

Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

PLEASE NOTE: The Monday Message has a new format. Over time, a lot of helpful information has found its way into the Monday Message, some of it timely, some of it on-going. We are not taking anything out, but we are reorganizing so you won't have to read through the whole Message if you only want to know what's new.

The first section – **"This Week"** – includes current Prayer Requests, Announcements, Calendar, Scripture Readings, and Prayer for the Week.

The rest of the Monday message includes less time-sensitive content: Facebook Live and Zoom links; On-going Prayer Requests, including contact info; On-going Life of the Church; Session Highlights; Birthdays and Anniversaries; Financial Reports; the monthly Blessing.

If you have comments or suggestions about this redesign – or any aspect of the Monday Message – please send your feedback to Pastor Kathy at fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK – November 17-23

Prayer Requests and Updates

- Nadine Force-Macey remains hospitalized after a recent fall. She is currently in Room 258 at Rio Grande Regional, but hopes to move to in-hospital rehab this week. Her phone number is 956-532-8978.
- Lou Helt will remain in rehab through at least November 19, continuing to gain strength after abdominal surgery. She is in room 110 at Hidalgo Nursing and Rehab (formerly Abri) on Sugar Road in Edinburg; phone number: 956-386-1112. Cards for Lou can be mailed to: Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229; Pharr, TX 78577
- Shirley Pippin reports that Mark Watt (father-in-law of Shirley's granddaughter, Jessica) is at home after November 11 bypass surgery and doing well.
- J.J. Avila has moved from in-hospital rehab to a skilled nursing facility in San Antonio where he will continue to undergo rehab following recent back surgery. He and Beverly hope to return to the Valley soon. If you'd like to text good wishes to Beverly, her phone number is 956-655-4581.
- Jan Seale is recovering well after a recent fall. She is ready for phone calls at: 956-212-8935. Cards for Jan can be mailed to 428 Uvalde Ave., McAllen, 78503.

Announcements

- Pastor Kathy will be part of a panel discussion on gratitude at **"United in Gratitude: A Night to Give Thanks"** on Tuesday, November 19, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Knapp Community Care Foundation in Weslaco. Other panel members are Bishop Daniel E. Flores, Rabbi Nathan Farb, Imam Dr. Ahmed Elmamlouk, Pastor Joe Tognetti, Pastor Ismael Flores, and Visrunkala Kasba. There will be a reception following the program.

- On Sunday, November 24, we will have a brief worship service and then shift into work mode to get the church decorated for Advent and Christmas. There will be tasks for every age, interest, and mobility level from hanging Chrismons in the top tree branches to preparing angels for the annual *Su Casa de Esperanza* Angel Tree. So – come one, call all – it’s always a lot of fun. Once the work is done, we’ll gather in Fellowship Hall for a lunch of soup, salad, and bread.
- You may have noticed what looks like a weed patch in the church playground. Look a little closer and you will see that we have an impressive crop of watermelons growing there!
- **Space for God** is reading *The Mystics Would Like a Word* by Shannon K. Evans. The reading assignment for November 14 is Chapter 5-6 on Hildegard of Bingen. Attend by Zoom with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050357489?pwd=VkhqODg0NjlFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>
- If you’ve got **Take-Out Utensil Packets** cluttering up your kitchen – please bring them to the church. We include utensils and napkins in each food and hygiene bag and our supplies are running low. You can also support the church’s Local Assistance ministry by purchasing some of the items listed in the On-Going Life of the Church item or by donating funds.

Calendar

- Monday, November 18: Staff Meeting
- Tuesday, November 19; 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.: “United In Gratitude – A Night to Give Thanks”; hosted by All Faiths United at the Knapp Community Care Foundation; 700 Knapp Medical Blvd., Weslaco
- Wednesday, November 20: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, November 20: 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Thursday, November 21: 10:00 a.m.; Space for God; Parlor and Zoom
- Sunday, November 24: Worship / Decorating for Advent and Christmas; Fellowship Lunch after
- Sunday, December 1: First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, December 1: Sunday School resumes; 9:00 a.m.; Parlor
- Monday, December 2: Advent by Candlelight; 6:00 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, McAllen

