

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

THIS WEEK – August 17-23

To submit a Prayer Request for the Monday Message:

- ✓ text or email Pastor Kathy (512-466-5662; fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com) by Sunday evening
- ✓ email the church office (fpchurch@sbglobal.net) by Sunday evening
- ✓ give Pastor Kathy a written prayer request on Sunday morning
- ✓ fill out one of the Prayer Request cards in the pews and place it in the Offering Plate

Prayer Requests and Updates

- Prayers for all who are returning to school this month: students, teachers, administrators, support staff. May they all grow and flourish in safety.
- Prayers for Lily Lopez, daughter of choir members Amy and Justin, who has had a fever over the last few days.
- Prayers for Estelle Davenport, who has three fractures in her elbow area from a fall. She is at Rio Grande Regional Hospital, Room 347, doing well with her comprehensive physical therapy. Cards for Estelle can be sent to: The Gardens at Brookridge; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 214, Pharr, TX 78577
- Steve and Barbara Flowers request healing prayers for their daughter-in-law Carthy, who suffered a stroke recently. She received prompt treatment and is recovering. Cards can be sent c/o Steve and Barbara, 1512 Kerria, McAllen, TX 78501.
- Continued prayers of healing for Bernard Tabali, as he deals with a chronic leg wound.
- Prayers of healing for Judy Prater, sister-in-law of Miranda Prater, who is experiencing persistent health challenges.
- Prayers of strength and encouragement for Gail Keyes, as she continues with immunotherapy treatment for lung cancer. Cards may be sent to: 3334 Country Club Drive, Edinburg, TX 78542.

This Week's Moment of Beauty

This link will take you to a recording of Rhiannon Giddens singing *Wayfaring Stranger*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1Z4PAZX9Bs&list=RDe0iXfnyAZhs&index=7>

Announcements –

- The Christian Education Calling's four-week study of our **PC(USA) Book of Confessions** begins this Wednesday, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Each session is self-contained. The schedule for this thematic study is:
 - Week 1 – August 20 – What do our Confessions say about God?
 - Week 2 – August 27 – What do our Confessions say about Jesus Christ?
 - Week 3 -- September 3 – What do our Confessions say about the Holy Spirit?
 - Week 4 – September 10 – What do our Confessions say about the Church?

- The August 17 **Church and World** conversation focused on Christian Nationalism. The PC(USA) has published a resource for congregations and individual who want to better understand and respond to the growing challenge which Christian Nationalism poses: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/8/general-assembly-committee-publishes-resource-help-presbyterians-confront-christian-nationalism>. If you'd like more resources or reading recommendations on this topic, or have a focus suggestions for future **Church and World** conversations, contact Pastor Kathy.
- Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) has issued a letter on behalf of the denomination regarding the dire situation in Gaza; <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2025/7/31/rev-jihyun-oh-calls-urgent-accountability-devastating-crisis-gaza>
- **The Chancel Choir** has returned from summer break. If you would like to join the choir in leading worship through song, contact Robert Garza, FPC Choir Director, at 956-720-2301 or rob_grza10@yahoo.com. Practice is at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room.
- **Sunday School** is on summer hiatus. and will resume in September.
- **Space for God** is on hiatus and will resume in the fall.

Calendar

- Monday, August 18, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – The Player's Studio Orientation; Fellowship Hall
- Monday, August 18, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting; Library
- Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m.: Stated Session Meeting; Parlor and Zoom
- Wednesday, August 20, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.: Creeds and Confessions, Session 1; Parlor
- Wednesday, August 20, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Sunday, August 24, 10:30 a.m.: Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live

Session Highlights – July 15 Called Meeting

- **NOTE:** The Session had previously voted to skip the July Stated Session meeting, which fell within Pastor Kathy's vacation weeks. However, the Session had a Called Meeting on its regular meeting date to discuss two timely issues, leaving all other Session business for the August Stated Meeting.
- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy.
- The Session met with Karen Culbertson, director of The Player's Studio regarding TPS's request to rent the Fellowship Hall on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as a rehearsal space. The Session approved the request.
- The Session received a report from Church Administrator Brian Pullen and FPC member Bob Simpson on the current condition of the church air-conditioning system.
- Approved as next steps:
 - Securing building evaluations / assessments from both an engineering firm and a real estate agent to better understand the church's options and requirements.
 - Investigating grant and loan sources within the PC(USA) to help cover the costs of initial assessments and follow-up actions.
 - The meeting was closed with prayer.

August 3 Called Meeting

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy.
- Discussed a report from Noelynn Llasos, CBC Administrative Manager, regarding another AC leak in the CBC lobby space.

- Session approved hiring a Project Manager to oversee the remainder of the rehabilitation work for CBC therapy rooms and for whatever work needs to be done to address this new issue.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

Financial Report through July

2025	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (July)	\$36,557.29	\$30,150.23	+6,407.06
YTD	\$170,597.30	\$216,557.33	-\$45,960.03

NOTE: The July Revenue includes a transfer of \$15,000 from the church's endowment account into the Operating Fund. The Session has approved regular withdrawals from the endowment to cover the budget shortfall, for a 2025 withdrawal total not to exceed \$75,000.

