

Today's white roses commemorate the life of Jim Sauer, father of Covenant member Steve Sauer, and Bill Lawrence, husband of Fern Lawrence and father of Anne Lawrence and Ellen Lawrence.

New this week: Amanda Greeno; Ally Katona & family, friends of Amanda Greeno.

Covenant members: George Douma; Mary Fontaine; Marion Peterson; Helen Madsen.

Covenant friends & extended family: 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; Mike Whitley, father of Michael Whitley.

Covenant family & friends mourning the death of: Betty Matthews, Covenant member; Don Peterson, Covenant member; Emelyn Shier, aunt of Eric Wendorff; Judith Whitley Overstreet, aunt of Michael & Jackie Whitley and great-aunt of Xander, Bergen, and Quinn; Don Misch, father-in-law of Marilyn Krichko.

Your continuing prayers are appreciated for: 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; Bill Lawrence; 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 Biden, Rep. Pocan, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Baldwin, Gov. Evers, and Mayor Rhodes-Conway.

Birthdays

Sally Jamison (1/12); Chris Bugg, Peter Kolakowski (1/13); Thomas Farrar, Marie Crist, Wyn Salmonowicz (1/14); Barb Larsen, Alice Bocanegra (1/15); Emma Elsdon, Jim Kennedy, Jane Pearson, Grady Rasmussen (1/16); Jenniffer Price-Lehmann, Carol Ruhly (1/17); Craig Anderson, Ethan Sanders, Ben Smith (1/18)

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

“The Gift” (a guided visualization)
by Joyce Rupp
Out of the Ordinary

Find a quiet spot to be alone.

Sit with your back straight, feet on the floor.

Begin with taking some deep breaths and letting them out slowly.

Ask the Spirit of God to open your being, to quiet you....

Picture the scene of the Three Wise Ones coming to offer homage and gifts to Jesus, the One sent by God...

See yourself as one of the Wise Ones...

You are coming to offer a gift....

There is a wonderfully wrapped gift in your hands....

Inside the gift are aspects and qualities of your life that you most enjoy and appreciate.

Reflect upon these aspects and qualities:

Which ones are especially significant for you?

Which ones have been most apparent during the past year?

Which ones have seemed hidden or absent during the past year?

Now gather these qualities of your life into your gift.

Visualize yourself coming and presenting your gift-wrapped package....

As you offer this gift of yourself, see the love, joy, delight with which your gift is received....

Visualize a gift being offered to you. It, too, is beautifully wrapped.

It has a notecard on it, a special message from Jesus to you.

Imagine what is written on the notecard....

Receive the gift, open it, and ponder its significance for your life....

After you have received the gift, offer thanks to the Holy One for this gift in whatever way seems best for you....

Complete your time of prayer by writing down your thoughts and feelings and write a prayer to the Holy One who gifts you in this new year.

If you would prefer to listen to this guided meditation rather than reading it, Pastor Jess has recorded it. Use this QR code to access the audio recording.

