

 24-7 PRAYER USA

INCARNATED PRAYER WALK GUIDE FOR NASHVILLE

2025 NATIONAL
GATHERING

Welcome to Nashville

On Friday, Oct 17th at 2:00 pm, you are invited to walk through downtown Nashville with leaders of local churches, reflecting on the history of the land and praying for the people who live here.

In this guide, you will find carefully curated information to help you pray with insight and intentionality. Please take time to read before attending the prayer walks and keep it handy to consider the prayer prompts as you go.

We hope these walks will be a blessing to the city, leaving spiritual seeds that will bear much fruit as the people of Nashville continue to cultivate their land, working towards the flourishing of all people and the Shalom of God in this place.

We come in a posture of humility, recognizing that we are simply guests here and that there are many local believers who are doing the hard work, building community, loving their neighbors, and caring for the poor.

May we continue to carry Nashville in our hearts and in our prayers, even as we return to our own homes, and may these walks inspire us to do the same in the places where we live, work, and play in the regular rhythms of our lives.

A Quick Introduction to Prayer Walking From the 24-7 Prayer Tool Kit

One of the most effective forms of spiritual warfare is prayer-walking.

Inspired by God's promise to Joshua, we can walk in the victory of Jesus into every part of our neighborhoods, cities, and nations. In faith we walk, believing that as the soles of our feet hit the ground, we are appropriating the work of Jesus over the principalities and powers that influence the atmosphere and shape the narratives of our city. Each step we take in Jesus' name, we weaken something of the enemy's grip in the Heavenly realms and subvert the systems of evil and injustice.

Prayer walking thrusts us out of our church buildings, forcing us to resist the temptation to stay inward focused, stirring us to keep the mission front and center. It engages all our senses, rousing us to cry out to God - as we walk with defiant hope into every crack and crevice of our cities.

While we walk in victory, and therefore pray in victory, let us remember the way that victory was won – sacrificial, self-emptying, love.

As we prayer walk, let's not get so consumed with the forces of darkness and our own adrenaline rush of triumphalism that we get our eyes off Jesus. Let us kneel in our streets in a posture of humility, repentance, and unity, and let us declare that Jesus' sacrifice is more than enough for the redemption of all peoples and places.



Do it: How to Prayer Walk

As you go, use **WALK** as an acronym with 4 simple steps:

W – Worship

As you set off walking begin with your eyes on Jesus. Say the name of Jesus; recite a Psalm; hum a worship song; speak quietly in tongues – basically anything that helps declare the Lordship of Jesus over the streets you walk on.

A – Ask

Flowing from your worship begin petitioning God for His Spirit to fall on the streets you walk on, the homes, businesses, schools, and other churches you walk past. Begin to get specific and pray for people and situations, the 'people of peace' you know God has brought you into contact with, and those who are opening doors of opportunity for the gospel within your community.

L – Listen

As you worship and pray, leave space to listen to what God might want to say to you - then pray that back. Often God may give you promises from scripture or prophetic words and pictures; listen for promises and literally walk these promises all over your community. If you are prayer-walking in twos, listen to one another's prayers and you will find yourself sparking off one another's words and thoughts.

K – Know Your Land

Get (and keep) yourself informed around the area you are prayer-walking; research some of its history; some of its ongoing problems so you can pray for breakthrough. Get to know some of the current situations that require persevering prayer and celebrate the particular graces that rest on the area, asking God to make your area a blessing beyond its borders.

A Prayerwalking App: Holy Here

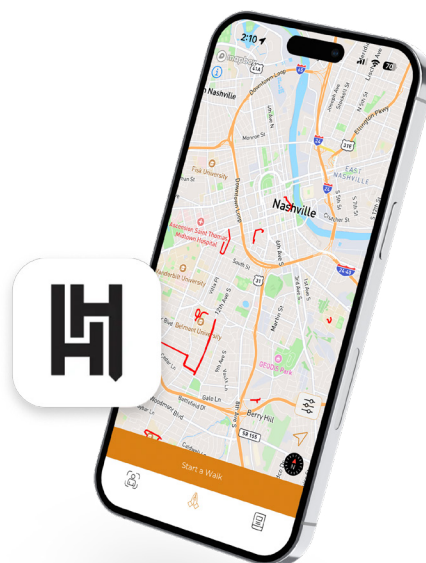
As you walk and pray, use the Holy Here App to track your prayers, leave notes with prayer points or scriptures, and to see where others have prayed.

