



Week of March 9 – March 14

Scripture of the Week:

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 NRSV

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 NRSV

March 9, 2026

Our influence as a church on our youth reaches far and wide. In this phase of my life, I am watching our former youth members (who are near my daughters' ages) go out into the world, taking their faith with them. They are a blessing to this tough world and are actively influencing others around them to know Jesus. I have seen specific examples of this from many of these amazing young people. Again, the Holy Spirit at work. (Laura Crissey)

March 10, 2026

I worked in healthcare for 42 years. I loved my job and couldn't imagine not being a nurse. I found out quite suddenly that my job, as I knew it, was going to end. I was frightened that my life would feel empty and without a sense of purpose. Where would I channel my love of service to others? Within a week I received a call to serve on the board of elders. I couldn't have accepted the call if I were still working. These three years have been incredibly meaningful, and I've been given opportunities to do a variety of service work. It has helped me identify how I want to spend my retirement while serving God and the church I love. The Holy Spirit's plan for me was perfect. I can't wait to see what comes next. (Jill Cilimberg)

March 11, 2026

A few days after our younger daughter, Maria, had to be admitted to the hospital with jaundice from the highest bilirubin that retired pediatrician and Elder, Earl Brandon, said he had ever seen, Ellen and I became aware that hundreds of people, even members of other congregations, had been encouraged by members of FPC to pray for her and for our family. Inspired by this and hoping to pay the blessing forward in gratitude, Ellen started an email prayer ministry which continues through today. We are grateful for the workings of the Holy Spirit through prayer in the life of our congregation. (Elder Danny Potts)

March 12, 2026

Sudden loss can invite anger as the reaction. I experienced anger toward God at the sudden death of my husband. For five years I simply existed, but I did remain in the church choir. Two ladies in the church simply would not give up on inviting me to their circle group. I finally agreed to attend and stated, "I don't think you want me in this group." The love and encouragement that I received is a testimony to the unending Christian love of this church. God is patient and understands. These ladies were His messengers. (Kristi Thomson)

March 13, 2026

One of my favorite parts of worship is the children's moment. I appreciate how well our pastors connect to the children. The simplicity of the message is powerful and speaks as loudly to the adults as it does to the children. The Holy Spirit can be felt moving through the congregants as we pray in unison at the conclusion. We are all children of God regardless of our age. (Bebo Patton)

March 14, 2026

On a rainy Monday morning, sitting in the waiting room at the Manderson Cancer Center, my heart was heavy. Robert was about two-thirds of the way through his treatment for Stage 3 colon cancer. I was struggling, but trying to be strong. When we entered the treatment room for his long day of chemotherapy, I paused, overwhelmed. At every single treatment chair sat a vase of fresh flowers, caringly delivered by our beloved "flower ladies." The small tag read, "These flowers have attended the service at our church.....Now they come to share God's love with you!" Immediately, I felt the gentle, unmistakable comfort and encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Through colorful blooms thoughtfully arranged by our faithful, compassionate "flower ladies," I was reminded that we were not walking alone. (Elder Jacqueline Morgan)