

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

THIS WEEK – January 26 – February 1

Prayer Requests and Updates

- Prayers for Michael Pullen and his family as they grieve the death of Michael's mother, Marty Pullen, on Thursday, January 23. There are no service plans at this time.
- Prayers for Kathy Garfield and her family at the death of Kathy's Aunt Betty on January 25.
- Prayers for Renee Vorbach, who will have surgery on January 30 at DHR Women's Hospital. 1508 Lark Ave., McAllen, 78504.
- Shirley Pippin requests prayers for Marlee Schwarz, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Spud Brown requests prayers for our church; for the people of First Presbyterian, Weslaco upon that church's closure; and for all congregations that are facing difficult decisions about their future.
- Prayers of continued healing for Estelle Davenport, who made a trip to the ER on Saturday, but is recovering at home with medication. Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 220, Pharr, TX 78577
- Miranda Prater requests prayers of healing for her sister-in-law, Judy Prater, who has been ill for several weeks.
- Gail Keyes has been diagnosed with lung cancer following a recent biopsy. Her spirit is strong – and she enjoys visits. Gail is currently at Hidalgo Nursing and Rehab (formerly Abri) on Sugar Road in Edinburgh. Contact Margie Karst at 956-369-0665 to check on the best time to visit.
- Jack Harriff requests prayers for his three brothers:
 - Jim, who has liver cancer. Jim has chosen not to pursue chemo and radiation treatments.
 - David, who has end-stage Parkinson's. David is often frozen and unable to speak. He and his wife Gaila, are both struggling with the emotional and spiritual toll of the disease.
 - Mark, who has cut himself off from family, has untreated liver disease and alcoholism.
- Sher and Drue Wilkes ask for renewed prayers for Jeff and Mary Ellen Scheider. Jeff (Doug's brother and Sher & Drue's dear friend) is undergoing radiation treatments which have debilitating effects on him. He has lost 20 pounds in four weeks and is very nauseated. Sher says: "His faith is so strong. He and Mary Ellen so appreciate our prayers."
- Prayers of thanksgiving that J.J. Avila's recovery from recent back surgery continues to go well.
- Gail Ryan requests prayers for her sister, Lark, who has been treated for breast cancer.

Announcements

- Many thanks to all who assisted with the January 26 service project to prepare food / hygiene bags. There are now plenty of bags in the closet ready for neighbors who come to the church. If you'd like to support the church's Local Assistance benevolence project, we'll fill bags again after church on February 23. Or you can donate food items for the bags (see the list in On-Going Life of the Church) or funds for the purchase of hygiene items.
- One item we need for our Local Assistance Bags is socks. There will be a basket in the narthex during February for donations of men's and women's socks.
- The **2024 Giving Statements** previously distributed had a bit of a glitch which resulted in incorrect total giving amounts. That glitch has been found and fixed; accurate 2024 Giving Statements will be available this week.
- In the sermon on January 26, Pastor Kathy encouraged everyone to watch the sermon which Bishop Marian Budde preached during the Inauguration Prayer Service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, January 21. Here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwwaEuDeqM8>. If you would like to send a postcard of support to Bishop Budde, whose message of mercy has been met with condemnation and threats from some quarters, the mailing address is The Rt Revd Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Church House, Mount St. Alban, Washington, DC, 20016-5094.
- The congregation is once again invited to participate in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** on February 9 by bringing monetary gifts or non-perishable food items (no glass containers, please) to worship. There will be baskets in the narthex for the food donations and big pots to toss your coins / cash / checks into during the Offertory.
- The CE Calling has several events planned. Mark your calendars for:
 - Souper Bowl Chili lunch following worship on Sunday, February 9: *Greetings Church Friends! The Sunday School Class and the CE Calling are inviting you to **Super Bowl Chili Sunday** after Worship on **February 9th**. Come and enjoy good food, community and judge which Chili you think is best! Any donations will be reported to the Souper Bowl of Caring, as in the past, and the collection will be sent to our local Food Bank or Presbyterian Children's Home. Come and join us!!*
 - Pancakes on Sunday, March 2 in preparation for Ash Wednesday worship: *The Sunday School Class and CE Calling asks that you mark your calendars for Fat/Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, March 2nd at 9:30 am** to begin our Lenten season.*
 - Horizons Bible Study; Session 1 on Tuesday, March 11 at 4:00 at Caly Fernandez' home
- And mark your calendars for some upcoming **Music** events at the church:
 - Sunday, March 9 – the Worship service will be **Organ Evensong for Lent**, led by Jack Harriff
 - Sunday, April 13 – **Flight of Imagination**, a concert by Robert Heath and *Resonant Horizon*, featuring music from Ghibli Studios, Flight of Fantasy, and other sources
 - Sunday, April 27 – **Amazing Love**, a program of special music by the FPC Chancel Choir.
- **Space for God** meets each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. The group has selected HumanKind by Brad Aronsen as its next book. There are some copies available in the church office (\$10.00). There is no reading assignment for January 30.
- The Session approved a **2025 budget** at their meeting on January 18. The Session and Pastor Kathy are grateful for the congregation's generous support. However, as membership has declined, so has the pledged and non-pledged giving. The church has substantial investment accounts, thanks to past gifts which have increased in value over the years. For 2025, the Session has approved withdrawing \$75,000 from those investment funds.