Holy Here is an invitation to city transformation as we follow Jesus and pray “Thy Kingdom Come” into every space in every place.



Available for iOS and Android

hollyhere.com/#app-download



Prayerwalk Routes in Downtown Nashville



Prayer Walk One

(Meet on the Pedestrian Bridge)

Stops:

Pedestrian Bridge
Tara Cole Memorial Bench
Gay and Connector



Stop One: John Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge

The Pedestrian Bridge was built between 1907 and 1909. Originally, it was named the Sparkman Street Bridge, and cars used it to cross the Cumberland River. The Bridge was closed to automobiles in 1998 and today is used as a pedestrian crossing. It is popular for its incredible views of the city of Nashville.

What you cannot see from the Pedestrian Bridge is Tennessee’s battle with addiction.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health reports that within Davidson County, over 218,000 residents aged 12 and older report using illegal drugs annually.¹ This represents 18% of the population, which is higher than both the state and national averages.

Davidson County saw a record high of 725 drug overdose deaths in 2021, though the numbers have declined, with 525 suspected overdoses reported in 2024. Despite this progress, Tennessee was ranked the worst state for drug and alcohol addiction in 2024 due to high overdose rates, drug-related deaths, and limited access to treatment. In the first 3 months of 2025, there were 112 overdose deaths, with fentanyl accounting for 70% of these deaths.²

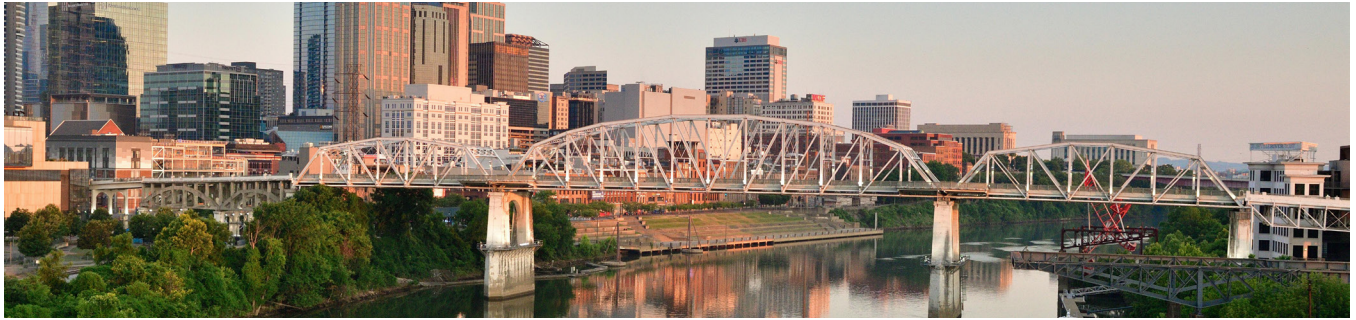
Even with this crisis, there are only four facilities that offer free drug treatment across the state.

Alcohol misuse is also a growing concern. Approximately 7.2% of adults in Tennessee have been diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD), and alcohol-related deaths nearly doubled (98% increase) from 2012 to 2022.³

Together, these trends underscore an urgent and ongoing need for accessible prevention, treatment, and recovery support across the region.

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for the city of Nashville and the beauty that you see in it.
- Pray that those who battle addiction will be set free and that grow in their relationship with the Lord in their recovery.
- Pray for the spouses, friends, and family members who are in relationship with someone battling addiction. Pray that they will allow Jesus to walk with them in their pain as well.
- Ask God to make ways for more affordable treatment centers. Pray that Christians will be sensitive to the voice of Holy Spirit and use this as an opportunity to share God's love.



