

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

THIS WEEK – November 30 – December 6

To submit a Prayer Request for the Monday Message:

- ✓ text or email Pastor Kathy (512-466-5662; fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com) by Sunday evening
- ✓ email the church office (fpchurch@sbcglobal.net) by Sunday evening
- ✓ give Pastor Kathy a written prayer request on Sunday morning
- ✓ fill out one of the Prayer Request cards in the pews and place it in the Offering Plate

PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES

- The memorial service for Drue Wilkes will be held in the FPC sanctuary on Saturday, December 6 at 10:30 a.m., with reception following in the Fellowship Hall. Drue's obituary is available at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pharr-tx/drue-wilkes-12554420>. **Please note that December 6 is the date of the McAllen Christmas Parade, which will involve street closures.** Confirm that you have a clear route to the church. Cards for Sher and family may be mailed to 301 E. Hall Acres Rd. #662; Pharr, TX 78577/
 - Prayers of consolation for the family and friends of Clara Salinas, sister-in-law of Felipe and Cathy, who died last Tuesday, November 25. A service was held on Friday, November 28.
 - Prayers for our FPC choir members, many of whom were out sick on Sunday.
 - Margie Karst reports that Gail Keyes has been placed on some new medications that are causing side effects. Gail remains at home. 3334 Country Club Drive, Edinburg, TX 78542.
 - Emmanuel Tabali reports that his father Bernard is doing very well following treatment for a chronic leg wound, and expects to return to the Valley soon.
 - Jesse Pena requests prayers for his grandmother, who is not doing well.
 - Sher Wilkes requests prayers for her dear friend Sandra Gaulke, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
 - Sher also requests renewed prayers for Jeff and Mary Ellen Schneider, both of whom are experiencing health challenges.
 - Lou Helt has been transferred to the South Texas Health System hospital on McColl to follow up on complications from a recent surgical procedure. 650-408-0062. Cards can be sent to Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577.
 - Pat Rossow is experiencing some health challenges. 4428 N. Glasscock Rd, Palmhurst, TX 78573.
 - Gale Ryan requests continued prayers for Jack Ryan, her former brother-in-law, who is hospitalized. She does not have an update on his condition.
 - Gale Ryan requests prayers for Katie McConell, who is in Stage 4 kidney failure.
 - Estelle Davenport; The Gardens at Brookridge; 1201 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 214, Pharr, TX 78577.
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THIS WEEK'S MOMENT OF BEAUTY

This week's Moment of Beauty link: [Bread of Heaven \(Cwm Rhondda\) - Johns' Boys Welsh Male Choir](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Many thanks to all who selected Angels from this year's Su Casa de Esperanza **Angel Tree** project. There are still some names waiting to be claimed. Contact the church office if you'd like the church staff to select a name for you. We'll send you the child's name, age, and gender. Wrapped gifts should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 14. For more information or to arrange to have your gifts picked up, contact Ann Williams, 956-493-1425.
- **Advent Devotionals** based on this year's theme: *What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent*, can be picked up in the narthex or requested from the church office. There are large-print versions available upon request.
- **Sunday School** has resumed for Advent and meets at 9:00 each Sunday morning in the Parlor. Class discussions will center on Advent artworks from *A Sanctified Art*.
- The annual **Advent by Candlelight** worship service for women is this Wednesday, December 3; 6:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 4200 North McColl, McAllen.
- The Session extends its thanks to all who attended the November 16 **Stewardship Program** to discuss the church's current financial situation and 2026 plans and priorities. If you have further input for the Session's consideration, comments can be sent to fpchurch@sbcglobal.net or fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com or shared directly with a Session member. Current FPC Session members are: Mike Hudler, Bernard Tabali, Dana Friedman, Caly Fernandez, Nadine Force, Lita Simpson, Joe Massey, and Kathy Garfield.
- **Space for God** has chosen *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde as their next book. The group will next meet on December 4.
- To donate food items to either the RGV Food Bank or food pantries at local churches, bring items to church and place them on the shelves in the Narthex. Or make a monetary donation: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/food-bank-of-the-rio-grande-valley-inc>
- The Congregational Care team, under the leadership of Kathryn Henry, has begun a **Congregational Card Ministry**. Pick up a "Thinking of You" or "Prayer" card and envelope from the Church Narthex, write a note to someone on the church prayer list, and bring your written notes back to the basket in the narthex, and the church will address, stamp, and mail them.
- To join the **Chancel Choir**, contact Robert Garza, FPC Choir Director, at 956-720-2301 or rob_grza10@yahoo.com. Practice is at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room.

