

Shout the News

August 2026

Prayer and Praying

Is there a difference between “saying a prayer and praying”? This is what AI says about that.

Core Differences

Feature	Praying	Saying a Prayer
Primary Focus	The relationship, connection, and emotional intent.	The specific words, text, or ritual tradition.
Source	Spontaneous, coming directly from personal feelings.	Pre-written, memorized, or historically scripted.
Delivery	Varied (silent meditation, conversational speech).	Fixed (reciting aloud or reading from a book).
Examples	Speaking to God about your worries or gratitude.	Reciting the <i>Lord’s Prayer</i> or saying grace before a meal.

For myself, I find that I use repetitive prayers even when I am “praying”. Public prayer is especially hard to for me to truly speak to God on a personal level. I find myself almost saying a prayer which while it might not be pre-written it sounds the same as if it were. I guess I need to think more about who I’m talking to and less about who might be listening.

As we consider that the year is more than half over and students are headed back to school, the natural disasters that have happened in the last few weeks; as we think about our prayer lists and all that people are experiencing; perhaps we can individually take time to pray as if we are just talking to a friend and sharing our deepest thoughts and feelings.

May your days be filled with faith and joy, hope and love as we remember whose we are.



It has been a busy summer at the Coralville church building. Two different programs were held in the building, sponsored by the Coralville Recreation Department. Trail Trekkers is designed especially for middle school ages, and the campers ride their bikes, offering service projects for various groups in town. The Trekkers spent more than one session helping with landscaping projects at our building. Other specialty camps included cooking, legos, and gym time.



Charlene Loberg-Saur and John Saur celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7th. They provided an anniversary cake for the congregation potluck on June 9. Charlene and John met as young adults at a "Singles Reunion" at Graceland College. They were married in Fargo, North Dakota, and have lived in Iowa City for 50 years. Charlene worked as an occupational therapist and John as a pharmacist. They are parents of two children, Mat Saur and Emma Hartman. They have 4 grandchildren. They are valued and loved members of the Coralville congregation.



CEDAR RAPIDS

Roger Reid's 90th birthday open house was attended by over 100 family, friends, congregation, and people from other congregations. We learned a great deal about his history. It was Roger's first birthday party, and he was overwhelmed with the kindness and love he received.

Cedar Rapids Bible school August 3-6 kept us very busy for our 9 attendees.

Burlington Congregation

Jena Terrell was ordained to Priest at the August 16 service. She was previously a Deacon. The service was followed by a potluck.

Flabbergasted – feeling or showing intense shock, surprise, or wonder

Have you been flabbergasted by anything lately? In a comment on something I was looking at on UTUBE, the person said, "My flabber is gasted." I laughed out loud. I am now looking for positive things that will "flabber my gasted" each day. I may not find one every day, but I hope not to miss any.

Just a Note: Please send any information to me before the 15th of the month.

I intend to have it to Gayla by the 20th. For pictures, please send them as **jpegs**.

FUN YOUTH WEEKEND

All Junior and Senior High Youth and Friends

Where: Galesburg Congregation
405 N. Pleasant Street
Galesburg, IL 61401

When: Saturday September 12th to Sunday September 13th
Starts at Noon on Saturday and ends after the 11:00 am
Worship Service and following a meal.
(Service to be put on by the youth and all are invited to
Attend the Worship Service and the meal afterwards.)

Bring: Sleeping bag and pillow.
Everyone will be sleeping at the church.
Also, please bring a completed Cedar Valley-Nauvoo
Mission Center Discipline, Liability, Medical & Photo Release
Form. (This can be completed when dropping youth off.)

Cost: Free

Any questions, please contact Patrick Fairbrother at 563-529-6738.