Stop Two: Tara Cole Memorial Bench

This bench serves as a reminder of all those who have died without housing and a reminder of the mistreatment of these individuals. In 2006, Tara Cole was sleeping on a pier here at Riverfront Park with several others. The police came around 10:00 pm and told everyone to move. Tara told the police that there was nowhere else to go and was the only one who decided to stay. Isolated, Tara fell victim. Two young men, after their night in Lower Broadway, told their friends that they were going to “rough up the homeless.” They kicked Tara and eventually rolled her into the Cumberland River, where she drowned. Advocacy groups and faith leaders had to encourage officials to recover her body; when they finally did, it was 10 days later.

The Tara Cole Memorial Bench was dedicated in 2013.

Here is a snapshot of the unhoused story in Nashville:

- On January 23, 2025, 2,180 people were counted as experiencing homelessness.⁴
- According to the Point-in-Time Count 2025, this is a 4.1% increase from January 2024.⁵
- Of those who were unsheltered people (living in encampments, staying on the streets, or in vehicles), 48% were experiencing living unsheltered in a chronic state.⁶
- 41% of unsheltered people in Nashville reported having a mental illness, and 74% of unsheltered people reported having any disabling condition.⁷

Prayer Points:

- Invite the Lord to soften your heart, the hearts of those around you, and the hearts of Nashville for those who are unhoused. Ask God to give you his eyes to see others the way He does.
- Thank God for organizations like the Salvation Army, Operation Stand Down, Safe Haven Family Shelter, and Catholic Charities that provide shelter for the unhoused.
- Ask God to give those in Nashville divine strategies to care for the housed with dignity and love.

Stop Three: Gay Street Connector

This is the location of People Loving Nashville's Monday Night Gathering. Here, they bring relief starting with food, clothing, and community. People Loving Nashville provides a safe environment to build trust. This trust is key to our neighbors receiving the resources they need to find stability.

There are roughly 100-150 encampments in Nashville each day. According to a report from 2024, on average, people in Nashville who live outdoors have been experiencing homelessness for 3 years and 7 months.⁸ The average for those living in a shelter is 2 years and 10 months.⁹

Prayer points:

- Pray for People Loving Nashville and that God will continue to give them vision and strategies to love our neighbors well. Ask God to bless finances and relationships in the city.
- Pray for trust and open hearts in the city of Nashville.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for a way that you can live out your prayers for the unhoused in your city.



2 Prayer Walk Two

(Meet in front of the Ryman)

Stops:

Ryman Auditorium
Printer's Alley
Lower Broadway



Stop One: Ryman Auditorium

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Holiness Movement was sweeping the South. Large, multi-denominational crowds were gathering. Samuel Jones played a significant role in the story in Nashville. He arrived in Nashville in 1885, and in his public sermon, he preached to a crowd of 10,000 people on the corner of Eighth and Broadway.

Captain Tom Ryman was raised a Methodist and often provided free shipping for church-related materials. However, his riverboats also contained casinos, as well as whiskey, which Samuel Jones preached strongly against. Ryman attended one of the meetings, intending to confront Jones. Instead, Ryman confessed sanctification. In 1888, Ryman decided to fund the construction of the Union Gospel Tabernacle, which became a powerful center for spiritual renewal known across the country. The Union Gospel Tabernacle was intentionally not for one

specific church, but for the larger Church of Nashville to gather for revival meetings.

Later, it became Nashville's Ryman Auditorium, gaining international renown from 1943 to 1974, as it served as the home of the Grand Ole Opry, a popular radio show. Ryman's nickname was coined, "The Mother Church of Country Music." Today, it is still used to hold concerts, and in September of 2020, the Nashville Church sent worship leaders to the Ryman and broadcast 24 hours of worship

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for the work He has already done and is continuing to do in Nashville.
- For Unity to be restored to the Church of Nashville.
- Pray for the music industry and the Christians in the music industry to be a light.
- There is a saying, "Nashville is where dreams come to die." Meaning, many musicians move here hoping to make it, and don't. Pray that this city will be filled with dreamers who dream God-dreams, and that the hopeless will find true hope.

Stop Two: Printer's Alley

Publishing—particularly Christian publishing—was one of the earliest major industries in Nashville. Several prominent publications originated in the city, including *The Tennessean* (founded in 1907), the *Nashville Banner* (founded in 1876), and the Southern Methodist Publishing House (established in 1855), all of which are based in downtown Nashville.

