

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

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### **THIS WEEK – January 12-18**

#### **Prayer Requests and Updates**

- Prayers for all those impacted by wildfires in Southern California and winter storms across the nation.
- Prayers of continued healing for Estelle Davenport, who is in hospital rehab at South Texas Health System South (McAllen Medical) recovering from broken ribs caused by a fall. She has a discharge date of Friday, January 17.
- Prayers of gratitude that Nadine Force has recovered enough from her leg injury to return home. Cards can be mailed to 820 North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, McAllen, 78501. Phone: 956-532-8978.
- Sher and Drue Wilkes ask for renewed prayers for Jeff and Mary Ellen Scheider. Jeff (Doug's brother and Sher & Drue's dear friend) is undergoing radiation treatments which have debilitating effects on him. He has lost 20 pounds in four weeks and is very nauseated. Sher says: "His faith is so strong. He and Mary Ellen so appreciate our prayers."
- Gail Keyes has moved to Hidalgo Nursing and Rehab (formerly Abri) on Sugar Road in Edinburgh.
- Lou Helt has returned home to Brookridge following a lengthy rehab stay. She can be reached at Brookridge Senior Living, 1301 W. Ridge Road, Apt. 229, Pharr, 78577; 956-601-0823.
- Jack Harriff requests prayers for his three brothers:
  - Jim, who has liver cancer. Jim has chosen not to pursue chemo and radiation treatments.
  - David, who has end-stage Parkinson's. David is often frozen and unable to speak. He and his wife Gaila, are both struggling with the emotional and spiritual toll of the disease.
  - Mark, who has cut himself off from family, has untreated liver disease and alcoholism.
- Jack and Carole Harriff also request prayers for Dan and Liz, who are friends and neighbors from their RGV park. Dan has a broken nose and facial contusions from falling on his face after passing out on Sunday evening. This is the second such episode following recent surgery. Dan has an appointment with a cardiologist, so Jack and Carole request prayers that he might heal from his fall and get some clarity about what is causing him to black out.
- Prayers of thanksgiving that J.J. Avila's recovery from recent back surgery continues to go well.
- Gail Ryan requests prayers for her sister, Lark, who has been treated for breast cancer.

## **Announcements**

- The congregation – and your friends and neighbors as well – are invited to a meeting about **advocacy around issues of hunger and food insecurity** on Tuesday, January 14 from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Cathy and Felipe Salinas, along with the Regional Director of Bread for the World, will provide information on current federal and state legislative measures dealing with food issues. Statistics about food insecurity in the RGV are alarming, but we can work together to improve the situation. This meeting will provide the opportunity to:
  - review the Texas Food Policy Roundtable [legislative agenda](#) at the state level;
  - review Bread for the World's [Nourish Our Future](#) agenda at the federal level;
  - share details about upcoming virtual advocacy days;
  - provide information on how to contact legislators; and,
  - strategize on getting more people across the Valley involved in these efforts.
- The **January Session meeting** is this Saturday, January 18 from 9:30 to 12:00. The focus will be 2025 Budget Preparation and long-term planning. If you have comments or concerns you'd like discussed at the meeting, please provide them to Pastor Kathy or a Session member.
- **Space for God** resumes this Thursday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor.
- **Sunday School** meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 in the parlor. The class is using a lectionary-based curriculum.
- A Note from Dana Friedman, FPC Treasurer, to clear up some confusion on the receipts and expenditures shown in the Monday Message and in the Sunday Bulletin – The numbers in the Financial Report show a significant deficit, but the church's current situation is actually much less dire. FPC has some invested funds given to us by the Bill Wilson family and others. We are able to draw down from these investments to supplement our receipts. For 2024, the Session approved withdrawing \$60,000 from our investments; however, over the course of the year increases in our accounts has been greater than withdrawals, so our investment accounts remain strong. The distributions from our investments to the general fund is not reflected in the numbers in the Monday Message and Sunday Bulletin. Also this year we received some life insurance and other money from Henry McElmurray's estate and paid a few final bills of his. The net receipts have not yet been included in the numbers in the Monday Message and Sunday Bulletin. If you have questions about the church's finances, please email [fpchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net) or [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com).

