

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings! It's been said that the two most important days in a person's life are: 1. the day you were born and 2. why each person is a unique individual who in many ways is different from all the other people. Lumping all people together is a desecration of that individual. We are not all the same.

Unfortunately, human life seems to be getting pretty cheap. Our prejudices and assumptions are tagging folks unfairly. We are failing to see people as individuals and instead, are seeing others as part of a "tribe", grouping large numbers of people together, as the same type of people. God did not make us this way.

The Dalai Lama said, "people were created to be loved, things were created to be used. The reason why the world is in chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used". I agree, again, life seems to be getting cheaper in that people seem to be expendable as in war and political and religious prejudice and violence.

Sam Keen, wrote in his book, *Faces of the Enemy, Reflections of the Hostile Imagination*, that we create the enemy. Before the weapon comes the image. We think others to death and then invent the battle axe or the ballistic missiles with which we actually kill them. Propaganda proceeds technology." We need to demonize others before we can feel justified in killing them or destroying them. Prejudice works this way too. Keen describes us as homo hostilis, hostile humans, the hostile species, the enemy-making animal. He writes that we create enemies from our own private demons. It all starts in our heads and is projected towards others. He indicates we need to begin looking at the eyes in which we see our enemies, creating propagandas that justifies our hostilities. It was in Canes eyes that he couldn't accept God choosing his brothers Able's gift over his own so he demonized his brother in his mind and that justified in his eyes the right to kill him. Terrible things are done because of our own pathology. The crucifixion of Jesus was the epitome of this warped logic.

By not seeing folks as individuals, we can easily get things wrong in so many ways. Let's look at a few of these prejudicial judgements with some famous people:

Albert Einstein: He couldn't speak until he was almost four and his teachers said he wouldn't amount to much. He flunked algebra too. Walt Disney: Fired from a newspaper for lacking no imagination and having no original ideas. The Beatles: Rejected by Decca recording studios, who said, "we don't like their sound- they have no future in show business. Michael Jordan: after being cut from his high school basketball team, went home, locked himself in his room and cried.

There are probably so many more stories about people who were misjudged and proved their judges wrong. This is what happens when we determine who a person is without realizing the uniqueness of that individual. Jesus saw goodness is all the "wrong" people in which he had contact. He also saw through the prejudice and even hate from the religious people who rejected people because of who those people were.

Division speaks pretty much to those with divisive attitudes more than perhaps those with whom they want to be divided. It all begins in our minds. The tragedies of natural disasters have drawn us together as a nation. Divisions don't count when we are all in trouble. We pull together. If we can do it then why not all the time? Of course we can if we want to. Jesus shows and tells us how.

A poster I had in my office in the early 70's had a young man sitting on a stool and it said, "I am me and that's ok, for God don't make no junk!" I can only say, "Amen!"

Peace,
C.O.

October Issue

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C.O. Magee (on Cover)

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"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Luke 6:41



Heads Up!

As in the past, you will be able to sponsor poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Once again, we're asking for a love donation to help defray the cost of poinsettias and other decorations. The proceeds from the poinsettia sales will go to the Ron McClendon Camp Fund. Order forms will be in next month's newsletter.

Thank you!



Poinsettia Orders



Love. Grow. Serve.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12

The new Christian Education year has begun! This is always an exciting time of the year! We honored our third graders with a bible, commissioned Sunday School teachers, and blessed backpacks. Everyone is always excited to begin new lessons and learning more about Jesus. Mission, Outreach and the Church's Ministries restart each January but get refueled at this time of the church year. With summer ending and fall beginning we are also fast approaching the Advent Season. As you begin studying your new lessons also take a few moments to see how you can better serve your church in our Outreach and Ministry opportunities. Below is a list of opportunities to serve our church and community. If you see something you would like to volunteer or serve please contact a Session member or Mandi in the office.

Gathering Place

Sunday School

Headstart Christmas

Children's Worship Bags

Decorating for Advent

Ringling Salvation Army Bell

Clothing Outlet

Children's Christmas Party

Potluck setups

Choir Christmas Cantata

Hanging of the Greens

Baking Cookies for Advent Season

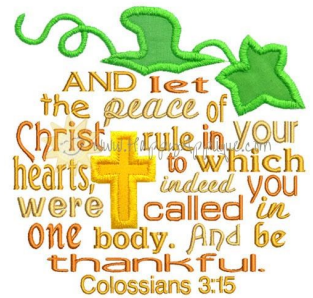
Upcoming events in:

October

- 3rd Coffee with C.O.
- 5th Tai Chi
- 6th World Communion Sunday
- 7th Education Committee meeting
- 8th Mission Committee meeting
- 9th Gathering Place
- 13th Congregational Life Committee meeting
- 14th Indigenous People Day (Office Closed)
- 17th Coffee with C.O.
- 19th Tai Chi
- 19th Visitation and Memorial Service for Ron Mercer
- 20th Stewardship Committee meeting
- 26th Pumpkin Carving contest in the Fellowship Hall
Snacks will be provided.
- 31st Coffee with C.O.
- 31st Trick or Treat trail at Oak Park 6:30p-8:30p

November

- 2nd Tai Chi
- 2nd Worship Committee Meeting
- 10th Congregation Meeting
- 10th Congregational Life Committee meeting
- 12th Mission Committee meeting
- 13th Gathering Place
- 14th Coffee with C.O.
- 16th Tai Chi
- 17th Stewardship Committee Meeting
- 22nd Session meeting
- 28th Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
- 29th Black Friday



"There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man."

