

PRAYER BULLETIN

News and Prayer Requests from the Free Presbyterian Churches of North America



REV. STEPHEN HAMILTON
Lehigh Valley Free Presbyterian

**Allentown,
Pennsylvania**

Because of the lockdown in Pennsylvania, where the pandemic has been quite active, the Lehigh Valley church has not been meeting corporately since mid-March. Rev. Stephen Hamilton says, "The whole situation has been a trial, of course, but one that has been blessed to us by the Lord."

God has allowed the ministry to continue as Mr. Hamilton has preached the Word exclusively over the internet. As well as uploading his audio sermons, he has held services online using Facebook Live streaming. The response has been "truly amazing" with hundreds tuning in to the services. Several of his soccer-playing friends have watched, and the Hamiltons' next-door neighbor has been watching both the Lord's Day Services and the devotional videos Mr. Hamilton has been uploading for the benefit of the congregation and others who may watch from anywhere in the world.

Some in the congregation have joined twice each Lord's Day and once on a Wednesday evening for a joint Skype prayer meeting with the Malvern and Orlando FP churches. This has been a particular blessing and an opportunity for people to have some interaction with other brethren and sisters.

The church is thankful that all the folks who were in regular employment are still in their jobs. It is their prayer that they may soon be able to emerge to a looser arrangement socially and eventually to a full resumption of regular activities. Mr. Hamilton says, "Our prayer is that the Lord will bring an increase in spite of the hiatus in our meetings together, and perhaps, even as a result of it. Pray God will do a work in hearts of some to whom we have witnessed during the crisis and that our neighbor may come to know Christ. Pray also that the unity of the flock will be preserved."

REV. PHIL OWEN
Berean Free Presbyterian

**Boston,
New York**

Rev. Phil Owen says the Boston congregation thanks God that during the pandemic the listeners to its services multiplied through the means of Facebook Live. Public services resumed on April 26 and the flock was glad to worship the Lord together once again. Please pray for an awakening in the community and for additions to the work.

The session and church are thankful for the prayers of God's people as a settlement was reached with the insurance company to rebuild the manse and to replace the equipment. It is bittersweet for the Owens to see the debris removed and to anticipate a new beginning. Do pray for workers on the site over the next few months to be reached with the gospel.

REV. PAUL BACKHURST
Minister-elect
Calgary Free Presbyterian

**Calgary,
Alberta**

Rev. Paul Backhurst and his family arrived safely in Calgary just before restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were put in place. Some of the congregation had just enough time to welcome the Backhursts to Canada before the session decided to close the church building to public gatherings. Mr. Backhurst has been conducting an online church ministry since March 22 making use of Sermonaudio and YouTube. He requests prayer that provincial and civil authorities will have wisdom in reopening society, that church services may soon recommence, that guidance will be given to the session in forming a plan for reopening, and that the unity of the fellowship during this time of separation will be protected by God and even increased. Pray for the Lord's continued blessings upon the online church ministry in order that people will be reached, fed, and converted.

REV. IAN GOLIGHER
Cloverdale Free Presbyterian

**Cloverdale,
British Columbia**

Rev. Ian Goligher reports that things have been eerily quiet at the Cloverdale church as he preaches to a camera for the live webcast services. Midweek prayer meetings are held via Zoom. Attendance at the prayer meetings has swelled with some joining in from far away. The congregation longs for things to change soon, but the timeline for in-person meetings keeps receding into the future as the numbers of new cases of COVID-19 continue to fluctuate in British Columbia. Thankfully, no one in the congregation has contracted the virus and only one person is out of work due to the lockdown.

Two ladies in the congregation have been hospitalized with serious health issues, and it has been difficult for them and their family members as visits are severely restricted.

