

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

### **THIS WEEK – January 18-24**

To submit a Prayer Request for the Monday Message:

- ✓ text or email Pastor Kathy (512-466-5662; [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com)) by Sunday evening
- ✓ email the church office ([fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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**

- Prayers that, however we spend this Martin Luther King Day, it may refresh our spirits and renew our commitment to service and to the work of establishing Beloved Community.
- Prayers of consolation for the family and friends of Jeff Schneider (brother of Doug; good friend to Sher and Drue Wilkes). We have been praying for Jeff for several years as he has dealt with multiple health challenges. Jeff died on Friday, January 16. Cards may be sent to his widow, Mary Ellen, at 460 61<sup>st</sup> Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32968, and to Doug Schneider at 7414 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Lane, McAllen, 78504.
- Prayers for Mary Lou Anderson, who with her husband Lee, was a Winter Texan friend of FPC for many years. Mary Lou is facing multiple health challenges, most seriously heart and respiratory issues. She was recently hospitalized due to Covid but has recovered from that; the healing of her fractured vertebra has progressed well. She and Lee hope that she will soon be discharged from the hospital to the Health Unit at their residence and from there to their apartment, once the apartment has been outfitted with a hospital bed. Cards may be sent to 2600 S. Finley Road, Apt. 3609, Lombard, IL 60148. Lee can be reached by phone at 708-528-0148,
- Renewed prayers for Gail Keyes, who has been admitted to the South Texas Health System hospital at Trenton and Sugar; Room 207. She is being treated for an infection. Sister Margie Karst reports that she thinks Gail will be up for visitors this week. 3334 Country Club Drive, Edinburg, TX 78542.
- Prayers of healing and strength for Everett Sondreal, husband of Winter Space for God member Grace, who is hospitalized at DHR, McAllen. And prayers of support and encouragement for Grace.
- Prayers that Hugo Pruneda will receive relief soon from the kidney stone that is troubling him.
- Prayers for the people of Venezuela – those who are still in the country and those who were displaced during Maduro's administration. May the nation and all its people be led toward peace, stability, and prosperity.
- Prayers for the state of this world; especially prayers of rescue, relief, and restoration for all people experiencing conflict and trauma because of armed conflict, political oppression, climate extremes, or other causes.

- Estelle Davenport has been discharged from the hospital and is back at The Gardens at Brookridge, Room 214. She welcomes brief visits.
- Prayers of healing and encouragement for Ellen Boyd, who is having more cancer surgery.
- Prayers of celebration and thanksgiving at the birth of Charlotte June Ellsworth, daughter of Kasie and Chuck Ellsworth, great-granddaughter of Shirley Pippin. Charlotte was born on January 1, 2026. (Shirley would be happy to show you pictures.)
- Pat Rossow has returned to Biltmore and is ready for visitors. 700 E. Jackson, McAllen.
- Miranda Prater requests prayers for her friend, Deena Oungst, at the death of her mother.
- Sher Wilkes requests prayers of consolation for the family and friends of her dear friend Sandra Gaulke, who died last month.
- Jack and Carole Harriff request prayers for Jack's brother David, who has end-stage Parkinson's, and his wife, Gaila.
- Lou Helt has moved to Hidalgo Nursing and Rehabilitation, 4503 Sugar Road, Edinburg 78539.
- Jesse Pena requests prayers for his grandmother, who is not doing well.

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### **THIS WEEK'S MOMENT OF BEAUTY** – [Henhouse Prowlers-Gospel in Review](#)

❖ Thanks to Cathy and Felipe Salinas for this Moment of Beauty recommendation. If you have a video or artwork you'd like to share with the Monday Message community, please send the link to [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com).

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness has issued this Statement of the Detention of Refugees: [Detention and scrutiny of refugees prompts statement from the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness during time of 'fear-based enforcement' | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)
- On Tuesday, February 3, The Catholic Diocese of Brownsville and Bread for the World are hosting **“Hunger in the Valley: A Dialogue on What Our Faith Calls Christians to Do”**. The conversation between Rev. Eugene Cho, President of Bread for the World, and Bishop Daniel Flores will be moderated by Sister Norma Pimentel, President / CEO of Catholic Charities of the RGV. The event will be from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 216 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St., San Juan, 78589. All are welcome. You can get more information and register at [Hunger in the Valley - Diocese of Brownsville - Brownsville, TX](#).
- In the January 18 sermon, Pastor Kathy referenced “The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity”, a *Christian Century* article by Walter Brueggemann, which you can find here: [View PDF](#)
- **Space for God** will meet on Thursday, January 22 at 10:00 in the Parlor to discuss Chapters 1-10 (through p. 63) of *Theo of Golden*.
- From the **FPC Treasurer, Dana Friedman**: The Session is working on finalizing the budget for 2026. As of last week, we had received eleven *Estimate of Giving* cards. If you would like to submit an Estimate of Giving card and have not yet done so, please deliver the card to the church office this week. Thank you.
- FPC member **Spurgeon (Spud) Brown** shares this message about **pledging to the church**:  
 I first went to Sunday School when I was six (6) years old and my sister was four (4) years old.  
 My mother would put two nickels for our offering tied into two corners of each of our handkerchiefs – one nickel was for Sunday School and the other was for church services that

followed. The country was in a Depression and money was scarce. But you could go to the grocery store and buy a large candy bar or a soda pop for a nickel!

