

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

THIS WEEK – November 2 - 8

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@sbcglobal.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 our neighbors in the Valley and through the nation whose food benefits are being disrupted by the government shutdown. Please see the Announcements section item about donations to the RGV Food Bank
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Spud Brown is mainly recovered from both a recent fall and fluid retention, and was able to attend worship on November 2.
- Gail Keyes; 3334 Country Club Drive, Edinburg, TX 78542.
- Caly Fernandez requests prayers for her granddaughter Ixya Rivera Cortez, whose oral surgery has once again been postponed.
- Felipe and Cathy Salinas request prayers for Clara Salinas, the widow of Felipe's brother Javier, who has entered hospice care and is nearing end-of-life.
- Gale Ryan requests continued prayers for Jack Ryan, her former brother-in-law, who is hospitalized. She does not have an update on his condition.
- Prayers of consolation for Sher Wilkes and her family at the death of Drue Wilkes, who died at home on Saturday afternoon, surrounded by family, following a long illness. Service plans are pending. Cards may be mailed to 301 E. Hall Acres Rd. #662; Pharr, TX 78577
- Mary Lou Anderson is continuing to heal from a fractured vertebra. Cards for Mary Lou and Lee may be mailed to 2600 S Finley Rd., Apt. 3609, Lombard, IL 60148.
- Lou Helt is at Hidalgo Nursing and Rehabilitation on Sugar Road following a procedure to relieve back pain. She is in room 112 and ready for visitors or calls; 650-408-0062. Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577.
- Pat Rossow is experiencing some health challenges. 4428 N. Glasscock Rd, Palmhurst, TX 78573.
- There will be a memorial service at the church for Reverend James Angus McLeod on Saturday, November 8 at 2:00 p.m. Condolences may be sent to Mary Ann Wycoff at P.O. Box 160, Kenney TX 77452 and to Sarah Humphress at 5523 Ramblewood Lane, Whitehouse, TX 75791..
- Gale Ryan requests prayers for Katie McConell, who is in Stage 4 kidney failure.
- Gale Ryan reports that her sister Lark has excellent results from breast cancer treatment.
- Bernard Tabali continues treatment for his chronic leg wound.
- Sher Wilkes requests prayers for her friend Beronica Aguilar, dealing with a medical problem.

- Continued prayers for Estelle Davenport, as she recovers from three fractures in her elbow area. Estelle is back at Brookridge and loves visitors, so if you are in the area, stop by and say “Hello”, Cards can be sent to: The Gardens at Brookridge; 1201 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 214, Pharr, TX 78577.

THIS WEEK’S MOMENT OF BEAUTY

This week’s Moment of Beauty is The Stellenbosch University Choir of South Africa singing *Baba Yetu*, a translation of the Lord’s Prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCa8RxaOPW8&list=RD-zytX4zFQfw&index=7>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The situation with SNAP continues to be uncertain, and many of our RGV neighbors face increased food insecurity. If you would like to donate food items to either the RGV Food Bank or food pantries at local churches, bring those items to church and place them on the shelves in the Narthex. Pastor Kathy and the Session will get them delivered to places that can use them.



Did you know that \$5 provides 25 meals?

Don't have time to do a food drive? Make a monetary donation instead at foodbankrgv.com. You can also text 'DRIVE956' to 44-321 to make a donation.

Please deliver your food collections to the Food Bank RGV:



724 N Cage Blvd. Pharr, TX

Questions? 956-904-4517

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



- If you would prefer to make a monetary donation to the Food Bank (and monetary donations are more helpful to them), here is the link: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/food-bank-of-the-rio-grande-valley-inc>
- Space for God** is reading *All About Love* by Bell Hooks. Meetings are Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The reading assignment for November 6 is Chapter 8.
- The Congregational Care team, under the leadership of Kathryn Henry, has begun a **Congregational Card Ministry**. Pick up a “Thinking of You” or “Prayer” card and envelope from the Church Narthex, write a note to someone on the church prayer list, and bring your written notes back to the basket in the narthex, and the church will take care of getting them addressed, stamped, and mailed.
- We began November with our annual All Saints worship. Thanks to all who shared names of loved ones to be included in our time of remembrance. The month holds many more events of note, so please mark your calendars and plan to be at church each week this month:
 - November 9 – **Music Ministry Appreciation Sunday**. We will recognize and thank the wonderful musicians who bless us each week in worship: Organist Beverly Avila; Choir Director Robert Garza; Choir Accompanist and Pianist Ale Pacheco Garza; and the Chancel Choir. There will be a reception following worship.
 - November 9 – **November Stated Session meeting**.