Please pray for the Spirit of God to turn temporal fear to a true gospel fear. The Lord has stirred up an increased number of radio listeners to call for the first time and some have sought counsel to know the assurance of salvation. Pray for an awakening among the ungodly to draw them to hear the gospel with new desire for salvation. Pray for some seniors whose only contact with family and friends is by phone. Pray that when the church is open again to the public there will be renewed interest in the preaching of the gospel and new times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

DR. LARRY SAUNDERS
Interim Moderator
Fredericton Free Presbyterian

**Fredericton,
New Brunswick**

The public church services in Fredericton are in abeyance because of the COVID-19 outbreak. At present the people have no means of ministering using the electronic systems available, but they are able to tune in to Sermonaudio.com. The Toronto church has been blessed to have Wendy Sullivan (one of the Fredericton church's first members) join in its online prayer meeting. Please pray also that soon the Lord will touch the heart of some man somewhere with a burden to further the work among the faithful souls in Fredericton.

Please pray also for Gerald Ladds, who has been in hospital and needs surgery but can't get it at present because of the pandemic. Pray also for his wife, Tanya, that the Lord will bless and strengthen her.

REV. ARMEN THOMASSIAN
DR. ALAN CAIRNS
Emeritus
Faith Free Presbyterian

**Greenville,
South Carolina**

After seven Sundays of having only online services, the Greenville church people were thankful to the Lord to be able to resume their midweek prayer meeting on May 6 and to meet for one Lord's Day service on May 10. They are praying that the Lord will guide and be pleased to get all aspects of ministry and fellowship returning to normal sooner rather than later.

Some of the outreach ministries of the church have had to be halted temporarily, but others have found ways to continue. The group that goes to the Generations boys' home has made recordings for the boys and has found other creative ways of keeping in touch. Those who minister to Hispanic children via a Bible club have created a YouTube channel in collaboration with people in the Mexico City church. Since it isn't feasible to have the usual vacation Bible school this year, the effort is going online with daily videos that will be posted on Sermonaudio each morning June 22–26. The theme will be the parables of Jesus, and the Bible lessons, Bible memory, songs, missionary highlights, and even a craft time will be in video format. If you are interested in receiving email updates about the virtual VBS, please let our church office know at info@faithfpc.org.

REV. GEOFF BANISTER
REV. RON BARNES
Associate Minister
Indianapolis Free Presbyterian

**Indianapolis,
Indiana**

Although the state of Indiana has lifted restrictions on churches coming together, the session in Indianapolis decided to wait a couple more weeks. Pray that the Lord will lead and that they will soon reopen. In the meantime, Rev. Geoff Banister thanks the Lord for the means He has provided for live-streaming their services. They have been using Zoom for their church prayer meetings. Folks who ordinarily wouldn't be able to make it to prayer meeting have been able to participate through Zoom. Pray that the Lord will give the church officers wisdom to figure out how to use Zoom to bring people into the regular in-person prayer meetings when they resume.

Please pray that the Lord will protect the elderly and vulnerable in the church. A few people, including Mr. Banister and his wife and Rev. Ron Barnes and his wife, fall into the high risk category.

Please pray for Sandy Banister's mother, Elaine Castor, who is elderly and doesn't fully understand why she can't go out and why even her children cannot come into her house. She had to be admitted to the hospital in recent days and now must spend a couple of weeks in a nursing home. Pray first that the Lord would save her and then minister to her physical, emotional, and mental needs.

Henry Nymann, a ruling elder in the church in Indianapolis, has been laid off from his job. Pray that Henry will be able to resume his work soon and that his position will survive any cuts his company makes.

The Manring family, who attended Indianapolis FPC in the past, learned recently that their sixteen-year-old son, Josiah, has a tumor in his brain. Josiah is currently at St. Jude's hospital in Memphis where he'll have to undergo some chemotherapy treatments before having surgery to remove the tumor. Please keep the Manring family in prayer.

