

# **SABBATICAL INFORMATION GUIDE**

## **FAQS**

**Greetings Ray of Hope Family and Friends!**

**We are pleased to share that our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale is embarking on an extended sabbatical that will be an intentional time of spiritual and physical renewal.**

**We will continue to provide excellent ministry while Pastor Hale is away. Please refer to this information guide to answer questions you may have regarding ministry operations in her absence.**

# SABBATICAL INFORMATION GUIDE

## 1. How long will Pastor Hale be away?

Pastor Hale will be on sabbatical for three months, from Monday, June 26, 2023, to Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

## 2. What will Pastor Hale be doing on her Sabbatical?

Pastor Hale will step away from all regular pastoral duties at the Ray of Hope Christian Church to spend time focused on physical, spiritual, and intellectual enrichment; and take time to rest, study, reflect and travel. The goal is for her to return refreshed and renewed.

Pastor Hale will engage in restorative practices such as focused prayer, study, and reflection in God's Word. She will relinquish busy schedules and renew the hobbies and activities that bring her joy, laughter, rest, and peace. Some of these include spending time with family and friends, doing an in-depth study of the book of Psalms, and embarking on a safari trip in Africa.

## 3. Will Pastor Hale be available or be in touch during the Sabbatical?

During Pastor Hale's sabbatical, she will not respond to phone calls, emails, text messages or voice mails. If you need assistance, you may contact her Executive Assistant, Erica McDonald at 770-696-5140 or the Executive Pastor, Rev. Tonya Sumter at 770-696-5100, ext. 234.

## 4. Who will be preaching while Pastor Hale is on Sabbatical?

Pastor Hale has developed a pulpit supply schedule of ministers who will preach on Sundays. You can find the schedule of ministers on the website at [www.rayofhope.org](http://www.rayofhope.org).

## 5. Who will I contact if I need anything while Pastor Hale is on Sabbatical?

Ray of Hope Christian Church is well equipped to cover the necessary pastoral functions while Pastor Hale is away for her sabbatical. The following structure is in place to cover the organizational leadership of the church. You may contact these individuals by calling the church at 770-696-5100.

LEADERSHIP/ DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Executive Pastor	The Executive Pastor will oversee and work with the program and operations staff to manage the day-to-day operations of the church.	Rev. Tonya Sumter 770-696-5100 Ext. 234
Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor	The Executive Assistant provides high level support for the office of the Senior Pastor.	Erica McDonald 770-696-5100 Ext. 222
Comptroller	The Comptroller oversees the accounting and finance operations of the church.	Cynthia Stallworth 770-696-5100 Ext. 258
Facilities Management	The Facilities Manager provides maintenance of our grounds and ensures there is a safe, secure environment at all times.	Donice Bloodworth 770-696-5100 Ext. 232
Office Manager	The Office Manager answers any questions regarding illnesses, funerals, baptisms, baby dedications, membership needs or inquiries.	Henderson McKenzie 770-696-5100 Ext. 244
Program Staff (Staff Ministers)	Our staff ministers offer a variety of services to meet the needs of the congregation.	<p><b>Main Office:</b> 770-696-5100</p> <p><b>Christian Education:</b> Rev. Tyesha Harden Ext. 235</p> <p><b>Worship &amp; Arts:</b> Rev. Rylan Harris Ext. 229</p> <p><b>Outreach/Men's Ministry:</b> Please contact Ext. 244</p> <p><b>Women's Ministry/ Couple's Ministry</b> Rev. Tonya Sumter Ext. 234</p> <p><b>Children, Youth &amp; Young Adults:</b> Rev. Eugene Williams Ext. 240</p>

LEADERSHIP/ DEPARTMENT	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pastoral Care Team (Elders, Deacons, Ministers)	The Pastoral Care Team (Elders, Deacons, Ministers) provides loving spiritual oversight for the pastoral needs of the congregation.	<b>After Care Line:</b> 770-696-5100 Ext. 200
Ministry Chairpersons Ministry Councils	The Ministry Chairpersons and Councils provide leadership to initiate, coordinate, and facilitate the ministry programming that keeps the membership actively engaged, connected, and involved in the life of the church.	