- November 16 – **Stewardship Lunch and Program following worship.** We'll hear more about needed building repairs – and see some of the works-in-progress and some of the work-hasn't-begun-but-is-needed areas of the church. The Session will share information about the church's financial circumstances, and the congregation will have an opportunity to help set 2026 budget priorities and goals.
- November 23 – our annual **Hanging of the Green** service to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas, followed by a Fellowship lunch.
- November 30 – **First Sunday of Advent.** Our Advent theme for 2025 will be *WHAT DO YOU FEAR?: INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT*
- There are important November opportunities in the community as well. All Faiths United is hosting a moderated conversation on the topic of **“United in Finding Common Ground”** on Tuesday, November 25. Here is a link (from the FPC website) to more information: https://www.mcallenfpc.org/files/ugd/f5f22f_19e1c0c3e36c499b82ecb2baffdc9d42.pdf
- **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.

CALENDAR

- Monday, November 3, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.: The Player's Studio rehearsals; Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Thursday, November 6, 10:00 a.m.: Space for God; Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, November 8, 2:00 p.m.: Memorial Service for James McLeod; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
- Sunday, November 9, 10:30 a.m.: Music Ministry Appreciation Sunday; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
- Sunday, November 9, 11:45 a.m.: Reception; Parlor
- Sunday, November 9, 12:00 p.m.: Stated Session Meeting; Fellowship Hall

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – OCTOBER 12 STATED MEETING

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy.
- The Session received Goiridh Ceartas (Jeff Justice) into Affiliate membership. Goiridh's is a member of St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. He will be introduced to the congregation during Life of the Church on October 19.
- Received the Treasurer's Report from Dana Friedman.
- Noting that expenditures for Local Assistance are already at the 2025 budgeted total, the Session approved a special offering on the third Sunday of each month for contributions toward the cost of food and hygiene bags for our neighbors. This offering will follow the pattern of the Power of Hope offering and all money received will be designated for Local Assistance.
- Scheduled a Stewardship lunch and program for Sunday, November 16 following worship.
- Added regular Finance Calling meetings to the church calendar on the Wednesday before each month's Session meeting; to be held at 4:30 p.m. on Zoom.
- Received the Clerk's Report from Nancy Pruneda.
- Shared prayer requests.
- Received information on the November worship schedule:

- November 2 – All Saints Worship
- November 9 – Music Appreciation Sunday with reception following
- November 23 – Reign of Christ / Hanging of the Greens
- November 30 – First Sunday of Advent
- Approved building use requests from the RGV Music Club for:
 - Saturday, January 10 – Fund-raising dinner and program; Fellowship Hall
 - Sunday, January 18 -- Concert; Sanctuary
 - Saturday, February 21 – Concert; Sanctuary
- Approved a request from Caly Fernandez to host a mission group dinner in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 12.
- Discussed compensation for the work Michael Pullen is doing as project manager for remediation of mold issues in the CBC Lobby / Nursery areas of the building.
- Received a request from Pastor Kathy that the 2026 church budget include COLA adjustments for church staff.
- Received information from Pastor Kathy that the Mission Presbytery Commission on Ministry has raised the Minimum Terms of Call for full-time installed pastors as follows:
 - 2026 -- \$50,000
 - 2027 -- \$52,500
 - 2028 -- \$55,000
- Received information on current building repair projects in the mold-affected rooms and for the church elevator.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Mitch and Lety Magee

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5 – Kathy Garfield	18 – Ernie Williams	27 – Janice (Jan) Brown
Beth Carson Freeland	19 – Dana Friedman	28 – Steve Flowers
7 – Lita Simpson	21—Lauren Schneider	Garrett Garfield
9 – Pinkie Schwarz	Feliz Simpson	Aaron Leonard
12 – Dee Treviño	Joanna Simpson	29 – Dan Bautista
14 – Scott Schneider	25 – Shirley Pippin	
15 – Betty Bautista	26 – Dale Offerman	

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER

2025	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (Sept.)	\$14,792.46	\$26,698.67	-\$11,906.21
YTD	\$185,837.93	\$277,400.59	-\$91,562.66

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 9

- **Haggai 2:1-9**
- **Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17**
- **Gospel: Luke 20:27-38**

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him²⁸ and asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.”²⁹ Now there were seven brothers; the first married and died childless;³⁰ then the second³¹ and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless.³² Finally the woman also died.³³ In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven married her.”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;³⁵ but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.³⁶ Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.³⁷ And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.³⁸ Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

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

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK –

God of life, for this day we give thanks.
May we bear witness to the gift of life in all we say and do,
from the flowers that bloom to the critters that creep,
from the friends we seek out to the strangers we encounter.
As the birds sing out their praises, may we, too, make a joyful noise.
May our words and our actions reveal your good news.
Help us to be inspired and awed by your extraordinary creation. Amen.

Source: *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, Year C, Vol. 2; p. 259

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

- 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 2025-2026 **Presbyterian Planning Calendars** available from the church office.
- **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/>
- **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.

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; 13330 West Rd., Apt. 237; Houston, TX 77041.
- Mauricia Friedman; 7505 North 33rd Street; McAllen 78504.
- Nadine Force; 820 North 22nd Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978
- 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
- 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.
- 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/>
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A NOVEMBER BLESSING:



May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant us to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Jesus Christ,
that together we may glorify God now and forever.
Amen.