Printer's Alley is a historic district in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, known for its vibrant nightlife and colorful past. The Alley dates back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when it was the hub of Nashville's publishing industry. At that time, the area was home to numerous printing companies, newspapers,

and publishers—hence the name “Printer’s Alley.”

By the 1940s and 1950s, the Alley had transformed into the heart of Nashville’s nightlife scene. It became famous for its speakeasies during Prohibition and later for its jazz clubs, strip clubs, and underground bars, which attracted a mix of locals, musicians, and celebrities. Despite liquor being illegal in public establishments in Nashville until the 1960s, Printer’s Alley flourished with private clubs that found ways to serve alcohol discreetly.

Today, Publishing remains a large industry in Nashville with more than 128 publishing houses, including Lifeway, Harpeth Road Press, and the United Methodist Publishing House.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for publishing and news sources that publish in spirit and in truth.
- Pray for laborers to continue rising up and bringing light to the dark and hidden places in Nashville.
- Pray for the local Anti-Trafficking movement in Nashville that does amazing work in our city. Organizations such as Ancora, the Nashville Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, and Thistle Farms.

Stop Three: 2nd Ave and Lower Broadway

This area of town is known as Lower Broadway, named after the main road that goes down to the Cumberland River. It is a historic stretch in downtown Nashville, also known as “Honky Tonk Highway.”

In the early 20th century, the area was a bustling commercial corridor, home to shops, theaters, and businesses that catered to both locals and visitors. Live music venues and bars began catering to the musicians performing at the Ryman in the 1930s and 1940s. The district’s neon-lit honky tonks became known for offering live country music day and night, creating a vibrant atmosphere that drew in tourists, performers, and music lovers.



Today, Lower Broadway is one of Nashville's most iconic destinations, and tourism in Nashville is at an all-time high. In 2023, Nashville had a record 16.8 million visitors and \$10.56 billion in visitor spending.

Fireplace Nashville is a group of young adults who gather on Friday nights to spend time in prayer and worship, and then head to Lower Broadway to pray and bless people. This is one of the many groups that have been a catalyst for teenagers and young adults coming to Christ in large numbers.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for those who visit Nashville to encounter God in a unique way.
- Pray for *Fireplace Nashville* and similar organizations..
- Pray for salvation to come to the most likely and least likely of places here in the city.

Prayer Walk Three (Meet at the Public Square)

Stops:

Public Square
Walgreens Lunch Counter
John Lewis and MLK Blvd.



Stop One: Public Square



Learn more about the artwork, *Witness Walls*

metroartsnashville.gov/witness-walls

Public Square, located in downtown Nashville in front of the Davidson County Courthouse, has long been a central gathering place in the city's history. Established in the early 19th century, it served as the civic and commercial heart of Nashville. The square hosted markets, public events, political speeches, and judicial proceedings, making it a focal point of public life.

However, Public Square also holds a painful legacy. In the decades before the Civil War, it was the primary site in Nashville where enslaved African Americans were sold at auction. James Harding was formally enslaved by a wealthy plantation owner named Thomas Harding. Late in his life, James Harding was interviewed by *The Nashville Globe*, a historic Black-owned local newspaper. He remembered that the slave brokers and county clerk "would auction off slaves as if they were cattle" in the Public Square.

Today, we find the *Witness Walls* installation, designed by Walter Hood and completed in 2017, which honors Nashville's civil rights movement. Through sculpted walls and historic images, it commemorates pivotal actions such as sit-ins, marches, and Freedom Rides, inviting visitors to reflect on the city's rich history of activism.

Today we find the Witness Walls installation, designed by Walter Hood and completed in 2017, which honors Nashville's civil rights movement. Through sculpted walls and historic images, it commemorates key actions like sit-ins, marches, and Freedom Rides, inviting visitors to reflect on the city's history of activism.