## 6. What if I have an emergency, or need a funeral - who do I contact?

When someone is sick or you experience a death in your family, please call our Office Manager, Henderson McKenzie at 770- 696- 5100, ext. 244. Henderson will assist in providing your information to our Pastoral Care team and someone from the Pastoral Care team will follow up with you. If this happens over the weekend or when the church is closed, please call the after-hours care line for the church at 770-696-5100, ext. 200 and leave a message with your name, phone number, and the nature of your call. This after-hours care line is checked daily, and someone will make sure that your message is appropriately handled.

## 7. How can I best support our Pastor and our church throughout this Sabbatical time?

First, to ensure a period of renewal, it is necessary for Pastor Hale to completely disconnect from the church. Please respect her sabbatical time by not contacting her.

Secondly, while our Pastor is taking a much-needed respite, we encourage you to STAY ENGAGED. Our church is a *body* that needs all of its *parts* doing what they do best. We need you attending. We need you giving. We need you serving. Our church needs you and we hope that you take this opportunity to engage at an even greater level.

## 8. How will the Sabbatical benefit the congregation?

A sabbatical is an investment in the future of the congregation. Typically, pastors who take time to pause return rested and with renewed energy. Healthy pastors provide healthy leadership for God’s people and enhance the life and ministry of the congregation.

Additionally, as Pastor Hale participates in her own time of renewal, our congregation will engage in practices that parallel her experience.

### Study

Pastor will be engaged in the study of the book of Psalms. We invite you to join her on the journey. Our study guide will be *Life Lessons from the Book of Psalms* by Max Lucado. You can also follow along with the bible reading plan listed below for the book of Psalms by reading a **Psalm-A-Day beginning on Saturday, July 1, 2023.**

# PSALM-A-DAY READING PLAN

We will begin this plan on **Saturday • July 1, 2023**

WEEK	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
Jul. 1 - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 7
Jul. 8 - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 14
Jul. 15 - 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 21
Jul. 22 - 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 28
Jul. 29 - Aug. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 32	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 33	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 34	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 35
Aug. 5 - 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 36	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 37	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 38	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 39	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 40	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 41	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 42
Aug. 12 - 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 43	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 44	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 45	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 46	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 47	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 49
Aug. 19 - 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 50	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 51	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 52	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 53	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 54	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 55	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 56
Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 57	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 58	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 59	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 60	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 61	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 62	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 63
Sept. 2 - 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 64	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 65	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 66	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 67	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 68	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 69	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 70
Sept. 9 - 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 71	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 72	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 73	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 74	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 75	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 76	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 77
Sept. 16 - 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 78	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 79	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 80	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 81	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 82	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 83	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 84
Sept. 23 - 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 85	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 86	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 87	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 88	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 89	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 90	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 91
Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 92	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 93	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 94	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 95	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 96	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 97	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 98
Oct. 7 - 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 99	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 100	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 101	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 102	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 104	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 105
Oct. 14 - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 106	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 107	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 108	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 109	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 110	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 111	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 112
Oct. 21 - 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 113	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 114	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 115	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 117	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 118	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 119
Oct. 28 - Nov. 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 120	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 121	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 122	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 123	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 124	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 125	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 126
Nov. 4 - 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 127	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 128	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 129	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 131	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 132	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 133
Nov. 11 - 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 134	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 135	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 136	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 137	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 138	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 140
Nov. 18 - 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 141	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 142	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 143	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 144	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 145	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 146	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 147
Nov. 25 - 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 148	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 149	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 150				

## **Ancestry.com**

As Pastor Hale embarks on a journey to delve into her ancestry during her trip to Africa, the congregation will be invited to research their ancestry, connect with their history, and meet to share the findings.

- We will invite you to use Ancestry.com to research your family roots.

## **Safari Experience**

When Pastor Hale makes her African safari trip, we will offer an immersive safari experience for the congregation that will allow us to virtually journey right along with Pastor Hale.

- We invite you to save the date and make plans to join us for the immersive safari experience to the heart of Africa on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at the Fernbank Museum. This event will be free and open to all, but you must register to let us know you are attending. Register to attend at [www.rayofhope.org](http://www.rayofhope.org).

## **9. How will we know what Pastor Hale experienced during her Sabbatical?**

Pastor Hale will capture pictures, videos and/or keep a journal during her sabbatical, particularly during the international trip, that she will share upon her return.

## **10. What if I still have more questions?**

Please feel free to contact the church office at, 770-696-5100 and a member of our team will assist you.