

PRAISE & PRAYER
March 18, 2026
First Mennonite Church

PRAISE:

Father, thank You that You are the God of peace. You call Your children to be peacemakers to reflect Your character by bringing harmony where there is division, and love where there is conflict. We are grateful that You do not call us to this task alone, but that You equip us through Your Spirit and guide us with Your wisdom.

Pray for our workers of the week: Brian & Noelia F.

Hopefully by the time you read this, we will already be back in Spain. At the end of February, we traveled to visit our daughter Mikaela and her Reach team. We **praise** God for the wonderful time we had with them and for the opportunity to see where they were serving and to meet the people they have been working with. Because of visa issues they had to change their outreach location. Mikaela and her team are now in Benin, Africa, serving at a children's home that our church in Spain helped start 25 years ago. We are **praying** for a smooth adjustment as they settle into this new ministry and culture.

As I write this, Noelia and I are in Thailand waiting for a return flight to Spain. Due to the conflict in the Middle East our original flight was cancelled, and finding an alternative route home has not been easy. After our time with Mikaela and her team we traveled to India and enjoyed reconnecting with brothers and sisters we know there. Now we are visiting some Rosedale workers here in Thailand. So even though the door to return home as planned was closed, God opened a new one and along the way we have heard many amazing testimonies that have strengthened our faith.

Because we won't be back in Spain until next week, we will miss our annual Origen youth conference. We are **praying** that God will touch and challenge many young people during this event. Please **pray** that when they return home they won't simply say, "That was a nice weekend," and move on, but that they would become true disciple makers.

Thank you for all your prayers.

Pray for 6 unspoken requests.

Pray for comfort for Jim & Louise Neuenschwander and other family and friends in the death of Louise's brother, David Amstutz.

CHURCH: Pray for Ryan Sprunger, who is working with MDS in Conroe, Texas, during the month of March. **Pray** for the church as we highlight the spiritual gift of faith this month!

Persecuted Church: Pray for persecuted Christian women living in Afghanistan. If an Afghan woman's faith is discovered, her life and family can be in grave danger. **Pray** that Afghan women not only survive, but that they would be like Esther—bold and courageous.

Pray for our world as 40 countries are being impacted by the direct results of war, and over 100 million people are displaced due to war. May the light of Jesus shine brightly in a dark world.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Swiss Village: Wilmer Sprunger (was released from the hospital today; **pray** for him as he recovers); Marilyn Spurgeon (in rehab following knee replacement surgery); Anita Marble (in rehab after a recent fall); Twyla Sprunger (on Hospice; **pray** for strength and encouragement); Joanne Balyeat (on Hospice; **pray** for strength and peace)

Home: Lois Lehman (continuing rehab); Faye Williamson (recovering from a round of radiation); Jim Neuenschwander (had an injection procedure on Tuesday; **pray** that it gives him relief from pain)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

- Barb Dawson
- Paul & Lynn Steenburg
- Mike & Gwen Habegger
- Carol Balsiger
- Darren, Heidi, Joseph, Daniel, Will & Tate Kloepper
- Mike Liechty
- Gordon & Yarna Claassen
- Brian, Susan & Andrew Culy
- Mark & Debby Neuenschwander
- Brian, Noelia, Mikaela, Elisa & Norah Fox

PRAYER:

Lord, help us be peacemakers in our relationships, our communities, and the world around us. Give us hearts that value unity over division, humility over pride, and love over resentment. Let our actions reflect Your peace so that others may see You in us and be drawn to the true peace that only You can give.

Please phone Praise & Prayer items to the church office, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 589-3108; or Jim Schwartz, 525-0124