

New this week:

Covenant members: Jane Kolakowski; Danealle Parchment; Lonna Peterson; Louise Douma.

Covenant friends & extended family: Robert Hill, father of Melissa Hardy; Roy and Stephanie Elkins, friends of Lorie and John Raihala; Lynda Southwick, spouse of Lloyd Southwick; Ellie, friend of Carrie Riessen; Morgan Olson, friend of Bailey Green.; Patricia O'Donoghue, sister of Peg O'Donoghue and Steve Veazie; Avery and Carolyn, daughters of Wendy McCallum and cousins of Arlene Kennedy; Alice Kirby, daughter-in-law of Peter and Jane Kolakowski; Eunice Bartz, mother of Rick Bartz.

Covenant family & friends mourning the death of: Marie Mascitti, grandmother of Marco Mascitti; Linda Scott, co-worker of Ann Larget; Howard Hinkel, brother-in-law of Lloyd and Lynda Southwick; Pamela Rasche, friend of Deb Cohn; Wendy McCallum, cousin of Arlene Kennedy; Mary Lee Pratt-Baygents, friend of Hazel Holden; Jeri Erickson, Covenant member; William Miller, uncle of Janice Walden.

Your continuing prayers are appreciated for: Dennis Eft, brother of Lori Voss; Carolyn Van Dyke, cousin of Pastor Charlie; Robert N. Mayer, friend of Marcy Carlson & Tim Smeeding; Nella Sessa, mother of Lina Pudelwitts; Noel Pearson; Margaret Hickman; Joann Pivotto; Lee Narans; Cindy Blewett; Stephen Resan; Marion Peterson; Helen Madsen; Jack & Joannie Carter; Jan & Tom Schuster; Sandi Thompson-Royer, Covenant friend; Troy Griswold, nephew of Lori Voss; Mark Middleton; Sally Nesser; Bill Wood; Brenda Moten; John Wedberg; Nancy McCulley; Larry & Barb Larsen; Russ & Evelyn McMillan; Virgil Landry; Joseph Hack; Eve Casta; Dick & Jan Schaefer, family of Bob & Nan Schaefer; Tim Wade, father of Janna Doney; Jorge Asencion, Covenant friend; Gary Van Ess & John Van Ess, brothers of Vicki Alexander.

World Mission: People of Guatemala and congregations of Monte Hebron Presbyterian Church in Santo Domingo and Monte Horeb Presbyterian Church in Coyolate. Jed and Jenny Koball PC(USA) in Peru; Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti; Eric Miller in Kenya.

Our elected leaders: President Trump, Rep. Pocan, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Baldwin, Gov. Evers, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

Birthdays

Joe Kick (11/30); Bob Taylor (12/03); Sally Davis (12/04); Steve Whayland (12/05); Michael Curtis (12/06).

Names will ordinarily stay on the prayer list for five weeks. If you would like to remain on the list longer, please contact the church office at 608-233-6297, Pastor Charlie Berthoud, Pastor Megan Berry, Pastor Jess Scholten, or Melissa Hinz, Minister of Music and Pastoral Care.

You may also email us at info@covenantmadison.org.

Prayer

Advent 1: Hope

A prayer for hope adapted from pastor, theologian, and hymn-poet Brian Wren

Spirit of God,
you open doors that are locked,
break the shackles of slavery,
erode the pyramids of domination,
and tumble tyrants from their thrones.

You give us life and whisper in our hearts,
“You are God’s beloved child,
and always will be.”

Deep in every human heart
you plant a seed of promise,
a glimmer of expectation,
and a spark of hope.

And because you give us breath,
we praise you.

Do not give up on us when we let go of hope,
surrender to disappointment, drift into
aimlessness,
or sink into gloom and despair.

Stir us, again and again to dream
of new possibilities,
and energize each other
with new expectations.

Hear our prayer
for all who wait in hope
for a smile, a handshake,
and a welcome;
and for all who long to find joy beyond
sorrow, healing beyond hurt, peace beyond
conflict,
and dawn after dark night.

Resurrect the hopes
of people bruised and beaten.
Fan into flame the spark of hope
in caregivers racked with tiredness,
prisoners locked in isolation,
and people held captive by illness and addiction.

Breath and blow through
Covenant Presbyterian Church,
and kindle your gifts of patience, kindness,
humility, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control.
Revive in us now the freedom
to give and receive,
to make mistakes and start again,
to forgive and accept forgiveness.

Energize the worldwide church.
Strengthen those
who are persecuted for their faith.
Give courage
to women, children, and men who
day by day struggle to survive.

Hold us all in communion,
that through differences of culture and conviction,
we may hear the world say, “These Christians love
each other. This is something new.”

To you, most humble, most wise, yet ever
untamable Spirit, with the Word made flesh and
the Source of all things, Holy Three, Holy One, be
glory and honor, worship and praise, now and for
ever. Amen.