 Corinthians 5:17



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 God, help us to be enthusiastic about new starts in our own lives and in the life of the church. 2 Corinthians 5:17	2 God, fill pastors in new appointments and their congregations with compassion, sensitivity and openness. 1 John 3:18
3 God, thank you for the gift of redemption. Help me to let go of my past and trust in your forgiveness. Matthew 16:18	4 God, help new church planters find a balance between work and family. Hebrews 6:10	5 God, may new churches be places where the disconnected in our communities come to know Christ. Ephesians 4:32	6 God, keep our minds and hearts open to new places and new ways to worship you. Romans 15:4	7 God, equip and enable church planters to deal with unexpected challenges. Jeremiah 29:11	8 God, put a passion for church planting into the hearts of pastors and existing churches. 1 Corinthians 3:6	9 God, bless newborns and babies on the way. Help us to nurture these children and surround them in love. Mark 1:9-11
10 God, make clear to me when it is time to let go of a role or a task and to answer a new call. Isaiah 6:8	11 God, we pray for unity and clear vision among the core groups and launch teams starting new churches. 1 Thessalonians 5:11	12 God, enable existing churches to value and support new church starts. Mark 12:31	13 God, grant restoration, healing of hurts and the lifting of "baggage" to those who step back into church through new starts. Romans 8:14	14 God, may those attending new church starts experience the presence and power of Christ through worship. Isaiah 40:29	15 God, grant courage, wisdom and strength to church planters. Psalm 46:10	16 God, we pray for every student and teacher as they start a new school year. Proverbs 22:6
17 God, guide and shape the new ministries of my church. Psalm 127:1	18 God, we pray that communities where churches are being planted will be receptive to God, the church and the pastor. Isaiah 30:18	19 God, be at the center every phase of our new church plants. Psalm 119:105	20 God, inspire creativity and excitement as we develop new ideas for worship and outreach. Philippians 4:4	21 God, guide new church planters to be good stewards of resources and time. Romans 13:8	22 God, allow our new church starts to be a resource for existing churches. Romans 12:5	23 God, help those who are transitioning into retirement find new and renewed purpose. Ecclesiastes 3:1
24 God, help me to find a deeper relationship with you, to renew my commitment to you and to remember my baptism. Psalm 25:4	25 God, show us new ways to engage people in church and to feel the love of Christ in their lives. 1 Corinthians 12:5	26 God, enable church planters to love and appreciate the people you lead to them. Matthew 25:35	27 God, we pray for those who have not heard the Gospel but who will come to faith because of a new church. John 1:12	28 God, may our new churches have a positive impact on their communities and on the world. Acts 5:42	29 God, show me how I can help with the start of a new United Methodist church. Psalm 51:10	30 God, bless the United Methodist bishops who begin new assignments next month. Philippians 4:13