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## **Calendar**

- Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.: Bread for the World advocacy meeting; Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 a.m.: Staff Meeting; Parlor
- Wednesday, January 15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Library open for Mid-Week Prayer
- Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.: Choir Practice; Choir Room
- Thursday, January 16, 10:00 a.m.: Space for God; Parlor
- Saturday, January 18, 9:30 a.m. to noon: Session meeting to prepare 2025 budget
- Sunday, January 19, 9:00 a.m.: Sunday School; Parlor
- Sunday, January 19, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship; Sanctuary and Facebook Live

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## **Session Highlights – December 15 Stated Meeting**

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kathy.
- Thanked Nancy Pruneda for providing spaghetti casseroles and salad for lunch; and Lita Simpson for providing dessert

- Heard a Treasurer’s Report from Dana Friedman, including a preliminary report on 2025 Estimate of Giving forms received
- Heard a Clerk’s Report from Nancy Pruneda
- Shared prayer requests
- Scheduled a fellowship lunch and Christmas decoration take-down for January 5 following worship
- Scheduled a January 18 Called Session meeting for Budget Preparation
- Discussed and approved end-of-year bonuses for church staff and choir members
- Discussed a request from Mission Presbytery that FPC McAllen host the June 2025 Presbytery meeting. Due to concerns about recruiting adequate personnel for hosting duties and the unreliability of our AC system, the Session voted to decline the request.
- Discussed worship options for December 29, when Pastor Kathy will be on vacation and most Session members will be out of town
- Approved a request from Pastor Kathy to keep the wooden manger visible in the sanctuary throughout 2025. The theological rationale is that since the cross is part of the sanctuary furnishings all year, keeping the manger visible as well will serve to remind us that the Incarnation is as central to Jesus’ saving work as the Crucifixion.
- Received and discussed a draft plan for reorganizing and renaming church committees / callings
- Heard Elder reports on Calling areas
- The meeting was closed with prayer by RE Lita Simpson.

**Financial Report through December**

<b>2024</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>MTD (Dec)</b>	<b>\$36,673.45</b>	<b>\$26,699.35</b>	<b>+\$9,974.10</b>
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$268,225.53</b>	<b>\$329,462.14</b>	<b>-\$61,236.61</b>

**Readings for January 19**

- **Isaiah 62:1-5**
- **Psalms 36:5-10**
- **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
- **John 2:1-11**

On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

## **Prayer for the Week**

O Divine Host,  
all people may take refuge  
in the shadow of your wing,  
for your steadfast love extends to the heavens  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.  
When we worry that we do not have enough,  
help us to remember that you turned water,  
the simplest of elements,  
into the very best wine,  
and that you have given each of us  
great gifts for the common good.  
O God, let our hospitality be as abundant as your love,  
and let our solidarity be as constant as your faithfulness.  
This we pray, empowered by that same Holy Spirit  
who provides each and every gift. Amen.

Source: *Connections Worship Companion, Year C, Volume 1; p. 70*

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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.](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=VkhqODg0NjlhS2VTSm91UFFOSjVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 5035 7489 Passcode: 912217

**CHURCH WEBSITE:** <https://www.mcallenfpc.org/>

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## **January Birthdays**

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

## **January Anniversary**

Raymond and Esther Jenkins

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:fpchurch@sbcglobal.net) or [fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpastorkathy@gmail.com).
- There are 2024-2025 **Presbyterian Planning Calendars** available from the church office.
- **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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## **Recent and On-Going Prayer Requests:**

- Emma Jasper; 505 Trosky Rd. W, # 112; Edgerton, MN 56128; 507-820-0269.
- Ellen Boyd; Brookridge Senior Living; 1301 W. Ridge Road; Pharr, TX 78577.
- Prayers for Margie Karst, as she begins treatment for Psoriatic Arthritis.
- 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
  - 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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### **January Blessing:**



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The Lord bless you and keep you  
in your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.  
Amen.

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