

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

Prayer requests -- Week of September 17

New and Recent Prayer Requests:

- Bob Houlihan, father of Kelly Leonard, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is making treatment decisions.
- Andy Childs, brother of Shirley Pippin, had a verberoplasty procedure to provide pain relief from fractured vertebrae. He is in Salt Lake City, Utah. He will go from the hospital to a therapy facility.
- John Kreidler is in ICU at Rio Grande Regional recovering from surgery to control bleeding in his brain.
- Prayers of thanksgiving and support for the newly installed Ruling Elders of the Class of 2026: Mike Hudler, Joe Massey, and Bernard Tabali.
- Prayers of continued healing for David Massey, son of Joe and Jinny, who has transferred from hospital to rehab following a recent stroke.
- Prayers of healing and encouragement for Vinson McLeod as he addresses on-going mobility issues. He is ready for visitors at Senior Care on Sugar Road in Edinburgh or phone calls at 956-339-5654. NOTE: This is an updated number; the number in previous Monday Messages is incorrect.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Bernard and Magdalene Tabali arrived safely in Maryland to spend time with family members. Magdalene will then return to Cameroon.
- Prayers for peace and stability in Africa as nations there experience political upheaval and threats of escalating violence. There have been seven military coups in sub-Saharan Africa in the last two years, most recently in Gabon, which neighbors Cameroon.
- Traveling mercies for Neil Kohl as he works on the harvest in South Dakota. He expects to be gone for a month to six weeks.
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother, is experiencing more effects of ALS. He remains at home, committed to living with gratitude.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul, is in rehab continuing to recover from recent brain surgery.
- Prayers of healing for Dee Trevino, who will have surgery which she hopes will improve her mobility.
- The people of Maui as they work to recover from the recent devastating wildfires. Designated gifts to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's recovery work in the area can be made at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hawaii-wildfires/>
- Prayers of safety and hope for the people of Cameroon as civil war continues there and violence escalates. Gifts for PDA's work in Cameroon can be made at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/cameroon/>

On-going Prayer Requests:

- Estelle Davenport
- 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
- Roberta Harriff
- Melinda Wright
- Duke Dashbach
- Mac Williams, husband of Crystal Simpson and son-in-law of Lita and Bob Simpson.
- Mel Philips, Kathy Garfield's brother-in-law.

- Sharon Willets; 316 Hazlett Ave., Wheeling, WV 26003.
- Jeff Schneider, brother of Doug and good friend of Sher and Drue Wilkes.
- 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.
- Sopphey Vance
- Crystal Simpson
- Karen Ayers, Sher Wilkes' cousin, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Prayers for Emmanuel Tabali and his family as they settle into life in the Valley.
- Jim McLeod, younger brother of Vinson McLeod.
- 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
- Anthony Trevino
- The people of the *colonias*.

Calendar

- Monday, September 18: 11:00 p.m.; Church Staff Meeting; Parlor
- Wednesday, September 20: 9 to 3: Church Library open for Mid-Week Prayer.
- Wednesday, September 20: 7:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsal; Choir Room
- Thursday, September 21: 12:30 p.m.; CE Calling; Parlor
- Sunday, September 24: 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School; Parlor
- Sunday, September 24: 10:30 a.m.; Worship; FPC Sanctuary and Facebook
- Sunday, September 24: 11:45 a.m.; 3rd Quarter Birthday and Anniversary Celebration; Parlor
- Wednesday, September 27: September Stated Session Meeting: 6:30 p.m.; Parlor
- Sunday, October 1: 10:30 a.m.; World Communion Worship
 - Peace and Global Witness Offering received

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

Link for Facebook Live streaming worship services:

[https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=first%20presbyterian%20church%2C%20mcallen%2C%20tx.](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=first%20presbyterian%20church%2C%20mcallen%2C%20tx)

