

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

Prayer requests -- Week of November 12

New and Recent Prayer Requests:

- Prayers of consolation for Shirley Pippin and family at the death of Shirley's brother, Andy Childs. Shirley will be traveling to Salt Lake City this week for a memorial service for Andy.
- Prayers that the FPC Session will be led by the Holy Spirit as they meet this week to begin preparing a 2024 church budget.
- Prayers for all who are hungry this day. Note from Pastor Kathy: We have seen a significant increase in the number of people coming to the church to request food; some of them are repeat visitors; some we only see one time. If you'd like to help keep the food cabinet stocked, you can drop off non-perishable food items during church office hours or put a check in the offering plate/mail a check to the church marked "Local Assistance". According to *Action Against Hunger*, nearly 1 in 10 people go to bed hungry each night. According to the Food Bank of the RG, up to 146,000 Valley residents experience food insecurity.
- Prayers for Chris and Kelly Leonard and their nephew Grant.
- Prayers of healing for Sophy Vance who is experiencing medication side-effects.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for improvement in Dee Trevino's mobility and comfort following recent surgery.
- Prayers of continued healing for Martin Davila's mother, Maria, who is doing better following a recent hospitalization.
- Prayers for peace in the Middle East; of safety for everyone caught in the war between Israel and Hamas; of liberation for Israelis being held hostage by Hamas; of relief and humanitarian aid for Palestinians unable to evacuate. Prayers that political and military leaders will find a way to peace.
- Prayers for the safety of Moazz Zaid Younes (friend of ZZ Hamilton), his family and all Palestinians.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Samuella Tabali, Bernard's daughter, has traveled safely from Cameroon to McAllen.
- Prayers of safety for Sveta, Anahird, Tora, and other Ukrainian and Russian friends of ZZ Hamilton.
- Prayers of healing and consolation for Betty Conover of Berea, Kentucky, brother of Jesse, who worships at FPC regularly. Betty injured her wrist in a fall, and recently lost her husband.
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother, diagnosed with ALS, is experiencing increasing challenges.
- Bernard Tabali requests prayers for family unity and love as some members are trying to sow confusion and division after the death of Bernard's sister. And thanksgiving for the breakthroughs which the family has had so far.
- John Kreidler has returned home and is continuing to recover from recent brain surgery.
- Bob Houlihan, father of Kelly Leonard, is undergoing chemotherapy for prostate cancer.
- Prayers of continued healing for David Massey, son of Joe and Jinny, who has transferred from hospital to rehab following a recent stroke.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul, remains in rehab.
- Prayers of safety and hope for the people of Cameroon as civil war continues there and violence escalates. Gifts for PDA's work in Cameroon can be made at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/cameroon/>

On-going Prayer Requests:

- Vinson McLeod
- Estelle Davenport; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 220, Pharr, TX 78577
- Gail Keyes; 215-594-1072; 3334 Country Club Dr., Edinburgh, 78542
- Lou Helt; 956-601-0823; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229; Pharr, TX 78577
- Elizabeth Gearhart; c/o Diane Albert; 1350 Burnham Lane, Batavia, IL 60510
- Ann Sahadi; 1380 Charles Drive, Apt. 415; Longmont, CO 80503; 956-509-1729
- Rita Cochrane; The Gardens at Brookridge; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 111; Pharr, TX 78577
- Roberta Harriff
- Melinda Wright
- Duke Dashbach
- Mac Williams, husband of Crystal Simpson and son-in-law of Lita and Bob Simpson.
- Mel Philips, Kathy Garfield's brother-in-law.
- Sharon Willets; 316 Hazlett Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003.
- Jeff Schneider, brother of Doug and good friend of Sher and Drue Wilkes.
- Anna Finn, Mary Ellen Schneider's sister-in-law, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- Prayers that Dalton Moes might experience growth toward robust mental health.
- Crystal Simpson
- Karen Ayers, Sher Wilkes' cousin, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers for Emmanuel Tabali and his family as they settle into life in the Valley.
- Jim McLeod, younger brother of Vinson McLeod.
- 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
- Anthony Trevino
- The people of the *colonias*.
- Prayers for peace and stability in Africa as nations experience political upheaval and threats of escalating violence.

Calendar

- Monday, November 13: 4:30 p.m.: Finance Calling; Zoom
 - Tuesday, November 14: 6:30 p.m.: Session Stated November meeting; Parlor
 - Wednesday, November 15: 9 to 3: Church Library open for Mid-Week Prayer.
 - Wednesday, November 15: 7:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsal; Choir Room
 - Thursday, November 16: 10:00 a.m.; Space for God; Parlor
 - Sunday, November 19: 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School; Parlor
 - Sunday, November 19: 10:30 a.m.; Worship with guest speaker; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
 - Monday, November 20: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.; Fall Festival; Fellowship Hall
 - Sunday, November 26: 10:30 a.m.; Worship and Hanging of the Greens decorating
 - Sunday, November 26; 11:45; Lunch; Fellowship Hall
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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=VkhqODg0NjJFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

Link for Facebook Live streaming worship services:

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

Budget Report through October 2023

2023	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (October)	\$15,036.50	\$23,165.54	- \$8,129.04
YTD	\$225,566.29	\$298,667.79	- \$73,101.50

November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

Mitch and Lety Magee

John Brown and Jan Seale (11/23/18)

