

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

THIS WEEK – May 18-24

Prayer Requests and Updates

- Prayers of healing for Lou Helt, who is currently at South Texas Health Systems, Edinburg (Trenton and Sugar) in Room 441. She had surgery to treat an abdominal abscess. Cards can be mailed to Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577; 956-601-0823.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Ernie Williams got an excellent report at his recent M.D. Anderson check-up.
- Prayers for Linda Morris, who had stomach surgery on Tuesday, May 13. She is not ready for calls or visits; cards may be mailed to 4817 Upas Street, McAllen, 78501.
- Prayers of consolation for Beverly Avila and her family as they mourn the death of Emma Jasper, Beverly's mother and a great friend of this congregation. There was a memorial service for Emma on Thursday, May 1; a link at the end of the obituary will take you to the service and slide show. Obituary: <https://www.hartquistfuneral.com/obituaries/emma-jasper>. Gifts in honor of Emma may be sent to Edgebrook Auxiliary, 505 Trosky Road West, Edgerton, MN 56128. Cards may be sent to Beverly at 1600 Wisteria, McAllen, 78504.
- Ann and Ernie Williams request prayers for their dear friend Bailey Gurwitz as she recovers from recent cancer surgery at M.D. Anderson in Houston.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Gail Keyes has returned home following a brief hospitalization. Cards can be mailed to 3334 Country Club Drive, Edinburg, 78542.
- Estelle Davenport has returned to her apartment at Brookridge. She is happy to have visitors. Cards can be sent to 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 220, Pharr, TX 78577
- Prayers of continued healing for Bernard Tabali, who had surgery recently on a leg wound.
- Prayers for a joyful Eastertide for Christians around the world. *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.*

This Week's Moment of Beauty

The Monday Message has added this new "Moment of Beauty" section – to draw us back to our origin in divine beauty; to renew us in our wonder; to equip us for the work of living as people of hope in a world that too often tends toward despair.

- This link will take you to a video of Jon Batiste and the National Symphony Orchestra performing *What a Wonderful World*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xypMhl6ECY>

Announcements –

- Many thanks to all who helped make **Graduate Recognition Day** a success. It was wonderful to see some of our high school graduates and hear about their upcoming adventures in education. This year's High School Graduates are: Evelyn Garfield, Haylee King, Connor McLeod, Eduardo Mendoza, Isabella Mendoza, and Sophia Mendoza. College graduates are:

Marcos Turk (Bachelor's Degree); Sebastian Turk (Bachelor's Degree); Paulina Longoria (Master's Degree). The CE Calling presented gifts to the graduates, including this blessing:

- *May God's blessing accompany you as you find new journeys to travel. May you walk safely along the pathways of your dreams. May god's gentle hand guide the decisions you make and the passions that you follow. May our heart and life always reflect God's love and truth, and may hope be a light within you that illumines each new day. Amen.*
- Sunday School has begun a summer hiatus.
- The next **"Church and World"** conversation over lunch will be on May 25 in the Fellowship Hall and will focus on the topic of Christian nationalism. If there are topics you'd like to discuss in future months, contact Pastor Kathy at fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.
- Many thanks to all who contributed to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** Special Offering. We have finally finished counting the change in those fish banks and the total of this year's offering is \$897. The money collected from One Great Hour of Sharing is used by the denomination to support the work of Presbyterian Hunger Program; the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Note from Pastor Kathy: One of the Christian voices I find most helpful and inspiring is Diana Butler Bass, historian and author (her books include: *Grateful; Christianity for the Rest of Us; Freeing Jesus*). Her Substack, **The Cottage**, is offering a 20% discount off the annual \$50 subscription fee for new subscribers who sign up this May. If you are interested in receiving essays on Scripture and on current events, inspirational poetry and art, and information about faith-based events, you can check out The Cottage and sign up here: <https://dianabutlerbass.substack.com/subscribe>.
- **Space for God** will continue discussing *My Grandfather's Blessings* by Rachel Naomi Remen on Thursday, May 22.
- Here's a summer volunteer opportunity: St. Mark United Methodist Church hosts a summer reading program called **Project Transformation**. The project needs financial support and volunteer reading partners for the students. If you have been missing the SOS program that FPC used to host, please consider signing up to help with Project Transformation. More information and sign-up available at: <https://projecttransformation.org/rio-texas/get-involved>

