



**Living Out God's Call
to Joy and to Justice**

Prayer requests -- Week of March 19

New Prayer Requests:

- Chris Leonard had a pacemaker implanted last week and is recovering at home.
- David Denney, son-in-law of Spud and Jan Brown, was admitted to the hospital in Cedar Park on Saturday after fainting. He is experiencing high blood pressure.
- Prayers of condolence for Tanya Moes' friend Melissa and her family, who recently lost a family member to suicide.
- Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration for Eng Parker's grandchild, Weston Anthony Duffy, son of Joyce and Connor Duffy, born on February 28, 2023 in Australia.
- Prayers for the people of Southern Cameroon as violence there escalates. The Tabali family has members still living in Cameroon, including Bernard's wife, Magdalen.
- Ann Sahadi is preparing for her move to an assisted living facility in Longmont, Colorado.
- Sopphey Vance continues to have medical issues, including some difficult side effects to medication.
- Anthony Trevino was recently attacked by a dog and suffered injuries to his arm and leg.

Updates on recent Prayer Requests:

- Joe Massey's pacemaker implantation went well and he is recovering at home.
- Jeff Schneider's surgery on March 2 to implant a defibrillator in this chest went very well and Jeff is recovering at home.
- Melinda Wright, former member of FPC, has returned from her visit to the Cleveland Clinic and is resting at home.
- Ruth Tabali is experiencing back pain.
- Kathryn Henry's cousin, Carol, who is hospitalized with late-stage cancer.

On-going Prayer Requests:

- Prayers of safety and encouragement for Dr. Monzer Yazji, who is currently volunteering in Syria to assist people affected by the recent earthquake, and for other medical personnel as well as for the people of Syria and Turkey. Dr. Yazji is the father-in-law of Felipe and Cathy Salinas' daughter, Hannah. There is more information and a donation link to Dr. Yazji's non-profit in "Life of the Church – February 19".
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother, has been diagnosed with ALS. He remains at home.
- Penny Brecht, a friend of Mary Lou and Lee Anderson, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- Lou Helt, as she continues to mourn for Charlie and prepares for his memorial service, which will be held on Thursday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary, with a reception following. Lou can be reached at 1301 W. Ridge Rd., Apt. 229, Pharr, TX 78577, or 956-601-0823.
- Roberta Harriff, Jack and Carol's daughter-in-law, is continuing treatment for a rare and aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

- Crystal Simpson
- Karen Ayers, Sher Wilkes' cousin, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers of patience and strength-building for Vinson McLeod as he deals with new mobility issues.
- Prayers for Emmanuel Tabali and his family as they settle into life in the Valley
- Jim McLeod, younger brother of Vinson McLeod, is living at High Hope Care Center in Brenham, Texas. Jim enjoys receiving mail. Greetings for Jim and notes of support for his wife Mary Ann Wycoff can be sent to P.O. Box 160, Kenney TX 77452,
- Carl Walborg, son of Shirley Pippin's good friend Mary Ann Walborg, recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Connor Magee, Mark and Joyce Magee's grandson.
- Mary Ann Walborg, very 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, whom the church regularly assists, is in deteriorating health due to liver disease.
- The people of the *colonias*.

Calendar -- Week of March 19

- Monday, March 20: Finance Calling; 4:30 p.m.; Zoom
- Tuesday, March 21: Session; 6:30 p.m.; Parlor and Zoom
- Wednesday, March 22: Choir Practice; 7:30 p.m.; Choir Room
- Thursday, March 23: Space for God; 10:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Saturday, March 25: Communion Training for RGV Ruling Elders; 10:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Sunday, March 26: Sunday School; 9:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Sunday, March 26: Worship; 10:30 a.m.; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
- Sunday, March 26: Lenten Study, Session 5; 11:30 a.m.; Fellowship Hall; lunch available

Link for all FPC Zoom meetings: WORSHIP IS NOW STREAMED ON FACEBOOK LIVE, NOT ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050357489?pwd=VkhqODg0NjJFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

One tap mobile: +13462487799,,86050357489#,,,,,0#,,912217# US (Houston)

Link for Facebook Live streaming worship services:

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

Life of the Church – Week of March 19

- It's time to order Easter lilies in memory or in honor of a loved one. Order forms will be included in next week's worship bulletin, or you can call the church office.
- The 2023 **Lenten Study** using the book, **Meeting Jesus at the Table** is meeting on Sundays following worship in the Fellowship Hall. On March 26, we will discuss Chapters 4 and 5. Contact the church office if you need a copy of the book. Lunch is available at a cost of \$10.00, or you may bring a brown-bag lunch. Please call the church office (956-682-2836) or email Pastor Kathy (fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com) to make a lunch reservation.
- **Space for God** will meet on Thursday, March 23 in the Church Parlor with a Zoom link for remote attendance. The group is listening to and discussing audio talks.

Life of the Church -- On-going

- On **Rally Day**, September 11, the CE Calling introduced the theme for this program year: ***Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice.***
- 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>
- **Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Choir Room. Contact Robert Garza at 956-720-2301 for more information.
- **Youth Fellowship** meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 3:00.
- **Church Office Hours** are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday, or by appointment.
- The **Puentes de Cristo** website is up. Check it out to see all the great work that is going on: <https://puentesdecristo.org/> Caly Fernandez can use these supplies:
 - H-E-B gift cards, food, hygiene supplies, and especially diapers. Supplies may be brought to FPC during office hours.
- How to reach Pastor Kathy: fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com; 512-466-5662
- How to reach Michael Pullen: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net
- All mail for the church should be sent to P.O. Box 1029, McAllen, TX 78505.

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

6 – Leigh Parker	17 – Pat Rossow	22 – Gayle King
8 – Kimberly Pruneda	18 – Shannon Pruneda	29 – Stan Morris
14 – Shane Taylor Freeland Kelly Leonard	21 – Vannie Collins	30 – Melinda Wright

Anniversaries

Bill and Anna Bohart	Mike and Andrea Hudler	Drue and Sher Wilkes (3/4)
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Lectionary Readings for March 26 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

- **Ezequiel 37:1-14**
- **Psalms 130**
- **Romans 8:6-11**
- **John 11:1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But

let us go to him.”¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away,¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Prayer for the Week: -- Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O Life-giving Creator,
and rattle the door latch
of my slumbering heart.
Awaken me as you breathe upon
a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days
of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dreams of holiness.
Call me forth from the prison camp
of my numerous past defeats
and my narrow patterns of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

Show to me during these Lenten days
how to take the daily things of life
and by submerging them in the sacred,
to infuse them with a great love
for you, O God, and for others.
Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,
the real works of reform and renewal
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,
help me not to waste
these precious Lenten days
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

Source: Edward Hays; Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual; p. 136

Spirit Booster

Write a favorite Bible verse on an index card or piece of scrap paper. Put it somewhere you will come across it during the week – a kitchen drawer, taped to the bathroom mirror, your wallet, etc. Each time you see the verse, pause briefly to let God's word speak to your heart and spirit.

To Help You Reflect: Oh, the joys of those
 who walk not after the advice of the wicked,
 nor stand in the path of sinners,
 nor sit in the seat of scoffers,
 but delight in the law of Yahweh
 and ponder it day and night. Psalm 1:1-2

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.
Martin Luther