

## Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

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### **Prayer requests -- Week of March 12**

#### **New Prayer Requests:**

- Chris Leonard was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat in December, and had successful treatment last week to return his heart to a regular rhythm. A CT scan showed a spot that could be a blockage; he will have a procedure on Monday morning to determine whether treatment is needed.

#### **Updates on recent Prayer Requests:**

- Mary Lou Anderson was discharged from McAllen Medical Center last week and is continuing to recover at home.
- Joe Massey's pacemaker implantation went well and he is recovering at home.
- Jeff Schneider's surgery on March 2 to implant a defibrillator in this chest went very well and Jeff is recovering at home.
- Melinda Wright, former member of FPC, has returned from her visit to the Cleveland Clinic and is resting at home.
- Prayers of great thanksgiving that Ernie Williams' immunotherapy treatment was successful and there is no remaining cancer.
- Jim Rowland, David's father, died on February 25. Condolence cards can be mailed to David and Ann at 332 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Lane, McAllen, 78501.
- Ruth Tabali is experiencing back pain.
- Kathryn Henry's cousin, Carol, who is hospitalized with late-stage cancer.

#### **On-going Prayer Requests:**

- Prayers of safety and encouragement for Dr. Monzer Yazji, who is currently volunteering in Syria to assist people affected by the recent earthquake, and for other medical personnel as well as for the people of Syria and Turkey. Dr. Yazji is the father-in-law of Felipe and Cathy Salinas' daughter, Hannah. There is more information and a donation link to Dr. Yazji's non-profit in "Life of the Church – February 19".
- Prayers of safety and hope for the people of Cameroon as civil war continues there and violence escalates. The Tabali family has members still living in Cameroon, including Bernard's wife, Magdalen.
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother, has been diagnosed with ALS. He remains at home.
- Penny Brecht, a friend of Mary Lou and Lee Anderson, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- Lou Helt, as she continues to mourn for Charlie and prepares for his memorial service, which will be held on Thursday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary, with a reception following. Lou can be reached at 1301 W. Ridge Rd., Apt. 229, Pharr, TX 78577, or 956-601-0823.
- Sopphey Vance has continuing health issues, particularly low blood sugar spikes. Sopphey requests prayers as well for her mother Victoria's health and well-being. Victoria is diabetic and is adjusting to her recent retirement.

- Roberta Harriff, Jack and Carol's daughter-in-law, is continuing treatment for a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Crystal Simpson
- Karen Ayers, Sher Wilkes' cousin, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers of patience and strength-building for Vinson McLeod as he deals with new mobility issues.
- Prayers for Emmanuel Tabali and his family as they settle into life in the Valley
- Jim McLeod, younger brother of Vinson McLeod, is living at High Hope Care Center in Brenham, Texas. Jim enjoys receiving mail. Greetings for Jim and notes of support for his wife Mary Ann Wycoff can be sent to P.O. Box 160, Kenney TX 77452,
- Carl Walborg, son of Shirley Pippin's good friend Mary Ann Walborg, recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Connor Magee, Mark and Joyce Magee's grandson.
- Mary Ann Walborg, very good friend of Shirley Pippin, as she deals with health and cognitive issues.
- Victor Herrera, Ezequiel's brother, dealing with long-term health issues
- Cisco Villa, whom the church regularly assists, is in deteriorating health due to liver disease.
- The people of the *colonias*.

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### **Calendar -- Week of March 12**

- Monday, March 13: Finance Calling; 4:30 p.m.; Zoom
- Thursday, March 16: Space for God; 10:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Sunday, March 19: Sunday School; 9:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Sunday, March 19: Worship; 10:30 a.m.; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
- Sunday, March 19: Lenten Study, Session 4; 12:00 p.m.; Fellowship Hall; lunch available

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### **Link for all FPC Zoom meetings: WORSHIP IS NOW STREAMED ON FACEBOOK LIVE, NOT ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050357489?pwd=VkhqODg0NjJlFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,86050357489#,,,,,0#,,912217# US (Houston)

### **Link for Facebook Live streaming worship services:**

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=first%20presbyterian%20church%2C%20mcallen%2C%20tx>.

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### **Life of the Church – Week of March 12**

- Many thanks to Henry McElmurray and the Fellowship Team for the Birthday and Anniversary celebration after worship on March 12.
- FPC was presented with a lovely plaque at the **Children's Bereavement Center Open** House on March 2. Look for it in the church narthex.
- The 2023 **Lenten Study** using the book, **Meeting Jesus at the Table** is meeting on Sundays following worship in the Fellowship Hall. On March 19, we will discuss Chapter 3. Contact the church office if you need a copy of the book. Lunch is available at a cost of \$10.00, or you may bring a brown-bag lunch. Please call the church office (956-682-2836) or email Pastor Kathy ([fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com)) to make a lunch reservation.
- **Space for God** will meet on Thursday, March 16 in the Church Parlor with a Zoom link for remote attendance. The group is listening to and discussing audio talks.