Later, when I graduated from McHigh in 1948, I worked full-time for my father for \$55.00 per week, which included Saturdays, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. I gave the church \$5 a week and put the rest into a savings account for later.

When I got married in 1956, I was still earning \$55.00 a week with added expenses, but I still gave a \$5 offering to church. Then Dr. Walkup became our minister in May, 1964. One of his sermons was on tithing. He said that you must add more to your offering each year for you have received more money each year. He said to start with \$1.00 per week.

Now, for me, I started at a dollar (\$1.00). The next year I received a little more salary so I decided to add to my pledge three dollars (\$3.00) more per week, which I called “the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

I find that when you give more, the Lord God adds a little something to life that can be given to serve God’s will, such as caring for people who are poor or hungry or without a home.

I challenge you to add \$1.00 or more per week to your church pledge and discover how God will give back to you.

- **January 4 Epiphany Worship** included the distribution of Star Words. Star Words can be picked up in the Narthex or mailed upon request (contact Pastor Kathy at [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com)).
- FPC Session Member Caly Fernandez, in her work as Director of **The House of Love and Justice**, invites the congregation to assist with a **Food Drive** to feed local communities. Donations can be placed on the shelves in the church narthex. Items most needed are:
  - Canned meats
  - Pasta
  - Rice
  - Dry beans
  - Peanut butter and jelly
  - Granola bars
  - Canned soups
  - Spaghetti sauce
  - Canned vegetables
  - Canned fruits
  - Cooking oil
  - Oatmeal
- The Congregational Care team, under the leadership of Kathryn Henry, oversees a **Congregational Card Ministry**. There are cards available in the Narthex; completed notes may be returned to the church to be addressed, stamped, and mailed.
- To join the **Chancel Choir**, contact Robert Garza, FPC Choir Director, at 956-720-2301 or [rob\\_grza10@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_grza10@yahoo.com). Practice is at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Choir Room.

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## **CALENDAR**

- Monday, January 19, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; The Players Studio; Fellowship Hall
  - Monday, January 19, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting
  - Wednesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
  - Thursday, January 22, 10:00 a.m.: Space for God; Parlor
  - Sunday, January 25, 10:30 a.m.: Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live
  - Tuesday, February 3: Bread for the World event
  - Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday
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**FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER**

<b>2025</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>MTD (Dec.)</b>	<b>\$30,276.53</b>	<b>\$28,624.23</b>	<b>+\$1,652.30</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$262,899.34</b>	<b>\$376,030.74</b>	<b>-\$113,131.40</b>

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## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 11 STATED MEETING**

- Present: Mike Hudler, Dana Friedman, Caly Fernandez, Lita Simpson, Kathy Garfield, Bernard Tabali, Clerk Nancy Pruneda, Moderator Kathy Escandell. Excused: Nadine Force, Joe Massey.
- The meeting was opened with prayer.
- The Session received Ruth Kuobongo, Emmanuel Tabali, Magdalene Tabali, and Stephanie McCrory into membership by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Received reports from Treasurer Dana Friedman, Clerk Nancy Pruneda, and Moderator Kathryn Escandell.
- Approved a request from Children’s Bereavement Center to use the Fellowship Hall for a Driscoll Children’s Hospital event on either Saturday, April 18 or Saturday, April 25.
- Scheduled a 2025 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter / 2026 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Birthday and Anniversary Celebration for Sunday, January 25 following worship.
- Received an update on remediation work to Children’s Bereavement Center rooms.
- Worked on the 2026 Budget, using a worksheet developed by Treasurer Dana Friedman.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

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### **January Anniversary**

Raymond and Esther Jenkins

### **January 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	

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### **LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY 25 –**

- Isaiah 9:1-4
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9
- I Corinthians 1:10-18
- Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – <sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time, Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called to them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

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## **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK –**

God of radiant Light,  
shine into our lives,  
and disperse the darkness  
that dims our vision;  
shine into our world,  
and cast out the fears  
that have long chained us;  
shine into us,  
that we may be a people  
of your hope and promise. Amen.

Source: B. J. Beu; *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*; p. 21

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## **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/>

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## **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](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net) or [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com); 512-466-5662
- How to reach the church office: [fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net)
- All mail for the church should be sent to P.O. Box 1029, McAllen, TX 78505.

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## **ON-GOING PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- Spud Brown requests prayers for the well-being of the FPC congregation and the world.
  - Estelle Davenport; The Gardens at Brookridge; 1201 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 214, Pharr, TX 78577.
  - Crystal Simpson and her daughter Emi Williams; 13330 West Rd., Apt. 237; Houston, TX 77041.
  - Mauricia Friedman; 7505 North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street; McAllen 78504.
  - Nadine Force; 820 North 22<sup>nd</sup> 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).
  - 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/>
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**A JANUARY BLESSING:**



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May there always be work for your hands to do  
May your purse always hold a coin or two  
May the sun always shine through your window pane  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain  
May the hand of a friend be near to you  
May God fill your heart to gladden you.

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