

This Week at FPC March 26—April 2, 2020

Scholarship applications for the fall 2020 term are available in the church office. **The absolute final deadline** to submit applications to the church office is by the end of the workday on **Wednesday, April 1st**. FPC members and their member dependents or children may apply for scholarship assistance. Applicants may apply once in a calendar year.

You can still drop off donations for Interfaith at the church office, from 9:00 am to 4:00p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Writing and video are for now my main ways to communicate with you. I still want to encourage you to phone me. I have started phoning you, but you have, at minimum, 450 phone numbers! It may be sometime before I get to you. Please call me at 352-286-3036 if you don't want to wait.

We are trying to include our prayer list in more of our publications and emails since you all can't see it weekly. The session will be getting together soon to discuss the immediate future regarding when we might resume worship services. Easter is looming large in those thoughts for me. I have never missed attending church on an Easter Sunday in 57 years. What will that mean to all of us? Will it spark a spiritual awakening in our country about church? Time will tell.

Perhaps another spiritual lesson for all of us is the practice of Sabbath rest. I have preached about it. More and more people talk about self-care. But eventually, we let our busy-ness become our business. Situationally, we have been forced to examine what it means to spend time in quiet: to read, to reflect, to pray a prayer other than our usual asking prayers.

"How will it be, Lord? How will it be, between you and me?"- I invite you to pray this prayer each day. You may pray it in the morning first thing or last thing at bedtime. You may pray it 20 times while washing your hands, though I am working on 2 Lord's Prayers for hand washing. How will it be, Lord? How will it be, between you and me? I like the prayer, especially since the inevitable conversations of the "end times" come up in a situation such as this. A number of people have asked me, especially non-members, "is this it? Is this the end time?" Instead of asking that question for which we know of no good answer, it is a good time to simply ask, how will it be? The answer to that prayer comes in scripture. The answer comes at the Mount of the Beatitudes. The answer comes beside Jacob's well. The answer comes in the synagogue in Capernaum. The answer comes just outside Caesarea Philippi. The answer comes in the Upper Room. The answer comes in Gethsemane. The answer comes in Pilates' inscription. The answer comes at Golgotha. The answer comes at the empty tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea.

Let's make good use of the time God has given us for reflection as we look forward to that day where we can congregate once again in groups greater than 10. Let us praise God and ask for God's deliverance from this virus, from uncertainty, and from our fear.

Peace be with you, Ron

CORRECTION: In the April Spire, new member photos should be switched for Patty and Doug Holcomb and Wally and Barbara Savage. Our sincere apologies.

PRAYER LIST

Thomas and Debbie Ault
Jim and Jane Bennett
 (brother and sister-in-law of John Bennett)
Pam Butcher
Andy Carlisle
Sara Chey, Brenda Jones and family
Shirley Cochran
Stewart and Diane Edwards
Hank and Maranell Fleming
Family of John Gilkes
Bill Green (Richard Grosso's friend)
Barbara Gowie
Dick Hancock
Jordan Kaufman (applying for medical school)
Ken Kramer (Evelyn Longo's brother-in-law)
Kathy Lance (Lois Lance's daughter-in-law)
Lois Lance
Grietje Lewis

Renate Lipp (Nita William's friend)
Kevin Lloyd (Lee Ann Drake's cousin)
Celine Mack
Skip McDonald
Laura Moore and her parents, Bruce and Wendie
Jerry Murphy
Raul Nieves (Mina DiGeronimo's brother)
Greg Robinson (Carolyn Varner's brother)
Michael Rou (Dr. David Albright's cousin)
Janice Schafer (Palm Garden)
Deloris, Steve and Keith Shotwell
Baldwin Switzer (on deployment with the Navy)
Howard Tucker
Nancy Wells (Daughter of Shirley Wells)
Shirley Wells (on the death of her brother, Fred Austin)
Jill Hester Whitaker
Bo and Sally Williams

Anne Blake Fitzpatrick was born Wednesday morning to Sadie and Brian Fitzpatrick. Proud grandparents in our church are Douglas and Deb Cone.

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
<i>Sustained by God's Life-Giving Word of Love</i>			Sunday	March 29	Ezra 8:15-36
Thursday	March 26	2 Chronicles 6:32-42	Monday	March 30	Nehemiah 9:1-25
Friday	March 27	2 Chronicles 7:1-10	Tuesday	March 31	Nehemiah 9:26-38
Saturday	March 28	2 Chronicles 7:11-22	Wednesday	April 1	Isaiah 40:1-31