Calendar

- Monday, May 19, 4:30 p.m.: Finance Calling; Zoom
- Tuesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting; Parlor
- Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.; Stated Session Meeting; Parlor and Zoom
- Wednesday, May 21, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Thursday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.; Space for God; Parlor and Zoom
- Sunday, May 25, 10:30 a.m.: Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
- Sunday, May 25, 11:45 a.m.: Church and World lunch and conversation; Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, May 25, 6:00 p.m.: Studio 7 Student Recital; Sanctuary

Session Highlights – April 15 Stated Meeting

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy and a discussion of a Lenten reflection on *The Confession of Belhar*
- Received Treasurer's Report from Dana Friedman
- Received Clerk's Report from Nancy Pruneda

- Approved requests to use the sanctuary for:
 - Hector Naranjo Senior Recital – May 5
 - Marla Garza student recital – May 18
 - Cecilia Molina student recital – May 25
 - Carlos Cantu music event – May 10
 - UTRGV music event – May 14
- Discussed setting up a Church Nursery. The current nursery space will be cleaned and prepared for use beginning in August, with volunteer staffing.
- Approved a bid from arborist Grace Holt to trim courtyard trees.
- Heard that Xavier Garza has resigned as Sunday worship soundboard / streaming technician. Approved offering the job to Sadie Garza.
- Heard an update on the mold remediation in two downstairs CBC rooms
- Discussed recent water incursion through stained glass windows during heavy rains. Approved scheduling an inspection of the windows for structural integrity.
- Discussed the church's possible response to increased vulnerability of members of our community. Pastor Kathy will research community and denominational resources.

Financial Report through March

2025	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (April)	\$27,066.89	\$34,671.79	-\$7,604.90
YTD	\$98,131.82	\$121,331.86	-\$23,200.04

May Birthdays

10 – Samuel Friedman	14 – Kyle Henry	18 – Estelle Davenport
11 – Sher Wilkes	Kathleen Maxson	Lindsey Schneider
12 – Laura Turk	16 – Bethann Freeland	Judy Suter
13 – Debra Schneider		26 – Meredith Ashlye Jenkins
		30 – Nadine Force-Macey

May Anniversaries

Dan and Betty Bautista

Hugo and Nancy Pruneda (5/29/1976)

Lectionary Readings for May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- Acts 16:9-15
- Psalm 67
- Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
- John 14:23-29

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you love me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.”

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

Prayer for the Week – Psalm 67

The Beloved is gracious to us,
a loving Presence within us;
The Radiant One shines in us.
O, that Love's Way would be lived throughout the earth,
Love's abiding power embraced by all the nations.
May the people ever rejoice in You
singing songs of appreciation for all that You,
O Beloved, freely give to us.

Let the nations listen and heed;
we are all called to live with integrity and justice.
For You, O Blessed Counselor, will guide every nation on earth
as the leaders and people open their hearts and respond.

Abandoning ourselves into the Heart of Love,
we need not worry or fret;
for Love's grace abides wherever we are.
In Love, let us make our home.

Source: Nan C. Merrill; *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*

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=VkhqODg0NjIJS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

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
- 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. Practice is at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room.
- **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.

Recent and On-Going Prayer Requests:

- Crystal Simpson and her daughter Emi Williams.
- Mauricia Friedman
- Amanda Snoke (Kathy Garfield’s daughter).
- Jack Harrieff 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.
- Prayers for Dana Friedman as he continues to work on settling Henry McElmurray’s estate.
- Nadine Force; 820 North 22nd Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978.
- 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, as she receives treatment for breast cancer.
- Jesse Peña requests prayers for his sister Susan.
- Jeff Schneider, brother of Doug Schneider and good friend of Sher and Drue Wilkes
- 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/>
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May Blessing:



Go gladly into the world
Be filled with the love of God.
Dance to the song of the Spirit.
Befriend the Christ in each new day.
Amen.