## Session Highlights

- **January 2023**
  - Received Tanya Moes into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith
  - Approved bonuses for the former staff members of Lynn Flowers Presbyterian Preschool, to be paid out of remaining preschool funds
  - Approved the 2023 church budget
  - Called a Congregational meeting for February 19 for the purposes of (1) presenting the 2023 budget to the congregation; (2) approving the pastor's 2023 Terms of Call; (3) electing the 2023 Nominating Committee
  - Approved church membership statistics for 2022 to be submitted to Mission Presbytery in the Annual Statistical Report
  - Approved allowing ten students from Kalamazoo College to stay in the Youth Room during Spring Break (March 21-22)
  - Approved hiring Martin Davila for contract work around the church as needed
  - Appointed Dana Friedman as Chair of the 2023 Nominating Committee
  - Authorized Margie Karst to be added as a signer of church checks
  - Scheduled a "Shrove Sunday" pancake lunch for February 19 following the worship service and congregational meeting.
- **February 2023**
  - Approved a request from Ray Correa (submitted through Robert Garza) to use the sanctuary for a music recital on May 6 or May 13; waived the charge for sanctuary rental
  - Discussed the timeline for hiring a new Church Administrator in anticipation of Michael Pullen's retirement on June 1
  - Scheduled a Birthday and Anniversary quarterly celebration on March 12 following worship
  - Heard reports from Christian Education regarding:
    - the "Feasting on the Word" curriculum being used for Sunday School
    - the 2023 Lenten Bible study
    - a potential Youth trip to Montreat this summer
  - Discussed worship plans for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise services

## Life of the Church -- On-going

- On **Rally Day**, September 11, the CE Calling introduced the theme for this program year: ***Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice.***
- There is a **Flower** sign-up board in the hallway near the church office for members to sponsor fresh flowers in honor or memory of a loved one on the first Sunday of a month.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** works with communities facing urgent need. Here is a link to their webpage: <https://pda.pcusa.org/pda/resources/list/?situation=hurricane-ian>
- **Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Choir Room. Contact Robert Garza at 956-720-2301 for more information.
- **Youth Fellowship** meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 3:00.
- **Church Office Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, or by appointment.

- The **Puentes de Cristo** website is up. Check it out to see all the great work that is going on: <https://puentesdecristo.org/> Caly Fernandez can use these supplies:
  - H-E-B gift cards, food, hygiene supplies, and especially diapers. Supplies may be brought to FPC during office hours.
- How to reach Pastor Kathy: [fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com); 512-466-5662
- How to reach Michael Pullen: [fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net)
- All mail for the church should be sent to P.O. Box 1029, McAllen, TX 78505.

### March Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

6 – Leigh Parker	17 – Pat Rossow	22 – Gayle King
8 – Kimberly Pruneda	18 – Shannon Pruneda	29 – Stan Morris
14 – Shane Taylor Freeland Kelly Leonard	21 – Vannie Collins	30 – Melinda Wright

#### Anniversaries

Bill and Anna Bohart	Mike and Andrea Hudler	Drue and Sher Wilkes (3/4)
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### Lectionary Readings for March 19 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

- **1 Samuel 16:1-13**
- **Psalms 23**
- **Ephesians 5:8-14**
- **John 9:1-41**

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they

were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes."<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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### **Prayer for the Week:**

*The psalm for March 19 is Psalm 23 – perhaps the most beloved verses in Scripture. Here is a translation of Psalm 23 from **Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness** by Nan C. Merrill.*

*I encourage you to make this your daily prayer this week. Let this vivid description of God's steadfast care reassure you of God's love as you continue the Lenten journey toward the cross.*

O my Beloved, you are my shepherd;  
I shall not want;  
You bring me to green pastures for rest  
and lead me beside still waters  
renewing my spirit,  
You restore my soul.  
You lead me in the path of goodness  
to follow Love's way.

Even though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow and of death,  
I am not afraid;  
For You are ever with me;  
your rod and your staff  
they guide me,  
they give me strength and comfort.

You prepare a table for me  
in the presence of all my fears;  
you bless me with oil,  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the heart of the Beloved.  
forever.

### **Spirit Booster**

Repeat these words as if God were speaking to you: "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people are my people, and I am your God."

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there I will be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" (Ruth 1:16-17)

Promises are the uniquely human way of ordering the future, making it predictable and reliable to the extent that this is humanly possible.

*Hannah Arendt, philosopher and political activist*