

Prayer Celebrations and Concerns

September 29-October 5, 2024

New this week: Sharon Baldwin, friend of Gretchen Girard.

Covenant members:

Covenant friends & extended family: Ava Hilscher, infant great-niece of Floyd Stautz; Tom Fontaine, son of Mary Fontaine; Jonathan Schultz, friend of Melissa Hinz; Feliz Yonder, friend of Beth Schmaltz; Mariah Zoroufy, granddaughter of Mary Zoroufy; Gary Schuster, brother of Tom Schuster.

Covenant family and friends mourning the death of: Karen Knetter, Covenant member; The father of Rev. Jessica Salt; Gordon Shoeman, brother-in-law of Judy Von Bergen and uncle of Nick Von Bergen, Jacqueline Whitley, and Kate Donnelly.

Your continuing prayers are appreciated for: Tom Schuster, Evelyn McMillan; Sandi Thompson-Royer, Covenant friend; Troy Griswold, nephew of Lori Voss; Sarah Day; Mark Middleton; Sally Nesser; Bill Wood; Alicia Mundy; Brenda Moten; Pat Thielbar; John Wedberg; Barb Larsen; Cindy Blewett; Nancy McCulley; Dale Myrland; Larry Larsen; Patty West; Bill Lawrence; Russ McMillan; Don Peterson; Virgil Landry; Margaret Hickman; Joseph Hack; The people of Ukraine; Gina Fritz; Eve Casta; Jan Schaefer, sister-in-law of Bob and Nan Schaefer; Jodi Steidl; Tim Wade, father of Janna Doney; Charlene Duranceau, sister of Jan Schuster; Betty Matthews; 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: Betsey and Eric Moe PC(USA); 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; Eric Miller in Kenya.

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

Birthdays

Robin Goetz (9/29); Marta Cantrell, Hee Soo Jung (10/1); Heather Marley, Eric Miller, Will Salmonowicz, Drew Walden, Janice Walden (10/3); Henry Gibson (10/5).

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

As we think about this upcoming election and our Kindness Campaign, this week's theme is Justice. In her section on justice from *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*, Cole Arthur Riley includes a prayer for voting. We aren't there yet, but our votes make a difference. In addition to holding those on the prayer list in the light, here is a prayer for voting.

God of every voice,

Motivate us to use our own.

We confess that we are taken with the fashionable fatalism of our culture, which leaves us unprepared for the enduring nature of justice work.

Help us to have compassion for all the memories that have formed us to feel this present helplessness.

Renew our practice of love in community, that civic engagement would feel vital to us.

Instill a commitment to local government, elevating the discussion of the common good in our immediate places of belonging.

Surround our public leaders with wise counsel and a diversity of voices, that we would not elect leaders of arrogance and unchecked narcissism, however alluring their promises may be.

Expose the status desperate, the power hungry, as politicians attempt to influence us to support them.

Thwart all attempts at voter suppression, the evil schemes that uniquely target Black people, the overworked, and the elderly.

Spur on your people of color to pursue public service. Grant them the courage and resources to challenge officials who have failed at serving with their full humanity. Hold us in our purpose, that we would never become too accustomed to injustice. That we would never become numb to the pain of the world.

This vote is only the beginning, but it is a sacred beginning. *May it be so.*

[Cole Arthur Riley](#) in [Black Liturgies](#)

Show me, O God, where you want me to seek justice, especially on behalf of those who are marginalized, under-resourced, or in desperate need.

Show me this week where I can share kindness in new ways – small ways and maybe generous gestures.

Open our eyes to your mercy, that we may bless others.

Help me to walk humbly with you. Amen.