



## St. John's Congregational Church

# 40 days of Prayer & Fasting

April 7 - May 16

Devotional - Week 1

## Our Real Foundation

The foundation of our current sanctuary was laid almost 100 years ago in 1911 but our congregation was founded decades before that in 1844. God gave a vision to that first group of members that has lived on to today. Members of this church have answered God's call to be salt and light to this community for years and will continue to do so as God leads. But centuries before our particular congregation began the Church was founded on that great day of Pentecost. After Jesus told his disciples that they would receive power from on high, God sent forth His Holy Spirit to begin His glorious Church on this earth. The Body of Christ was birthed on that day; the body that holds Christ as the chief cornerstone, built on the work of the prophets and the apostles (Ephesians 2:20). Today, centuries after those initial disciples gathered together in Jerusalem, our foundation has not changed, we continue to be the community of Christ filled with the Holy Spirit and built on the solid rock of Christ Jesus.

If we want to be the healthy, strong, and growing congregation that God has called us to be, we must take time to remember our great foundation. The Holy Spirit makes us the Body of Christ; a body that is an organism, not an organization, one that can only be kept alive by the constant filling of the breath of life. As Rev. N.G. Standish notes, "when we don't aspire to become open to the Spirit, nor allow ourselves to be inspired by the Spirit, eventually we will expire for lack of the Spirit." We must maintain our spiritual foundation, our vibrant center, and the disciplines of fasting, prayer, and meditating on the word that give our body life. Our foundation is not programs or events that we put on, but simply the Spirit of Christ. The Church was built on the confession of Christ Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. For this first week of our fast, ask God to help remind you of our foundation in Him so that at the end of our fast we will find ourselves further into God's purpose for us, deeper into God's presence and more filled with God's power for our lives and the life of our church.

## Daily Prayer

Most Gracious and Everlasting God, we thank you for the sacrifice that was necessary for us to be here today as your representatives on this earth. We pray that you will help us to always remember our foundation in you and that we will continuously be filled with your life giving Spirit. Remind us, O Lord, that our lives are not our own, and we must surrender everything we have to you, in the Blessed and Beautiful name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## Daily Scripture Meditations

Monday:

**Acts Chapters 1 and 2**, The Founding of the Church

Tuesday:

**Matthew Chapter 16: 17-18**, Our Founding Confession

Wednesday:

**Ephesians Chapter 4**, Our Founding Commands

Thursday:

**Ezekiel Chapter 37**, Our Founding Hope

Friday:

**Revelations Chapter 2**, Our Founding Warnings