

PRAYER CONCERNS

SCOTT HARRIS & FAMILY
FAMILY OF SUE BARRIER
RONNIE & SUSAN PENDLETON
RICK & SHARON PENDLETON
BARBARA GOODALL

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

WANDA TOLAND-fractured hip, 91 year old aunt of Jerry & Sharon Toland.
EDDIE HAMILTON-health issues
GEORGIA HATFIELD-suffered a heart attack; friend of Terri Bradley
JACOB ACOSTA-beginning treatment soon for a brain tumor. Step-brother of Robert Hare.
JEANNINE HERRINGTON
DIANE BOLAND-cancer diagnosis, surgery, long-term treatment, sister-in-law of Mike & Rosa Leveridge
CHRISTIE JONES-2nd round of chemo and radiation for esophageal cancer, lifelong friend of Karen Duggan.
DONNA SCHKADE-health issues, improving, sister of Deedra Boaz
SANDRA KNADE-covid, friend of Sande Angus
DENNIS LODOR-son of Sue Lodor
ROB McCORMICK-major heart attack, brother-in-law of Sharon Rogers
JEFF REGISTER-brother-in-law of Lisa Langford, husband of her sister, Jodie
RANDY WHITLEY-cancer
SHEILA BREWSTER-sister-in-law of Sheila & Roger Tonne
HARTLEY HEARNE-3 yr. old with leukemia. Granddaughter of Ginger Dittmar's friend
JULIO VENEGAS-diagnosed with cancer, friend of James & Donna Wade
JACK ROGERS-great-great nephew of Sue Lodor

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS

BETTY BREWER-03
ANN GIBSON-03
DAVID DUGGAN-06
SARA HARE-07
DONNIE LOCKHART-07
JOHN CONNALLY-09
TRACY PRATER-09
JASON HASH-10
TREY HUMPHREYS-12
KAMDEN TIDWELL-12
MIKE LEVERIDGE-13
JACKIE PARKS-20
MARVIN CHANEY-21
JAN LEDBETTER-22
SUZI COODY-23
JON TRAMMEL-23
ANITA LOCKHART-25
TANNER WADE-25
JACKSON MOREHART-30

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUSTIN BURKHALTER-grandson of Larry and Jinger Mahan
NICK CORDOVA-son of Ray and Merry Pendleton
GUY CRAIG-son of Bob Meason, grandson of Ruth and Bob Green, and nephew of Guyla and Wayne White
JASON GRAHAM-cousin of Melissa Trammel
ZACHARY KARL-Deployed to Tbilisi, Georgia (the country), son of Perry and Debbie Karl, grandson of Elaine Goswick.
JACKSON LEVERIDGE-Coast Guard, Duluth, Minnesota, grandson of Steve & Linda Leveridge
JOSH LEVERIDGE-Fort Bragg, NC, grandson of Steve & Linda Leveridge
MAJOR JEFF MATSLER

Dear Church Family,
I sincerely appreciate everything that you have done for Elaine and me over the last few years. The many prayers, kind words, supporting and encouraging talks, and warm hugs (even a few last year) have helped tremendously, as did the bereavement meal for my family and old friends.
Thank you for just doing what seems to come naturally for many of you.
Charles Evers

CONDOLENCES

Christian condolences are extended to Scott, Lindsay and Blake Johnston, granddaughters, London and Mila-Katherine, and, son, David Harris, on the passing of Linda, Wednesday, June 16, 2021. A memorial service was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at First United Methodist Church with Dr. Tommy Brumett, officiating. A private burial will be held at a later date.

CONDOLENCES

Christian condolences are extended to the family and friends of Sue Barrier. Sue is survived by her daughter, Trachelle Dearmore and husband, her sister, Nancy Swan, a nephew, Jason Swan, and her dear friend, Gloria Curtiss. Sue passed away in Fort Worth on June 27, 2021. Funeral services were held July 2, 2021 at Morehart Mortuary with Pastor David Fergeson officiating. Interment was at Breckenridge Cemetery Under the direction of Morehart Mortuary.

First United Methodist Church
419 West Walker
Breckenridge, Texas 76424

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JULY IS FOR JUSTICE

Exodus 23:2 “Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd

Leviticus 19:15 “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Deuteronomy 16:19 Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.

Psalms 140:12 I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

This year we have been examining significant aspects of our Christian Faith in our monthly Newsletter. January is for Jesus, February is for Faith, Hope and Love, March is for Meditation, April is for Atonement, May is for Ministry, June is for Justification and now July is for Justice.

Justice is a commonly emphasized theme of God’s will for creation. In addition to the command and admonition that justice be promoted and practiced, stories are provided in the Old Testament that show the importance of Justice to God. Two such stories show injustice in the form of the severe abuse of Royal power over the poor and common people. King David (2 Samuel 11) wanted Uriah’s wife Bathsheba and had Uriah murdered to have her. King Ahab wanted Naboth’s field (1 Kings 21) and had Naboth murdered so he could take it. In both of these stories God’s will for justice is broken by two very powerful men who covet what their neighbors have and murder to steal it. It is fair to say that the vast majority of times the word “Justice” is mentioned in the Bible is in connection with the misuse and abuse of power by the rich and well connected who oppress and steal from the poor to satisfy their own greed. In every case, God disapproves and condemns the perpetrators of injustice. In the Gospel story of “the Rich man and Lazarus” (Luke 16:19ff), Injustice is found in the Rich Man’s absence of care and concern for the poor man at his gate. God’s will for Justice can be broken both by sins of commission and omission. Jesus calls us to love all our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37ff) and to “Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.” (Matthew 7:12) To be a just society according to Judeo-Christian Scriptures is to both restrict our own greedy misuse of power for personal gain AND to act proactively to help the least and the most-needy in Society. Both rich and poor can do wrong; so, in a court of justice, we are not to turn a blind eye to a poor criminal over a rich victim (Leviticus 19:15) but our perspective and practice should be to recognize that the poor and powerless in society are easy to victimize and that we should be advocates on their behalf because God cares for them (Psalm 140:12).

While all of the above is true, Justice is sometimes a grey area in human relationships. Justice is often seen in economic terms. Some see Justice as a matter of equal distribution of the product of everyone’s labor. Others see justice as proportional; people should benefit from the work and investment they put in or suffer the appropriate consequence for the harm they do or the apathy they show. The Apostle Paul argued that if a person won’t work, they should not eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Is this a “Just” position? Some see justice not as the outcome of a process but as contained in the process itself. For example, did both sides in a situation have an equal or ‘fair’ opportunity to present their case? Does the process allow equal access to all people? In our society, people accused of a crime, are provided a lawyer if they cannot afford one. True enough the lawyers provided by the State to the accused often have less experiences and resources than what the State or the wealthy person can afford but, theoretically, this is society being “just” by providing an advocate. Is this provision of a lawyer for the indigent enough “justice”? Some see justice as retribution and revenge upon wrong doers and so believe in severe criminal and civil penalties for those who break societies’ laws and bring hurt and harm to individuals and the community. Is this our view of Justice? Some believe that Justice involves merciful nuances in sentencing that protect convicted perpetrators from becoming victims of an aggressively punitive legal system. Many people oppose the death penalty as unjust because they perceive it as “cruel and unusual punishment” that can kill the innocent for whom the judicial system is unfair. Some believe that in some cases the death penalty is a just outcome. While Justice may not always be clear, justice should always be our personal Christian goal and the work of the Christian community in society. Always pray and seek be “just” for it is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. If our Christian call to act with justice toward all matters to us, it will matter in the world.

Bro. David