Session Highlights – November 17 Stated Meeting

- Over lunch, discussed the church’s history and how the congregation has faced difficult times and made hard decisions
 - Heard a Treasurer’s Report from Dana Friedman.
 - Discussed the 2025 Stewardship timeline and format
 - Heard a Clerk’s Report from Nancy Pruneda.
 - Approved a building use request for Katilyn Sanders to hold a student recital in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend.
 - Approved 12/26/24 through 1/1/25 vacation request from Pastor Kathy
 - Discussed Committee structure and Session Member assignments
 - Scheduled a Session retreat for Saturday, January 18, 2025 for budget preparation and big-picture planning
 - Received an update on mold remediation in two rooms rented to Children’s Bereavement Center
 - Scheduled the December Stated Meeting for Sunday, December 15 following worship
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Financial Report through October

2024	Revenue	Expenses	Net
MTD (Oct)	\$20,892.50	\$36,202.34	-\$15,309.84
YTD	\$212,722.83	\$277,952.38	-\$65,229.55

Readings for November 24 – Reign of Christ Sunday

- 2 Samuel 23:1-7
- Psalm 132:1-12 (13-18)
- Revelation 1:4b-8
- John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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

Prayer for the Week –

Mighty God, most holy and most humble,
you have chosen to hear our cry
and share our poverty.
Come close to our world,
kindle our hearts and melt our despair,
that with all your creatures, we may live in hope;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: Janet Morley; *All Desires Known*; p. 25

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/>

November Anniversaries

Mitch and Lety Magee

John Brown and Jan Seale (11/23/18)

November Birthdays

5 – Kathy Garfield

Beth Carson Freeland

7 – Lita Simpson

9 – Pinkie Schwarz

12 – Dee Treviño

14 – Scott Schneider

15 – Betty Bautista

18 – Ernie Williams

19 – Dana Friedman

20 -- Drue Wilkes

21—Lauren Schneider

Feliz Simpson

Joanna Simpson

25 – Shirley Pippin

26 – Dale Offerman

27 – Janice (Jan) Brown

28 – Steve Flowers

Garrett Garfield

Aaron Leonard

29 – Dan Bautista

On-going Life of the Church

- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** continues to serve those who have been impacted by **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**. If you would like to support that work, here are links to the pages for recovery efforts: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-helene/>; <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/hurricane-milton/>
 - Here is a link to the general PDA page: <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. Please get in touch with Brian if you would like one.
- **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:

- Ellen Boyd is experiencing some complications after recent dental surgery. Cards for Ellen can be mailed to Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road; Pharr, TX 78577.
- Continuing prayers for Jeff Schneider (brother of Doug) who continues to experience medical complications. Jeff and his wife Mary Ellen are long-time friends of Sher and Drue Wilkes.
- Kelly Leonard's brother Rob Houlihan is doing well after rotator cuff surgery.
- Prayers for Margie Karst, who has received a diagnosis of Psoriatic Arthritis. She will begin treatment in December, which she hopes will alleviate the pain she has been experiencing.

- Prayers of joyful thanksgiving at the news that Barbara Montemayor's daughter Victoria is expecting a baby, due in December.
 - 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.
 - Spud and Jan Brown; 208 E. Kiwi Street; McAllen, Tx 78504
 - Gail Keyes; 3334 Country Club, Edinburg, TX 78542.
 - Estelle Davenport; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 220, Pharr, TX 78577
 - Renee Vorbach; 1508 Lark Ave., McAllen, 78504.
 - Emma Jasper; 505 Trosky Rd. W, # 112; Edgerton, MN 56128; 507-820-0269
 - 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
 - Prayers of healing for Jim Harriff, Jack's brother, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
 - 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.
 - Prayers for Moazz Zaid Younes (friend of ZZ Hamilton), his family and all Palestinians.
 - Prayers for Sveta, Anahird, Tora, and other Ukranian and Russian friends of ZZ Hamilton.
 - 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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November Blessing:

*“May November be a month of blessings:
blessings of goodness,
blessings of joy, peace and kindness,
friendship and love,
creativity, strength, serenity, fulfilling work,
and dignity, satisfaction, success, and sustenance,
physical health and radiance.
May truth and justice guide our acts,
and compassion temper our lives
that we may blossom as we age
and become our sweetest selves.
May it be so.”*

Marcia Falk; [A Book of Blessings](#)