Mark 7:15





Ongoing Prayers: *Patty Costanzo, Irene Peltier, Stephanie Elkins, Paul Reed, Mandi Odom, Joanne Froberg, Rosemary Hervol, Roger Hawkins, Karen Hensley, Nancy & Wayne Williams, and Dick Frerking.*

Immediate Concerns: *The Family of Ron Mercer.*

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Robert Escobedo
Fellowship - Worship



Trick or Treat Trail



For the past few years, the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Alvin has sponsored the Trick or Treat Trail event as an alternative to the traditional going from house to house on Halloween to trick or treat. In keeping with First Presbyterian Church's focus on mission, we will once again be sponsoring a booth along the trail where goblins, ghosts, and other Halloween creatures can get their candy in a safe environment. The Trick or Treat Trail will be held on October 31st from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the National Oak Park by the railroad station in downtown Alvin. In order to accomplish this, the church needs your help. This can be done in several ways.

First, we need CANDY, CANDY, CANDY! *Please remember as you shop for candy that allergies to peanuts are much more common than they were when you and I were young, so try to stay clear of candy containing peanuts. Please bring your candy to church beginning now through Sunday October 29th. We will have totes set up in the Narthex for you.*

Second, we need people to help set up our canopy, lights, and tables. These people need to be at the National Oak Park at 5:30 pm.

Third, we also need people to work the 2 hour event.

Fourth, we need people to take down our canopy, lights, and tables when the event is over.

As you can see, there is a lot to do to make the Trick or Treat Trail a wonderful and safe experience for the children of Alvin. To get an idea of who can work the event, there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex of the sanctuary beginning the first Sunday of October for those who can help with the last three items needed.

Vouchers are available for those with needs such as job changes, homelessness, fire at home or relocation.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED ANYTIME



Hours of Operation

Mornings:

Wednesday 9:00am - Noon

Saturday 9:00am - Noon

Evenings:

Monday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Sunday, November 3, 2024 is Remembrance Sunday

During the morning worship service we will have a time of remembrance for those church members, and those close to our church members, who have passed away this past year.

Members:**Wade Vance Laura Dantzman****Nora Richardson Ron Mercer**

Those close to us: Betty Montgomery, Marten Mosis, Chad Simpson, Mary Del Basso, Vincent Sorrentino, Ralph Slavey, Evan Imes, Clem Garza, Kathy Hirsch, Aydin Torres, Calvin Carrasco, Johnny Martin, Kristy Myers, Linda Allen, Dan Stinson, Rick Wells, Mona Carter, Oscar Voight, & Jim Healy.

**1 Joan McNabb****3 Jeanine Richey****3 Mark Busscher****8 Robert Escobedo****14 Buddy Ruskey****24 Ayla Busscher****26 Alex Pannell****27 Chance Keffer****28 Barbara Whitfield**



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Pennsylvania Church Offers Community a 'Fresh Start'

The local laundromat was Linda's chapel. It was where she first shared a prayer concern that had been weighing heavily on her mind — and on her family's heart — to say nothing of their budget.

At the time, Linda was dealing with stage 4 cancer.

She confessed to the pastor and volunteers from the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, who were gathered around Linda and her daughter, "Since I got sick, my washer and dryer can't handle the volume of blankets and bedding."

The cost of doing laundry was driving Linda's family and other families deeper into poverty. And so began the church's "Fresh Start: Loads of Love" laundry outreach program, funded in part by a grant received from the Presbytery of Carlisle's portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering. The presbytery grants empower congregations and individuals to become peacemakers in their communities and in the world.

Traditionally received on World Communion Sunday, the Peace & Global Witness Offering is unique in that half of it is directed to peacemaking and global witness efforts at the national church level to address critical justice issues around the world. Twenty-five percent is retained by our congregation for peace and reconciliation work, and 25% is kept by mid councils for similar ministries on the regional level.

"The Waynesboro church's laundry outreach program exemplifies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s longstanding commitment to peacemaking," said the Rev. Wilson Kennedy, the PC(USA)'s associate director for Special Offerings and Appeals. "Even the simplest tasks, like washing clothes for those on the margins of our communities, helps sow seeds of peace like Jesus commands us."

And following Jesus' commandments is integral to the mission of "Fresh Start."

The Rev. Caroline Vickery says, "We know that Jesus makes it clear that how we treat the vulnerable is how we treat Jesus. Most of our members are college-educated, literate and middle-class. Our laundry outreach has put them in touch with a world whose hardships they're unaware of. It comes as a shock for people to realize how costly doing your laundry can be and to know that people can't use their SNAP benefits to buy detergent, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items. Not being able to keep yourself clean robs people of their dignity. There's something restorative about knowing that people will be able to be their best selves. That's why we call it 'Fresh Start.' It's a chance to start over."

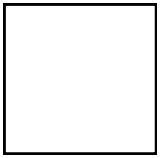
"There are many other small churches who want to improve the lives of people in their communities so that the love of God can be made visible through their ministries," Vickery said. "By giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering, people can help other small churches make God's love real — in their town and around the world."

And as we always say, when we all do a little — it adds up to a lot! Please give generously.





First Presbyterian Church
302 South Johnson Street
Alvin, TX 77511



Address Service Requested

Please notify the church office
of any change of address or
telephone number.



"The First Presbyterian Church of Alvin has been called by God and organized to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in our community and world."

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