August Birthdays

2–Tony Zamora	25–Lety Magee	29–Mitch Magee
12–Ethan Hudler	Mark Magee	31–Cassie Vorbach-Vose
13–Tom Turk	28–Jan Seale	
23–Tabitha Rowland	28–Maria Colvin	

August Anniversaries

Spud and Jan Brown	Rob and Lita Simpson
Mark and Beth Freeland	Ernie and Ann Williams

Lectionary Readings for August 24

- **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
- **Psalms 71:1-6**
- **Hebrews 12:18-29**
- **Gospel: Luke 13:10-17**

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the LORD answered him and said, “You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

Prayer for the Week –

Still-speaking God,
 open our ears to hear your voice;
 open our minds to perceive your wisdom;
 and open our eyes to recognize your healing love
 and your powerful presence. Amen.

Source: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*; p. 188

ON-GOING INFORMATION

WORSHIP LINK: Link for Facebook Live streaming worship services:

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

ZOOM LINK: Link for all FPC Zoom meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050357489?pwd=VkhqODg0NjlFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

CHURCH WEBSITE: <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

On-going Life of the Church

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** serves people impacted by disasters of all types. If you would like to support the work of PDA, you can do so here: <https://pda.pcusa.org/>
 - Many people come to the church for food and hygiene bags. To help with that ministry, make a financial contribution or purchase any of these food items for our cupboard:
 - peanut butter crackers
 - tuna packets
 - fruit cups / applesauce
 - potted meat / Vienna sausages
 - protein bars
 - cereal bars
 - beef jerky
 - bottled water
 - **Face masks** are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like to mask up during worship.
 - **“Leave a Prayer / Take a Blessing”**. A table in the Library has materials to write a prayer and post it on the bulletin board. Prayers can be shared or private. Printed blessings are available.
 - The **church staff** holds 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 are 2024-2025 **Presbyterian Planning Calendars** available from the church office.
 - **Church Office Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, or by appointment.
 - 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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Recent and On-Going Prayer Requests:

- Spud Brown requests prayers for the well-being of the FPC congregation and the world.
- Crystal Simpson and her daughter Emi Williams; 14110 Blazey, Houston, TX 77095
- Mauricia Friedman; 7505 North 33rd Street; McAllen 78504.
- Nadine Force; 820 North 22nd Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978
- Lou Helt; Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577; 956-601-0823.
- Amanda Snoke (Kathy Garfield’s daughter).
- Jack Harriff requests prayers for his brothers:
 - Jim, who has liver cancer. Jim has chosen not to pursue chemo and radiation treatments.
 - David, who has end-stage Parkinson’s, his wife, Gaila.
- Prayers of continued healing and strength for Kathy Garfield’s cousin, Dan Winn.
- Ellen Boyd; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road; Pharr, TX 78577.
- Margie Karst; 3334 Country Club, Edinburg, TX 78542.
- Spud and Jan Brown; 208 E. Kiwi Street; McAllen, Tx 78504

- Ruth Groves; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road; Pharr, 78577.
- Elizabeth Gearhart; 9601 Union Road; Plymouth, IN 46563
- Rita Cochrane; The Gardens at Brookridge; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 111; Pharr, TX 78577
- Mary Lou and Lee Anderson; 2600 S Finley Rd., Apt. 3609, Lombard, IL 60148.
- Gale Ryan's sister, Lark, who has responded well to breast cancer treatment.
- Jesse Peña requests prayers for his sister Susan.
- Dick and Gwyn Kozma; 15 Hawthorne Drive, Newnan, GA 30263.
- Prayers for Chris and Kelly Leonard and their nephew Grant.
- Donna Rowland, David's mother who is experiencing health and memory challenges.
- Prayers for continued stroke recovery for David Massey, son of Joe and Jinny.
- Rev. Jacob Lee and First Korean Presbyterian Church, McAllen.
- Cassidy Joule, friend of Sher and Drue Wilkes, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul.
- Dan Eggers
- Melinda Wright
- Duke Dashbach
- Sharon Willets; 316 Hazlett Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003.
- 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.
- Jim McLeod, younger brother of Vinson McLeod.
- Carl Walborg, son of Shirley Pippin's good friend Mary Ann Walborg, diagnosed with cancer.
- Connor Magee, Mark and Joyce Magee's grandson.
- Mary Ann Walborg, good friend of Shirley Pippin, as she deals with health and cognitive issues.
- Prayers for peace in the Middle East.
- Cisco Villa
- Anthony Trevino
- Stephanie McCrory
- Prayers for all who are hungry or lonely or without shelter this day.
- The people of the *colonias*.
- Prayers for the people of Cameroon. PDA link: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/cameroon/>

August Blessing:



May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless you with power to go forth
and proclaim the Gospel.