DR. STEPHEN POLLOCK
FPC of Malvern
**Malvern,
Pennsylvania**

Dr. Stephen Pollock says, “In January we would have been very unhappy if someone told us we were not going to be meeting together for most of March and all of April. If we were told we’d be holding Skype prayer meetings and that pastors would be preaching in empty buildings, we would have been very perplexed and distressed. And so we have been! These have been trying months yet we thank the Lord that we have had blessed times of prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays with many from the Lehigh Valley and Orlando congregations. We’re thankful that our youth and ladies’ groups have been able to use Zoom to hold meetings. We’re thankful for the means of Sermonaudio to broadcast the Word.”

Please pray for grace for the summer months, for wisdom to know how and when to reconvene public worship, for protection and good health for vulnerable and senior members, and for unity in the Lord’s work. He closes, “We know that these events are in the sovereign hand of our gracious God and we pray in the knowledge that He means it for good.”

Regarding the 2020 youth camp, Dr. Pollock says that the coronavirus pandemic poses many problems for a camp such as ours and that it has therefore had to be canceled for this year. Camp is an important opportunity for our young people to be under the Word. Please pray that the Lord will bless them despite the absence of camp this year.

REV. JASON BOYLE
Iglesia Cristiana El Redentor
(Redeemer Christian Church)
**Mexico City,
Mexico**

In recent months the deacons in Mexico City have diligently contacted each church member and regular attender to be aware of their needs. Rev. Jason Boyle says that thanks to generous giving in their own church and from individuals “back home,” they have been able to meet all the needs of those in their own congregation plus some of the needs of the other six churches with whom they are connected (Ramón Sosa and his church in the Dominican Republic has been the most affected). The church prays for guidance as it seeks to meet needs going forward.

The virus has brought some blessings along with it, including increased attendance at the online Sunday worship services and the prayer meeting. Unbelieving family members and friends are showing an increased interest in the things of the Lord and there is a greater sense of unity, mutual love, and appreciation in the church. Another positive side effect is that Mr. Boyle and the pastors of their sister churches have enjoyed fellowship via Zoom (when internet connections allow).

Pray for growth in the church leadership, especially that God would prepare elders to help in the work. Pray that God will give the Boyles strength to carry on. Also, pray for those who are helping Faith FPC put together videos for the new YouTube channel for the neighborhood Bible club in Greenville. The Boyles are praying that the videos will be beneficial to children in Mexico as well.

DR. STEPHEN POLLOCK
Interim Moderator
Orlando Free Presbyterian
**Orlando,
Florida**

The Orlando church had cause to rejoice at the end of March as the news came that Rev. Thomas Lavery had accepted the call to become pastor of the church. That joy has been dampened a little as the reality dawned that the pandemic will mean that Mr. Lavery will not be able to move to Florida as soon as would be desired. Please pray that the immigration process will go smoothly and that soon the door will fully open for Mr. Lavery to commence his ministry in Florida. In the meantime, the congregation has been able to join in the Malvern prayer meetings and to watch various pastors through Sermonaudio.

REV. DAVID MOOK
Phoenix Free Presbyterian
**Peoria,
Arizona**

On March 17, the Phoenix church session adopted the recommendation from the executive committee of the presbytery to suspend all church services and related activities until at least April 5. The date has now been extended to June 7, and that is tentative since the rate of infections and deaths from COVID-19 continues to increase in Arizona.

The session urged the members of the congregation to preserve a regular routine of worship and prayer each week, utilizing the webcasts available from other Free Presbyterian churches. The presbytery’s executive committee issued a call for a denominational Day of Prayer on April 19, and the session of the church urged each household to set aside time for a special season of prayer.

Thankfully, no one in the congregation has contracted the COVID-19 illness as of this writing. Mr. Mook and Mr. Tschappler try to phone someone from each family in the congregation on a regular basis. At the end of March, Mr. Mook joined a group of ministers, mainly from the West, for weekly seasons of prayer and has derived much encouragement from those meetings.