Birthdays

5 – Kathy Garfield

18 – Ernie Williams

26 – Dale Offerman

Beth Carson Freeland

19 – Dana Friedman

27 – Janice (Jan) Brown

7 – Lita Simpson

20 -- Drue Wilkes

28 – Steve Flowers

9 – Pinkie Schwarz

21—Lauren Schneider

Garrett Garfield

12 – Dee Treviño

Feliz Simpson

Aaron Leonard

14 – Scott Schneider

Joanna Simpson

29 – Dan Bautista

15 – Betty Bautista

25 – Shirley Pippin

Life of the Church – Week of November 12

- The **PC(USA) Office of Public Witness** is the advocacy arm of our denomination. The Office provides *Action Alerts* regarding opportunities to contact public officials with input about current affairs or pending legislation. Last week, the Office of Public Witness issued an *Action Alert* regarding **GusNIP**, an element of the annual Farm Bill. You may remember that Cathy and Felipe Salinas included information about GusNIP in their Bread for the World presentation a few months ago. Here's a link to the *Action Alert*: <https://www.votervoices.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/109012/Respond>. Here is a link for more information about the Office of Public Witness and to sign up for regular updates: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>
- On Sunday, November 19, Caly Fernandez will offer a **Report on Puentes de Cristo** during worship.
- On Sunday, November 26, we will share a **Fellowship Lunch** after decorating the building for Advent and Christmas. If you can bring a pot of soup or a bowl of salad or a loaf of bread for that lunch, please contact Henry McElmurray or Pastor Kathy.
- Many thanks to all who contributed to preparing for and hosting the **Community Service of Thanksgiving and Hope** and reception.
- The **Fall Festival** is back! (With a few changes.) It will be on Monday, November 20, in conjunction with the Children's Bereavement Center's Camp Shelby. There will plenty of fun games; the beloved Cake Walk has been reimaged into the Turkey Trot Pie Walk; pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be

available. And here's good news – this year, the game and food tickets are free! Hours: from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please contact Ann Rowland at umyayaya@aol.com if you can help in any of these ways:

- Set up Fellowship Hall (12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 20)
- Supervise a game or activity during the Festival
- Work in the kitchen
- Provide a pie, cake, or other sweet for the Pie Walk
- **Candy for the Fall Festival** can be placed in the basket in the narthex during church or brought to the church office during the week.
- The campaign to name the **Children's Bereavement Center Playroom** in honor of Lynn Flowers HAS REACHED the goal of \$20,000!!!! Many thanks to all who have contributed. There will be a Room Dedication ceremony on Thursday, January 18, 2024.
- As part of the "Report from Mo Ranch" on Sunday, October 22, Pastor Kathy mentioned the capital campaign underway to raise funds for increased facilities and programming for Youth Camps. Here's a link for more information or to give to the campaign: <https://www.moranch.org/youthplaza/>
- **Mid-Week Prayer** Each Wednesday, the Church Library (in its new location next to the elevator) will be open during Church office hours for quiet contemplation and prayer. Resources and instructions for various prayer practices will be provided. Prayer time with the pastor or a Ruling Elder may be scheduled by emailing fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.
- The Church Library also includes a station to "**Leave a Prayer / Take a Blessing**". There is a table with materials to write a prayer and post it on the bulletin board. Prayers can be shared or private. Printed blessings are available for you to take one (or several). Each month will bring a new blessing.

Life of the Church -- On-going

- **Sunday School** meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the Parlor. The class is currently using *Feasting on the Word*, a lectionary-based Bible study curriculum. During Advent, the curriculum will shift to a study of Advent and Nativity art.
 - If you'd like to add your voice to the **FPC Chancel Choir's** worshipful praise of God, check out choir practice or contact Robert Garza at 956-720-2301 or rob_grza10@yahoo.com. Choir practice is held at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room.
 - The **church staff** – Pastor Kathy, church administrator Brian Pullen, custodian Shannon Pruneda, and facilities manager Martin Davila – hold weekly meetings on Monday morning. If you have an item for the staff to discuss, please send it to fpchurch@sbcglobal.net or fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.
 - 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>
 - **Church Office Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, or by appointment.
 - The exterior **Parlor doors** are now key-entry only. If you have an access card for those doors, please dispose of it. To request a key for the exterior church doors, contact the church office.
 - The **Puentes de Cristo** website: <https://puentesdecristo.org/>. Supply list:
 - 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: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com; 512-466-5662
 - How to reach the church office: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net
 - All mail for the church should be sent to P.O. Box 1029, McAllen, TX 78505.
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Lectionary Readings for November 19

- **Judges 4:1-7**
- **Psalm 123**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**
- **Matthew 25:14-30**

[Jesus said] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter sees; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for the Week:

You, O God, are our dwelling place
from generation to generation,
our shield from anguish and distress.
You arm us as children of light
with the hope of salvation,
and you protect us by your love.
Give us grace to build up
and encourage one another,
as we seek wisdom and abundant life
in the strength of your Word
and the assurance of your Spirit. Amen.

Source: *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*; p. 213

November Library Blessing:



**May God stride before you
on your journey through life
and through prayer.**

**May Jesus, your playful brother,
pace you in his holy way to the end.**

**May the Holy Spirit greet you at each corner
and cuddle you to her breast.**