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Joe and Julianne Garza

David and Ann Rowland

Gonzalo and Adela Zamora

Birthdays

2 - Bob Simpson

21 – Eduardo (Eddie) Mendoza

26 -Crystal Simpson

12 - Alan Tittle

22-Cam Henry

27-Elizabeth Gearhart

13 - Keara Hudler

24 - Ismael Cantú

28-Andrea Hudler

21 - Veda Burtchell

John Wright III

Renée Vorbach

Life of the Church – Week of September 17

- As part of the September 17 sermon on Matthew 18:21-35, Pastor Kathy recommended two excellent books for further reading on the complex topic of forgiveness. There are copies of each in Pastor Kathy's office that she's happy to loan out.
 - *Don't Forgive Too Soon: Extending the Two Hands That Heal* by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn, and Matthew Linn.
 - *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu.
- On October 1, as part of our World Communion Sunday worship, we will receive the **Peace and Global Witness** special offering of the PC(USA). You can find out more about this offering at: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/>
- **Sunday School** has resumed and meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the Parlor. The class is currently using *Feasting on the Word*, a lectionary-based Bible study curriculum.
- On September 10, William Kiweewaa of **Africa Renewal Ministries** spoke during the Sunday School hour and during worship. William is from Kampala, Uganda, Africa, and has been a leader in the ministry for several years. ARM just celebrated its 20th anniversary of sharing the Good News of God's grace and love to thousands of children, families, and supporters. You can learn more about their work at: <https://africarenewal.org/> and donate at: <https://africarenewal.org/projects>.
- The campaign to name the **Children's Bereavement Center Playroom** in honor of Lynn Flowers is more than half-way to the goal of \$20,000. If you would like to assist with the campaign, contact Cathy Salinas at LynnFlowersPlayRoom@gmail.com. For more information or to make a donation, visit the CBC website: <https://cbcrgv.app.neoncrm.com/forms/lynn-flowers-playroom>
- The Christian Education Calling is offering a new **Mid-Week Prayer** program this year. Each Wednesday, the Church Library (in its new and updated location next to the elevator) will be open during Church office hours (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) for anyone who would like to spend some time in quiet contemplation and prayer. Resources and instructions for various prayer practices will be provided. Prayer time with the pastor or a Ruling Elder may be scheduled by emailing fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.
- The Church Library also includes a station where you can "**Leave a Prayer / Take a Blessing**". There is a table with materials for writing a prayer and posting it on the Library 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.
- Amy and Justin Lopez, faithful members of our FPC choir, are looking forward to the arrival of Lily Noelle, due on October 19. If you'd like to help them welcome Lily, they have baby gift registries at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/amy-lopez-justin-lopez-october-2023-mcallen/3QSQL7E3RDEMh>; and Target: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift-giver?registryId=6f2597a0-a4f9-11ed-8d8c-93b48fa72648&type=BABY>.
- The **Presbyterian Foundation** recently offered two webinars on Stewardship: *Building a Culture of Generosity* and *Tactical Stewardship: Creating an Annual Plan*. Recordings are available at: <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/resources-from-presbyterian-foundation-day-of-learning/>
- The **FPC Chancel Choir** is back from their summer break! Choir practice is held at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room. If you'd like to add your voice to the choir's worshipful praise of God, check out choir practice or contact Robert Garza at 956-720-2301 or rob_grza10@yahoo.com.

Life of the Church -- On-going

- The **church staff** – Pastor Kathy, church administrator Brian Pullen, custodian Shannon Pruneda, and facilities manager Martin Davila – holds weekly staff 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 **Puentes de Cristo** website: <https://puentesdecristo.org/>. Supply list:
 - 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 the church office: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net
 - All mail for the church should be sent to P.O. Box 1029, McAllen, TX 78505.
-

Lectionary Readings for September 24

- **Exodus 16:2-15**
- **Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45**
- **Philippians 1:21-30**
- **Matthew 20:1-16**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Prayer for the Week: FEAST OF LIFE, a Prayer of Adoration

Praise to our God,
our help in ages past,
who has nourished us, body and spirit,
and raised up in every generation
saints and workers for justice
who gave us the ground we stand on
and planted the seeds of change.

Praise to our God,
our hope in years to come,
who makes us dream generous dreams
of a harvest shared,
of sufferings ended,
of the time when all shall be included
in one great feast of life.

Praise to our God
who daily offers us
this present moment
to renounce despair,
to leave behind our fear,
and choose that community of freedom
where those who are poor come first,
but all who kneel and open their hands
shall be unfailingly fed.

Source: Janet Morley; *All Desires Known*; p. 125

September Library Blessing:



May the LORD bless you and keep you!

May the LORD's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the LORD look kindly upon you and give you peace!

Numbers 6:24-26