- **Bread for the World** is holding a February 4 Zoom launch of the *Nourish Our Future* program which addresses targeted hunger and food insecurity issues. The event will include Spanish translation. Here are English and Spanish registration links, which you are invited to share with family, friends and neighbors, so we can get a good representation from the Rio Grande Valley. For more information, contact Felipe and Cathy at felipecsalinas@gmail.com.
 - English: <https://go.bread.org/page/73502/survey/1>
 - Spanish: <https://go.bread.org/page/73502/survey/1?locale=es-PR>
- If you have not yet received a **Star Word** for 2025, pick one up in the Narthex after worship on Sunday or contact the church office to have one mailed to you.

Calendar

- Monday, January 27, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting; Parlor
- Wednesday, January 29, 9:00 a.m.: McAllen Faith Leaders Network; *Kreative Grounds*
- Wednesday, January 29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Thursday, January 30, 10:00 a.m.: Space for God; Parlor
- Sunday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.: Sunday School; Parlor
- Sunday, February 2 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship with Communion; Sanctuary and Facebook Live

Session Highlights – January 19 Stated Meeting and Budget Preparation

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy.
 - Fellowship over breakfast tacos.
 - Shared prayer requests.
 - Discussed request from Bill Reagan, Executive Director of Children’s Bereavement Center, for additional office space. Pastor Kathy will follow up, offering two upstairs rooms which can be repurposed for CBC.
 - Gave preliminary approval to a request from McAllen Music Club to use the church as a venue for concerts. Church staff will follow up with Music Club personnel.
 - Approved a request to use funds from the Henry McElmurray estate to purchase a new computer for the church office.
 - Building walk-through with Martin Davila, Facilities Manager, paying particular attention to out-of-the-way corners, mechanical rooms, and storage areas of the building.
 - Discussed building issues, focusing on current mold situation in two downstairs CBC rooms.
 - Discussed ways to use the church facilities more fully and frequently. Shared our gratitude over having a building and courtyard which offer great possibility for both congregational fellowship and community outreach.
 - Approved the 2025 church budget, as proposed by Treasurer Dana Friedman, with minor changes.
 - Elected Lita Simpson to serve as Commissioner to the March 7-8 Mission Presbytery meeting at First, Kerrville
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Financial Report through December

2024	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (Dec)	\$36,673.45	\$26,699.35	+\$9,974.10
YTD	\$268,225.53	\$329,462.14	-\$61,236.61

Readings for February 2

- **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
- **Psalm 71:1-6**
- **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
- **Luke 4:21-30**

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Prayer for the Week – Psalm 71:1-6

In You, O my Beloved, do I take refuge;
Let me never feel separated from You!
In your compassion come and refresh me;
listen to my cry,
answer my plea!
Be to me a rock, a tower of strength,
a strong arm to uphold me,
as I abandon myself into your hands.

Be a very Presence to me as fear grips me,
as I grow old and my friends leave me.
For you, O Friend, are my hope,
my strength, since I was a child.
Upon You have I trusted from my birth,
You, whom I knew before my mother’s womb.
I continually sing praises to You!

Source: Nan C. Merrill; *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*; p. 133

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/>

January Birthdays

Birthdays

1 - Kevin Henry	12 - Estaban Davila	25 - Mike Hudler
2 - Hilton Wilson	Tina Turk	27 - Elizabeth Martinez
4 - Courtney Collins	15 - Salomon Bautista	29 - Avrel Seale
9 - Feliz Pineda	16 - Lou Helt	30 – Joe Massey
10 – Margie Karst	21 - Pablo Davila	Sopphey Vance
11 - Adriana Davila	23 - Jeremy Tucker	

January Anniversary

Raymond and Esther Jenkins

February Birthdays

Birthdays

2 - Cramer Miller	15 - Wileen King Aalborg	24 – Evelyn Garfield
4 - John Anthony Freeland	17 - Francisco Villarreal	27 – Herlinda Morris
8 - Carol Henry	18 - Thomas Freeland	28 – Cory Raymond
11 – Sandie Trevino	19 - Fern Kreidler	
15 – Kathryn Henry	21 – Caroline Collins	

February Anniversaries

Bruce and Wileen (King) Aalborg

On-going Life of the Church

- **Sunday School** meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the parlor. The class uses a lectionary-based curriculum.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** continues to serve those who have been impacted by disasters of all types, including the recent wildfires in Southern California. 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.
- **"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:

- 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.
- Lou Helt; Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577; 956-601-0823.
- Nadine Force; 820 North 22nd Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978.
- Emma Jasper; 505 Trosky Rd. W, # 112; Edgerton, MN 56128; 507-820-0269.
- Ellen Boyd; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road; Pharr, TX 78577.
- Prayers for Margie Karst, as she begins treatment for Psoriatic Arthritis. 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.
- 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.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul.
- Dan Eggers
- Melinda Wright
- Duke Dashbach
- Roberta Harriff, daughter-in-law of Jack and Carole Harriff.
- Sharon Willets; 316 Hazlett Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003.
- Jesse requests prayers for his friend Carlton who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- 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
- Mac Williams
- 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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January Blessing:



The Lord bless you and keep you
in your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.
Amen.

