

CHURCH FOR A NEW TIME

God Summons Us To:

◆ Faithful Growth ◆ Bold Witness ◆ Compassionate Mission

Prayer requests -- Week of January 16

New Prayer Requests:

- Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of former FPC member Vi Sparks, who died on January 9. A graveside service will be held on Friday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. at Rio Grande Veterans Cemetery, 2520 Inspiration Rd, Mission, TX 78572. Cards of condolence can be sent to Sonny Sparks (Vi's son) at 11246 Sir Winston Street, #510, San Antonio, TX 78216; or to Lynnda Barnes (Vi's daughter) at 17127 Eagle Hollow Drive, San Antonio, TX 78248.
- Prayers of comfort and recovery for the people of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas following the hostage-taking situation there last week.
- Prayers of gratitude and encouragement for the health care workers, teachers, and other front-line personnel as the Covid-19 Omicron surge causes increases in illness and renewed disruption in so many aspects of life and work.

On-going Prayer Requests:

- The family and friends of Eric Reichenberger, Beverly Avila's nephew and Emma Jasper's grandson, who died last week from complications of Covid-19. A memorial service will be held later in the year.
 - The family and friends of Susan Mahoney, a friend of Shirley Pippin, who died on December 30.
 - Bob Pippin, Harold's oldest brother, had a heart attack. He is not a candidate for surgery but has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home.
 - The family and friends of Maynard Kreidler, who died on December 29.
 - Cyndy Watt, the mother-in-law of Shirley Pippin's granddaughter Jessica, has Covid pneumonia.
 - Ernie Williams is recovering from surgery to remove cancerous skin cells from his head.
 - Jan Seale is continuing to recuperate from her recent fall.
 - Susan Schane is dealing with multiple health issues. Susan is the friend of FPC who directed the SOS summer reading program we hosted at FPC for several years and hope to resume when pandemic restrictions are no longer in place.
 - Bruce Johnson, Beverly Avila's brother-in-law (husband of her sister, Betty), who is undergoing treatment for throat / neck cancer.
 - Jim and Mary Ann McLeod.
 - Martin Davila as he continues to work toward receiving US citizenship.
 - Pastor Kathy's brother, Monty Jennings, who is doing well as he continues treatment for brain cancer.
 - Victor Herrera, Ezequiel's brother, dealing with long-term health issues
 - The people of the *colonias*.
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Calendar -- Week of January 16

- Tuesday, January 18: Stated Session meeting for 2022 budget preparation - 6:30 p.m.; Zoom
- Thursday, January 20: Space for God - 10:00 a.m.; Zoom
- Sunday, January 23: **The location of worship will be determined by Session at the Tuesday meeting and announced via Constant Contact.**

Zoom Link for all FPC Zoom meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86050357489?pwd=VkhqODg0NjlfS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

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

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbahNHKVfB>

Life of the Church – Week of January 16

- The Session will determine at Tuesday's Stated January meeting whether to resume in-person meetings and worship. Please look for an additional Constant Contact message this week to announce their decision.
 - The **church office** remains **open** on the regular Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. schedule, including on Monday, January 17 -- MLK Day.
 - During Life of the Church on January 16, I encouraged us all to re-read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham Jail*. Here is a link to an on-line version: <https://www.csuchico.edu/iege/assets/documents/susi-letter-from-birmingham-jail.pdf>
 - The Session has begun work on the 2022 church budget. There is a significant gap between expected revenue and budgeted expenses. If you have not yet submitted your **2022 Pledge**, please do so.
 - Due to the surge in Covid-19 cases in Austin, the January 24-26, 2022 **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Mid-Winter Lectures** have moved to *Livestream* only. Here is a link to information, schedule, and registration: <https://www.austinseminary.edu/lifelong-learning/lectures/midwinters>.
 - **Space for God** is reading *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Reading assignment for January 20 is pages 1-25. Please contact Pastor Kathy if you would like to purchase a copy of the book through the church.
 - **Rummage Sale** to support the Youth Fellowship trip to Heifer International in summer 2022. Please clear out your closets, cupboards, garages, and sheds and bring your no-longer-needed treasures to the church so we can turn them into cash to help finance the planned Youth trip. Donations can be brought during church office hours or by appointment. If you have something large to be picked up, please contact Pastor Kathy or the church office.
 - Caly Fernandez can use these supplies for **the Puentes de Cristo colonias ministry**:
 - 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: fpccpastorkathy@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.
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January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

1 - Kevin Henry

2 - Hilton Wilson

4 - Courtney Collins

9 - Feliz Pineda

10 - Margie Karst

10 - Gonzalo P. Zamora

11 - Adriana Davila

12 - Esteban Davila

12 - Tina Turk

15 - Salomon Bautista

16 - Lou Helt

21 - Pablo Davila

25 - Mike Hudler

29 - Avrel Seale

30 - Sopphey Vance

Anniversaries

Raymond and Esther Jenkins

Lectionary Readings for January 23

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region.

¹⁵ He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise.

¹⁶ Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. ¹⁷ When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of our God is upon me:

because the Most High has anointed me

to bring Good News to those who are poor.

God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,

recovery of sight to those who are blind,

and release to those in prison --

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of our God's favor."

²⁰ Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he said to them, "Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled."

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

Quote for the Week -- from Martin Luther King, Jr.

One day, youngsters will learn words they will not understand.

Children from India will ask:

What is hunger?

Children from Alabama will ask:

What is racial segregation?

Children from Hiroshima will ask:

What is the atomic bomb?

Children at school will ask:

What is war?

You will answer them.

You will tell them:

Those words are not used any more

like stage coaches, galleys, or slavery.

Words no longer meaningful.

That is why they have been removed from dictionaries.

* quoted in: Kathleen A. Guy; *Welcome the Child: A Child Advocacy Guide for Churches*; Children's Defense Fund, 1991. Source: *Imaging the Word*, Volume 1, p. 122.