Prelude to Prayer:

“Grace is most needed and best understood in the midst of sin, suffering, and brokenness. We live in a world of earning, deserving, and merit, and these result in judgment. That is why everyone wants and needs grace. Judgment kills. Only grace makes alive. A shorthand for what grace is – “mercy, not merit.” Grace is the opposite of karma, which is all about getting what you deserve (reaping what you sow). Grace is getting what you don’t deserve, and not getting what you do deserve.” **Ay Peters**

*2 Corinthians 12:7a-10*

*In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.****8****Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.****9****But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.****10****That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

* Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us the ability to recognize when we have been given the Grace you so generously shower on us. Your blessings and mercy are never failing, and we thank you for those favors. Please help us to never take them for granted.
* I know there are so many times when I don’t deserve Your grace because I act so ungrateful and disinterested in what is going on around me. I become selfish and only concerned with what is happening to me. Please forgive me when I act that way.
* Lord, help me to stay centered in and on You. Help me see those who are really hurting around me and let me reach out to them in love because of all that You have done for me. Let them see You through me.
* There are many among us who need your help and healing right now. I pray that you continue to be with Loren and Glenda Anderson, Hilary Nichol’s father and Scott Yeat’s father. I also ask that you be with…
* Father, I thank you for the beautiful summer that we have been enjoying. It is wonderful being able to enjoy Your creation with our brothers and sisters. Thank you for blessing us with a chance to take advantage of the warm weather while we have it.
* We ask that you be with our leadership as they make decisions regarding the future of FACC. Help us all keep them in our hearts, minds, and prayers as they do what they feel is in the best interest of us all to bring us to a closer relationship with You. Bless them is all of their endeavors.

In Jesus’ blessed name we pray, Amen.