

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

## **Prayer requests -- Week of September 24**

### **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, who recently had a procedure to provide pain relief from fractured vertebrae, has transferred from the hospital to a therapy facility in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- John Kreidler has eight more days of movement and speech rehab at Rio Grande Regional Hospital (Room 348) following surgery to correct bleeding in his brain. (Update as of 9/25)
- Prayers of thanksgiving and support for the newly installed Ruling Elders of the Class of 2026: Mike
- Prayers of continued healing for David Massey, son of Joe and Jinny, who has transferred from hospital to rehab following a recent stroke.
- Vinson McLeod will move to Edinburg Regional two weeks of for in-hospital rehab. He can be reached by cell phone at 956-339-5654.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that Bernard and Magdalene Tabali arrived safely in Maryland to spend time with family members. Magdalene will then return to Cameroon.
- Neil Kohl as he works the harvest in South Dakota. He expects to return in mid- to late October.
- Marilyn Travis, wife of Andrea Hudler's father Paul, remains in rehab.
- Prayers of healing for Dee Trevino, who will have surgery which she hopes will improve her mobility.
- The people of Maui as they recover from the devastating wildfires. Designated gifts to support PDA'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; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 220, Pharr, TX 78577
- Gail Keyes; 215-594-1072; 3334 Country Club Dr., Edinburg, 78542
- Lou Helt; 956-601-0823; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229; Pharr, TX 78577
- Elizabeth Gearhart; c/o Diane Albert; 1350 Burnham Lane, Batavia, IL 60510
- Ann Sahadi; 1380 Charles Drive, Apt. 415; Longmont, CO 80503; 956-509-1729
- Rita Cochrane; The Gardens at Brookridge; 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 111; Pharr, TX 78577
- Roberta Harriff
- Jay Travis, Ann Sahadi's son and Andrea Hudler's brother
- 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*.
- Prayers for peace and stability in Africa as nations there experience political upheaval and threats of escalating violence.

### **Calendar**

- Monday, September 25: 11:00 p.m.; Church Staff Meeting; Parlor
- Wednesday, September 27: 9 to 3: Church Library open for Mid-Week Prayer.
- Wednesday, September 27: 6:30 p.m.; Stated Session Meeting; Parlor
- Wednesday, September 27: 7:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsal; Choir Room
- Thursday, September 28: 10:00 a.m.; Space for God; Parlor
- Sunday, October 1: 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School; Parlor
- Sunday, October 1: 10:30 a.m.; World Communion Worship; Power of Hope
  - 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=VkhqODg0NjJlFS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

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>.

### **September Birthdays and Anniversaries**

#### Anniversaries

Joe and Julianne Garza

Gonzalo and Adela Zamora

David and Ann Rowland

#### 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

#### **October Birthdays**

3 – Marcos Turk

9 – Gail Keyes

14 – Haylee King

Sebastian Turk

Adela Zamora

15 – Alice Tavarez

5 – Kathy Escandell

11 – Carole Collins

26 -Ann Williams

6 -- Bill King

13 – Max Magee

27-Graham Garfield

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## **Life of the Church – Week of September 24**

- On Sunday, October 1, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday during worship and receive the Peace and Global Witness special offering of the PC(USA). You can learn more about the P&GW offering at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness/>. We will also receive the first-Sunday-of-the-month Power of Hope offering
- 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. For more formation or to make a donation, visit the CBC website: <https://cbcrgv.app.neoncrm.com/forms/lynn-flowers-playroom>
- **Mid-Week Prayer** Each Wednesday, the Church Library (in its new location next to the elevator) will be open during Church office hours for 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 [fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com).
- The Church Library also includes a station to “**Leave a Prayer / Take a Blessing**”. There is a table with materials to write a prayer and post it on the 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.
- **Sunday School** meets at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in the Parlor. The class is currently using *Feasting on the Word*, a lectionary-based Bible study curriculum.
- 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/3QSG7E3RDEMh>; 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](mailto:rob_grza10@yahoo.com).
- The **church staff** – Pastor Kathy, church administrator Brian Pullen, custodian Shannon Pruneda, and facilities manager Martin Davila – have begun 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 [fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpccpastorkathy@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.

## **Life of the Church -- On-going**

- 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: [fpccpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpccpastorkathy@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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## Lectionary Readings for October 1

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
- Philippians 2:1-13
- Matthew 21:23-32

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"<sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things."<sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"<sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet."<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."<sup>28</sup> What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'<sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.<sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.<sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you."<sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

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### Prayer for the Week:

We give thanks and praise to Almighty God for the work within this world through our Lord Jesus Christ, because even in our divided humanity, separated from each other, we experience now and then the reconciliation which comes from you; our thanks to you and praise can never end.

We ask you to accept us in your Son. Grant us the spirit of unity that takes away whatever comes to divide us. Keep us in union with all your people and make your Church to become a sign of unity among all people. We pray all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Janet Nyenda, Uganda

Source: *Prayers Encircling the World*; p. 117

### September Library Blessing:



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**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**

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