CALENDAR

- Monday, December 1, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. – The Player's Studio rehearsals; Fellowship Hall
 - Monday, December 1, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting, Parlor
 - Wednesday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
 - Wednesday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.: *Advent by Candlelight*; First United Methodist Church
 - Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
 - Thursday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.: Space for God; Parlor
 - Sunday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.: Sunday School; Parlor
 - Sunday, December 7, 10:45 a.m.: Advent 2 Communion Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – NOVEMBER 9 STATED MEETING

- The meeting was opened with prayer and began with lunch and fellowship.
- Received reports from Treasurer Dana Friedman, Clerk Nancy Pruneda, and Moderator Kathryn Escandell.
- The Session spent much of the November meeting discussing the current financial and building challenges facing the church, and making plans for the information to be shared at the November 16 Stewardship lunch and program

December Anniversaries

Dana and Mauricia Friedman (12/16)

Erik and Cassie (Vorbach) Vose

John and Melinda Wright

December Birthdays

4 – Joyce Magee

10 – Doug Schneider

27 – Ann-Maree Freeland

6 – Rev. O’Quin Kelly

11 – Ansen Seale

28 – Jesse Peña

9 – Sadie Garza

13 – Felipe Salinas

29 – Amanda Wright

Jeff Schneider

14 – Carolyn Landrum

31 – Eng Parker

20 – Ezequiel Bautista

FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH OCTOBER

2025	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (Oct.)	\$18,735.21	\$37,475.55	-\$18,740.34
YTD	\$204,573.14	\$314,876.14	-\$110,303.00

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 7 – ADVENT 2: *When we’re running out of hope, God is at work.*

- **Isaiah 42:19-21**

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,

the jackals and the ostriches,

for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself

so that they might declare my praise.

- **Gospel: Matthew 11:1-11**

11 Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah^[a] was doing, he sent word by his^[b] disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet?^[d] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

POEM FOR THE WEEK –

Our Advent series, “What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent” includes poems by Rev. Sarah A. Speed for each week’s theme and Scripture. These poems will be used as our Monday Message weekly prayers through Epiphany.

Week 2 Theme: **When We’re Running out of Hope, God is at Work**

GOD IN THE KITCHEN

I called home my first semester of college. I told my mom I was fine,
but I was homesick. She must have heard the truth in my voice.
The ache ate at me. It was a long, slow song, a million tiny ants
slurping the juice from a peach. I was tender and bruised,
in the doldrums of it all. But she could hear all of that. So three states away,
she preheated the oven. Three states away,
she dusted a layer of streusel over the soft peaks
of a dozen warm muffins. And three days later,
I unboxed a package from home –
a dozen blueberry muffins, a love letter with my name on it,
a reminder that I was not alone.
If you’re running out of hope, count to three.
God is in the kitchen. She’s just waiting for the yeast to rise.

Source: *Prayer* by Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

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/>

ON-GOING LIFE OF THE CHURCH

- 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
- **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 2025-2026 **Presbyterian Planning Calendars** available from the church office.
- **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/>
- **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.

ON-GOING PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Spud Brown requests prayers for the well-being of the FPC congregation and the world.
- Crystal Simpson and her daughter Emi Williams; 13330 West Rd., Apt. 237; Houston, TX 77041.
- Mauricia Friedman; 7505 North 33rd Street; McAllen 78504.
- Nadine Force; 820 North 22nd Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978
- Lee and Mary Lou Anderson; 2600 S Finley Rd., Apt. 3609, Lombard, IL 60148.
- 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.
- 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
- Jesse Peña requests prayers for his sister Susan.
- 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 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.
- 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/>

A DECEMBER BLESSING:



May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Alleluia!

