

The white rose commemorates the life of: Floyd Stautz, Covenant member.

New this week: Lesley Galway, Covenant member.

Covenant members: Marilyn Butz; James McGregor; Sherry Hershberger, Dick Lovell, Jan Swartz, Cliff and Donita O'Donnell; Larry Larsen; Susan Wood; Margaret Hickman.

Covenant friends & extended family: Butch Koch, friend of Lynn Vande Sande; Jack, grandson of a member; Dwight Werle, uncle of Bailey Green; Catherine Johnson, aunt of Nan Schaefer; Mike Lee, brother-in-law of Chris Turner & Charlie Berthoud; Cori Olson, friend of Karen Julian.

Covenant family & friends mourning the death of: Theresa Sanders, Brenda Moten's sorority sister; Margaret Byrd, Brenda Moten's family friend; Margaret Hodges, aunt of Kris Bauer; George Hess, Covenant member.

Your continuing prayers are appreciated for: Paula Swansonrasanen; Gene Swanson, Paula Swansonrasanen's father; Robert Hill, father of Melissa Hardy; Alice Kirby, daughter-in-law of Peter & Jane Kolakowski; Fern Lawrence; Dennis Eft, brother of Lori Voss; Carolyn Van Dyke, cousin of Pastor Charlie; Robert N. Mayer, friend of Marcy Carlson & Tim Smeeding; Noel Pearson; Joann Pivotto; Lee Narans; Cindy Blewett; Stephen Resan; 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

Barb Danahy, Tommy Stadler (02/09); Melissa Schmidt, Sherry Anderson (02/10); Lesley Galway (02/11); Brad McDowell, Andrew Qastin, Jan Schuster (02/12); Arlene Kennedy (02/14).

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.

A blessing for someone when differences divide us

Adapted from Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's book,
The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days

God, this is a hard one.

How do I begin to love or even connect with someone different from me? How do I bridge this gap? It feels just as wrong as the beliefs I abhor.

Blessed are we who want to be a part of the wild and beautiful experiment to find common humanity. Who desire to come willingly into the gap that separates human from human, to love the stranger – especially the one we really don't understand or secretly want to set straight.

Blessed are we, willing to stay in the gap, in the contradictions of what we can't understand. To actively work on disproving our own intuitions about another, in order to begin to see what they see.

Blessed are we, swimming upstream against the current of our own human frailty, our fears and emotions, and willing to be wrong for a second. To reconsider. And hold to our integrity with kindness.

Desiring to see the lay of the land and play the course, instead of the one we wished it could be. And to discover that humility is what makes change possible. Grace is never neutral. It works backwards and forwards in time, conspiring to make wrong right.

Our prayer this week as we seek to live out Isaiah 58:
Help us, O God, to be repairers of the breach, the broken places.
Help us, O God, to be restorers of the city
and the spaces in which we live and move.
Help us, O God, to be your faithful people. Amen.