

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

Prayer requests -- Week of April 21

New and Recent Prayer Requests:

- Mauricia Friedman has been discharged from DHR Rehab and is continuing to recover at home. She is not ready for visitors. Cards can be mailed to 7505 North 33rd Street, McAllen, 78504.
- Vera Barnes, former FPC member, fell recently and broke her hip. She is in DHR, not ready for visitors. Cards can be mailed to 4612 N. 5th Street, McAllen, 78504.
- Dan Bautista, newly-elected Board member for *Puentes de Cristo*, requests prayers for that ministry as it moves through a time of transition.
- Sophia Bousquet, Lita Simpson's sister, is back in her apartment and doing very well with various therapies as she continues to recover from a recent fall.
- Mac Williams, husband of Crystal Simpson and son-in-law of Lita and Bob Simpson, has shown improvement following a set-back in his recovery from liver transplant surgery.
- Renewed prayers, especially prayers for comfort, for Sher Wilkes' cousin, Karen Ayers, who has cancer.
- Prayers of healing for Henry McElmurray.
- Vinson McLeod has moved to Alfredo Gonzalez Veterans Home at 301 E. Yuma. Please contact Cory Raymond at 956-221-2240 to schedule a visit.
- Prayers of healing for Donna Rowland, David's mother, who is experiencing some health and memory challenges.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Mrs. Eveline Koubango, mother of Ruth Koubango Tabali, has traveled safely from Congo to McAllen for an extended visit.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Magdelene Tabali, wife of Bernard, has traveled safely from Cameroon to McAllen for an extended visit.
- Jeff Schneider, brother of Doug and dear friend of Sher and Drue Wilkes, has returned home following surgery.
- Jesse requests prayers for his friend Carlton who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Judy MacArthur, Cathy Salinas' mother, who broke her hip in a fall on January 27, is continuing with rehab and is doing well.
- Dee Trevino reports that her grandson Erik Avila remains hospitalized following recent surgery.
- Bob Houlihan, father of Kelly Leonard, has finished proton therapy for prostate cancer. However, the cancer has spread, so they are investigating next steps. Kelly requests prayers for her father and the entire family.
- Bernard Tabali requests prayers for family unity.
- Prayers of healing for Rachel Green White, youngest daughter of Marci Green (sister of Thomas Ball), as she is treated for metastatic breast cancer that has spread to her vertebrae.
- Prayers for all who are hungry or lonely or without shelter this day.
- Prayers for Chris and Kelly Leonard and their nephew Grant.

- Prayers for peace in the Middle East.
- Prayers for Moazz Zaid Younes (friend of ZZ Hamilton), his family and all Palestinians.
- Prayers for Sveta, Anahird, Tora, and other Ukrainian and Russian friends of ZZ Hamilton.

On-going Prayer Requests:

- Emma Jasper; 505 Trosky Rd. W, # 112; Edgerton, MN 56128; 507-820-0269 (Updated address)
- Prayers of continued healing for David Massey, son of Joe and Jinny.
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother, who has ALS.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul.
- 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
- Melinda Wright
- Duke Dashbach
- Prayers of healing for Richard Kozma, former member of FPC, who is receiving treatment for prostate cancer. He and Gwyn can be reached at 15 Hawthorne Drive, Newnan, GA 30263.
- Prayers of healing for Jim Harriff, Jack's brother, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
- Prayers of continued improvement for Mel Philips, Kathy Garfield's brother-in-law.
- Roberta Harriff, daughter-in-law of Jack and Carole Harriff.
- 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.
- Crystal Simpson
- Prayers of healing for Sophey Vance who is experiencing medication side-effects.
- 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.
- Victor Herrera, Ezequiel's brother, dealing with long-term health issues
- Cisco Villa
- Anthony Trevino
- The people of the *colonias*.
- Prayers of safety and hope for the people of Cameroon. Gifts for PDA's work in Cameroon can be made at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/cameroon/>

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/>

Calendar

- Monday, April 22: 11:00: Staff meeting
- Wednesday, April 24: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, April 24: 11:30 a.m.: Space for God lunch at Koko's; 10th Street, McAllen
- Wednesday, April 24: 7:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsal; Choir Room
- Thursday, April 25: 10:00 a.m.; Space for God; Parlor
- Sunday, April 28: 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School; Parlor
- Sunday, April 28: 10:30 a.m.; Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live