Prayer points:

- Mourn the past and pray for racial reconciliation here in Nashville. Pray specifically for movements like Unite Nashville, which bring people together to offer biblical solutions for reconciliation.
- According to the Brookings Institution, in 2022, approximately 2.7% of businesses in the Nashville Metro are Black-owned.¹⁰ Pray for more Black-owned businesses and the business incubators like Corner to Corner that help make Nashville a place where all can flourish.
- There are 135 different languages spoken in the Nashville Metro School System.¹¹ Siloam Healthcare, a local ministry that serves those in need through healthcare, treats immigrants from more than 80 countries. Pray for a spirit of celebration of diversity in Nashville.

Stop Two: Walgreens Lunch Counter

During the Civil Rights Movement, Nashville, Tennessee, emerged as a pivotal center for nonviolent protest, particularly through the sit-ins and Freedom Rides. Beginning in early 1960, a group of well-organized, disciplined students from local historically Black colleges and universities, including Fisk University and Tennessee State University, launched sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in downtown Nashville. These protests, inspired by the Greensboro sit-ins in North Carolina, were led by figures such as Diane Nash, John Lewis, and James Lawson, who had been trained in nonviolent resistance. The Nashville sit-ins were notable for their strategic planning and moral clarity.

In 1960, after a bombing at civil rights attorney Z. Alexander Looby's home, over 3,000 people marched silently to the Davidson County Courthouse. There, student leaders C.T. Vivian and Diane Nash questioned Mayor Ben West, who admitted that segregation was wrong and supported integrating lunch counters, a significant step in Nashville's civil rights progress. In May of 1960, lunch counters were desegregated, making Nashville the first major Southern city to begin desegregating public facilities.¹²

Nashville activists also played a critical role in the 1961 Freedom Rides, which challenged segregation in interstate bus travel. After many of the original Freedom Riders were brutally attacked in Alabama, the movement risked stalling. Nashville students, under the leadership of Diane Nash and others, stepped in to continue the rides, displaying remarkable courage and resolve. Their efforts ensured that the campaign would continue, drawing national attention and prompting federal action. Together, the sit-ins and Freedom Rides highlighted Nashville's central role in the Civil Rights Movement and underscored the power of youth-led, nonviolent protest in confronting systemic injustice.

Prayer points:

- Pray for the justice movements in Nashville to lead with a biblical understanding of justice, righteousness, and peacemaking.
- Pray for Kingdom strategies to bring equality to Nashville.
- Pray for the churches in Nashville to become more diverse, to better represent the Kingdom of God.



Stop Three: Corner of Rep. John Lewis Way and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

There are many key Civil Rights leaders who had a significant impact on the city of Nashville. This intersection bears the name of two of them. Not far from here, you will find Rosa Parks Ave.

While Rosa Parks did not spend time in Nashville, her actions directly inspired the young adults who led the Civil Rights movement in the city. Representative John Lewis was a participant in the Nashville Sit-Ins and became a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Nashville multiple times and spoke at Fisk University and Vanderbilt University. He encouraged a continued nonviolent movement exemplified by John Lewis, Diane Nash, and others. In fact, he described the Nashville sit-ins as “an epic known all over the nation.”

Thanks to these incredible leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Nashville became the first major Southern city to desegregate public facilities.

Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and John Lewis were all strongly motivated by their faith and believed that the church had a role to play in bringing ethnic unity by ending Jim Crow and discriminatory laws. Christians, and especially Historically Black Churches like First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, and Clark Memorial Methodist Church, were important leaders not only in Nashville but around the South.

Reflect on these quotes to guide your prayers:

"The Philosophy of Christianity is strongly opposed to the underlying philosophy of segregation. Therefore, every Christian is confronted with the basic responsibility of working courageously for a non-segregated society. The task of conquering segregation is an inescapable must confronting the Christian Churches."



Martin Luther King Jr.,
April 25, 1957

"You have to arrive at the point as believers in the Christian faith that in every human being there is a spark of divinity. Every human personality is something sacred, something special. We don't have a right as another person, or as a nation, to destroy that spark of divinity, that spark of humanity, that is made and created in the image of God."



Representative
John Lewis

"I can see this world because it exists in small pockets of this country and in a small pocket of every person's heart...If we will look to God and work together—not only here but everywhere—then others will see this world too and make it a reality."



Rosa Parks

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