REV. REGGIE CRANSTON
Port Hope Free Presbyterian

Port Hope, Ontario

Rev. Reggie Cranston reports that as with all of our churches, his congregation has been unable to gather together in the Lord's house for their regular Sabbath Day services because of the coronavirus. He has been using Facebook to broadcast two services each Lord's Day. He has been encouraged by the number of people who have been tuning in to the broadcast and prays that the Lord will use the messages to encourage God's people and to bring salvation to sinners.

Mr. Cranston and a number from his congregation have been joining with the Toronto congregation for their midweek prayer meeting by means of Zoom. These prayer times have proved to be a great source of encouragement to all.

REV. ANDREW SIMPSON
Heritage Free Presbyterian

Prince George, British Columbia

The Prince George congregation has had its regular schedule completely turned upside down due to COVID-19, but Rev. Andrew Simpson is glad to report that all members of the church are healthy and well. Many of the doors for outreach have unfortunately closed for a season. However, to reach people who are now housebound Mr. Simpson preached a series through the book of Colossians that were put on Facebook daily over five weeks and shared to the various community pages. Some contact was made with people in the area who got in touch to say they were watching.

Before the outbreak of COVID-19, the local economy in Prince George and the surrounding area was on the verge of recession. The shutdown of the economy has made that almost inevitable. Mr. Simpson says, "We are thankful, however, that God is still on the throne, and we pray that He will use this to humble people so that they might turn to God."

DR. LARRY SAUNDERS
DR. FRANK McCLELLAND
Emeritus
Toronto Free Presbyterian

Toronto, Ontario

The Toronto church's public meetings are closed, but the ministry continues via Sermonaudio. To help reduce the overload on Sermonaudio equipment, the Toronto services have been brought forward by one hour. The adult Bible class is at 9:00 am and the church services at 10:00 am and 5:30 pm.

All schools in Ontario are closed until May 31, but will likely not reopen until the new school year in September. However, at Whitefield the teaching continues using Google Classroom. The teachers have done an amazing job in adapting to the new situation forced upon them. Please pray for them.

The church prayer meetings have been a blessing continuing each Wednesday evening via Zoom. The last two weeks have seen over eighty for the online prayer meetings and it seems there is a welcome new awareness of the importance of prayer. They are praying that soon with regard to the plague the Lord will say, "It is enough: stay now thine hand" (2 Samuel 24:16). Pray for souls to seek the Lord at this trying time, and that God's people will be sustained during this world crisis.

REV. MYRON MOONEY
Trinity Free Presbyterian

Trinity, Alabama

The Trinity congregation would like to express its gratitude to Mr. Steven Lee and the Sermonaudio team for their untiring work to provide bandwidth for increased demand of late. They say the blessing of Sermonaudio cannot be defined!

The congregation thanks the Lord that two babies have been added to the congregation: Jedidiah Luke Mooney was born on May 1, 2020, to Luke and Hannah Mooney, joining brothers Caleb and Silas. On May 5, 2020, Jacob and Kelly Frank welcomed their fourth son, Shiloh McCoy Frank. Shiloh's arrival increases Jacob's quiver to seven. Both mothers and babies are doing well.

The church has had to cancel many activities, but the Lord has blessed. People who have never entered the church building are regularly joining the online services. The prayer meetings, men's meetings, and children's Sunday school classes have moved to Zoom. The Easter Sunday morning drive-in service was well attended with Pastor Mooney at his finest in the open air. As churches in Alabama reopen, the Trinity church people are returning to services as their consciences guide.

Please pray for the prisoners since the Bible study is not allowed right now; and for Ginger Garrett, who is recovering from surgery; Jacob Frank, with a serious leg injury; and Brent and Gena Hebert.

REV. IAN GOLIGHER
Interim Moderator
Victoria Free Presbyterian

Victoria, British Columbia

Pray for the remaining faithful band of godly believers in Victoria who long for continued fellowship during this pandemic. They presently join the live webcast services from Cloverdale church, and some join in the Cloverdale prayer meetings by Zoom conference calls.