Coming Up

- Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost Worship
- Sunday, May 19: 2:00 p.m. – Clarinet Recital; Sanctuary
- Sunday, May 19: 5:00 p.m. – Recital by Piano and Voice Students of Cecilia Molina; Sanctuary
- June 3 – August 11: Sabbatical leave for Pastor Kathy

Financial Report through March

| 2024 | Revenue | Expenses | Net |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| MTD (March) | \$18,104.45 | \$28,241.22 | - \$10,136.77 |
| YTD | \$82,320.30 | \$76,462.47 | + \$5,857.83 |

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 – David Rowland | 16 – Spurgeon “Spud” Brown | 24 – Ann Rowland |
| 5 – Austin Miller | David King | 26 – John Miller |
| 9 – Emma Lentz | 20 – Chris Leonard | 29 – Nancy Pruneda |
| 13 – Barbara Montemayor | 21 – Vanna Vorbach | |
| 14 – Caleb Miller | 23 – Bert Miller | |

Anniversary

Kelly and Chris Leonard

April Library Blessing:



**The blessing of the eternal, triune God –
Alpha and Omega,
first and last,
beginning and end –
be with you always.**



Life of the Church – Week of April 21

- The **Sabbatical Task Force** met on April 14 and has made great progress in preparing for this summer. The Sundays for all ten weeks of Pastor Kathy's sabbatical leave have been scheduled. There will be guest preachers, congregational activities, service projects, and a couple of very exciting music mornings. Look for more details and a copy of the summer schedule in upcoming Monday Messages.
- Each week, **mailing packets** which include the Monday Message, the previous Sunday's sermon, and the upcoming Sunday's Order of Worship (complete service with text of all prayers, words for all hymns, and images / artwork) are sent to people who are: homebound and/or interested in a larger-font copy of the worship order and/or distant from the RGV. If you would like to receive either a complete mailing packet or a mailing with just a copy of the upcoming Order of Worship, please contact fpchurch@sbcglobal.net or fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.
- **Mo in the Valley** information and registration meeting has been postponed. Look for the new date in an upcoming Monday Message. The Valley Mo experience is for students from 8 to 15 years old. For more information or a registration form, contact Sheri Dittmann at sheri.dittman@gmail.com.
- The Session has approved a campaign to purchase additional **Glory to God** hymnals. If you would like to purchase a hymnal in honor or in memory of a loved one, please complete the form posted on the church website or contact the church office. Hymnals are \$25.00 each.
- Dan Eggers has written a pamphlet about how to lower the cost of running air conditioners. He has provided copies for the congregation. If you would like one, you can stop by the church office or ask to have one mailed to you.
- The Sunday School class has returned to **Feasting on the Word** curriculum.
- **Space for God** is currently discussing *Wearing God* by Lauren Winner. Reading assignment for April 18 is Chapter 4. Books can be purchased from Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Wearing-God-Clothing-Laughter-Overlooked/dp/B01LTHXJW8>) or from Bookshop.org (<https://bookshop.org/search?keywords=Wearing+God>).

Life of the Church -- On-going

- We have kept the food shelves in the narthex and continue to receive food donations. The collected food will be given to food pantries in area churches and the RGV Food Bank.
- 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.
- **"Leave a Prayer / Take a Blessing"**. There is a table in the Library 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.
- 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.

- How to reach Pastor Kathy: fpccpastorkathy@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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Readings for April 28 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

- **Acts 8:26-40**
- **Psalm 22:25-31**
- **1 John 4:7-21**

- **John 15:1-8** (The Inclusive Bible)

[Jesus said] “I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower ² who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. ³ You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. ⁷ If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

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

Prayer for the Week –

We praise you –
you who planted us in this life,
and eternally tend us as your own.
Graft us into your Spirit
that we may be bound together,
and held and affirmed
as one community in your love.
Nourish us with your compassion
and prune us with your truth
until we are one people,
abiding always in you and growing in love.
Easter God, you are the vine-keeper,
and we praise you –
you who grafts us into yourself,
and calls us your own.
May we be your Easter people,
bearing the fruit of resurrection faith.

Source: *Prayers for All Seasons, Year B*; Seasons of the Spirit Collection; p. 81
