

This week's white rose commemorates the life of Ikse Hough, friend of Bailey Green.

This week's red rose celebrates the birth of Charlotte Scholl, niece of TJ & Kate Sargent and cousin of Theo.

New this week: Family of Rev. Shirley R. Funk; Tom Hershberger, Covenant member; Christie, friend of Nancy McCulley; Vicki, friend of Rhonda Rohn; Lucy, granddaughter of Paula and Richard Rasanen; Ryan, friend of Art Kanitz; Louise and Karen Fries, friends of Melissa Hinz.

Covenant members:

Covenant friends & extended family: Susan Hassell, friend of Peter and Nancy Gunder; Marion Peterson; Ava Hilscher and her parents, Matt and Meg Hilscher, friends of Lisa Davis and Peter Crump; Donald Barth, brother of Lonna Peterson; Helen Sauer, mother of Steve Sauer; Tom Fontaine, son of Mary Fontaine; Ryan & Sara and their unborn baby, relatives of Heidi Hastings; Kevin O'Brien, son-in-law of Craig & Sherry Anderson; Brian Courtney, father-in-law of Laura Courtney; Harmon Gundersen, father of Judy Gundersen; The O'Dowd family, friends of Greg & Melissa Hinz; Amanda Greeno; Ally Katona & family, friends of Amanda Greeno;

Covenant family & friends mourning the death of: Edward Voss, father of Bob Voss; Jim Sauer, father of Covenant member Steve Sauer; Bill Lawrence, husband of Fern Lawrence and father of Anne Lawrence and Ellen Lawrence; Betty Matthews, Covenant member.

Your continuing prayers are appreciated for: Helen Madsen, Scott Anderson, Don Schalch; Jack & Joannie Carter; Tom Schuster; Sandi Thompson-Royer, Covenant friend; Troy Griswold, nephew of Lori Voss; Sarah Day; Mark Middleton; Sally Nesser; Bill Wood; Brenda Moten; Pat Thielbar; John Wedberg; Cindy Blewett; Nancy McCulley; Larry and Barb Larsen; Patty West; Russ and Evelyn McMillan; Virgil Landry; Margaret Hickman; Joseph Hack; Gina Fritz; Eve Casta; Jan Schaefer, sister-in-law of Bob and Nan Schaefer; Tim Wade, father of Janna Doney; Charlene Duranceau, sister of Jan Schuster; Jane Stark; Bonnie Cameron, cousin of Jan Minardi; Robert Hill, father of Melissa Hardy; Jorge Asencion, Covenant friend; Gary Van Ess and John Van Ess, brothers of Vicki Alexander.

World Mission: Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta PC(USA) in Indonesia; Jed and Jenny Koball PC(USA) in Peru; Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather PC(USA) in South Sudan; Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti; Eric Miller in Kenya. People of Guatemala.

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

Birthdays

Peggy Bugg, Janna Doney, Karen Nelson, Kathy Nelson (2/2); Chris Locher (2/3); Dave Athas, Dan Danahy, Patricia Herrling, Kathy Wendorff (2/4); Gretchen Bauer, Estella Peterson (2/5); Lisa Davis, Bob Roden, Nathan Sorensen, Zoey Pudelwitts (2/7)

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

Our prayer for this week, as we start Black History Month, is adapted from the *Presbyterian Outlook* Editor, Teri McDowell Ott's, "Inauguration Day Prayer."

God, where do we go from here?

The chaos we have seen. The fighting. The violence. The disrespect. Our nation remains divided. Our politics partisan. We recognize the need for change but are paralyzed by fear of uncertainty. We seek justice, healing and restoration, but are stymied by entrenched patterns, broken systems and the innate power of our tribalism. God, save us from the tyranny of chaos. Order our collective lives. Renew our spirits. Turn us to your holy work of building beloved community.

In this time soon after the Inauguration when we have moved into a new presidency, we pray for our elected leaders and our new president. As in the oath they take, guide our political leaders to "preserve, protect and defend" in ways pleasing to you, O God. Endow them with the wisdom of humility, of knowing what they don't know, to foster healthy collaboration and across-the-aisle problem solving. Guide them in executing the duties of their office faithfully and solemnly, for the good of the whole, not the favor of the few.

Having just celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and in Black History Month, as the struggle for civil rights continues, we pray for a renewed commitment to love and nonviolence. We pray for the resistance of hate and the liberation of the oppressed. We pray for the poor to be privileged and the vulnerable to be protected. We pray for King's dream, which he said was deeply rooted in the American dream, that all are created equal, all are deserving of opportunity, and all have a seat at the table of freedom and justice.

Inspire us, God, by the faith that King said could "hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope" and "transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood." As King advised, let us not "drink from the cup of bitterness" but "work together, pray together, struggle together, go to jail together, stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day." This is our hope, holy God. This is our prayer. Let freedom ring for us, for all, for our future of promised peace. Amen.