

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



To the Saints at FPC

Wednesday night at the mid-week service, we had a very good dialogue with Mary Magdalene. Adrienne Thomas playing the part of her and Barbara Whitfield, who did the interview did a really great job.

Mary was a real true disciple of Jesus. Loved him, followed him, stood by him, was very faithful, nurtured him, and believed him. She was a very venerated woman, probably the most venerated person in the entire Bible. Jesus had healed her of 7 demons. Jesus changed her life.

This was a “radical” thing to do in that time of history. Men didn’t associate with women the way we do today. Not that women were always treated badly, but they had no power, totally subjected to men. That never stopped Jesus from reaching out to them, as he reached out to all people, breaking a lot of society’s rules.

Mary was a strong person. She was from Magdala, a small seaside town on the Sea of Galilee. It had a raunchy reputation; a sinful place. The brothels were well noted and since Mary was from there and was pretty wealthy, she was pinned with the reputation of being a prostitute by a pope in the 6th century AD. This also coincided with the church’s attitude that women weren’t to be part of the leadership of the church. Strong women weren’t appreciated! Women dropped out of the picture after the year 100 AD. Nothing was said about them. It was as if they didn’t exist. All these many centuries, Mary carried the negative reputation when actually she was quite holy and a great example of discipleship.

In 1969 the Catholic Church passed an “edict” (or whatever they are called), venerating her and pronouncing in “religious language” that “it was all a mistake”. She wasn’t as she was accused. They proclaimed her as a quite holy, venerated and faithful woman.

Jesus dealt with “questionable” women: the Samaritan woman at the well, the one caught in adultery, the bleeding woman who grabbed his robe, the one who crawled to his feet and would eat the crumbs that fell from his table, and other examples. All these people were to be rejected or put to death for different reasons. Jesus didn’t care about societies rules; he cared about people and ministered to everyone with the unconditional love of God.

Prejudice is pre-judging. It is an ugly thing. We all carry that possibility. No one is exempt. I often call it the “Harper Valley PTA” Syndrome!

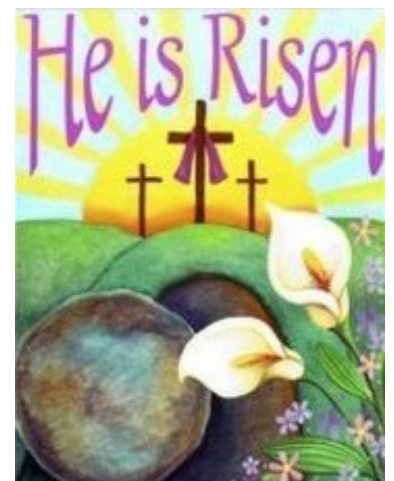
Prejudice is learned, taught and passed along to others. It’s sometimes hard not feel negatively towards certain others, yet as Christians we are to love and pray for those with whom we don’t want to associate. Not an easy thing to do at times. We all struggle.

Perhaps as we continue down the pathway of Lent we can check our own feelings and attitudes towards others. With the prejudice and hate we seem to be exhibiting as a society today, it’s especially important that as Christians, we choose to be more Christ like and follow Him as the Way, not as the way of society. We have a better way, the Way of our Lord.

Peace, C.O.

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Children's Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, the children will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by doing crafts, listening to a story and participating in an Easter egg hunt. A light breakfast will be served. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!



Easter Blooming Cross

Since Easter comes later in the spring this year, the Worship Committee would like to invite everyone who has blossoming flowers in their yard to consider bringing some of them for placement on the traditional Blooming Cross in the sanctuary on Easter morning. This act of kindness will help decorate the cross and allow the Worship Committee to reduce the number of flowers that need to be purchased.

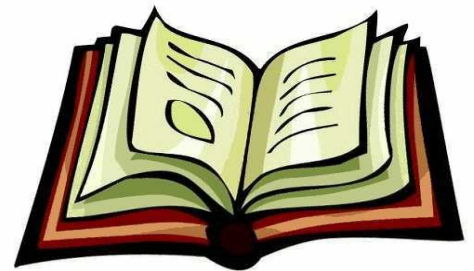


“We love Him because He first loved us.”

1 John 4: 9-10

4G's

In March the 4G's enjoyed lunch out of the church and the turnout was great. This month 4G's will meet as usual in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Wednesday (April 17th) at 1:30pm. There will be a guest speaker, author, Gaye Sauer. She will be reviewing her latest book "Brightly Grounded Angel". She will also have a Q & A about how to go about writing a book and getting it published.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sheila Follmar
- 5 Amber Bennett
- 8 Natalie Aparicio
- 10 Chris Odom
- 11 Audrie Gondesén
- 14 Alan Ruskey
- 17 Jo Myers

- 17 Martha Phipps
- 19 Ruth Frerking
- 22 Eric Grimmett
- 23 Shirley Brothers
- 28 Joan Rossano
- 29 Jim Dallas





Starting with Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter day, Holy Week and Easter are one of the most momentous times in the church year. We invite you to follow the path of Jesus through a series of church services – each unique – and each an opportunity to go deeper in faith.

Sunday, April 14, Sunday of the Passion:

Palm Sunday

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
(with Procession of Palms)



Thursday, April 18, Maundy Thursday

6:30 p. m. Maundy Thursday will be celebrated in the Fellowship Hall with everyone bringing either bread, cheese, fruit or all three to share with everyone. You may bring wine if preferred. The service will be around the tables simulating the last supper where disciples and families were gathered for the meal together.

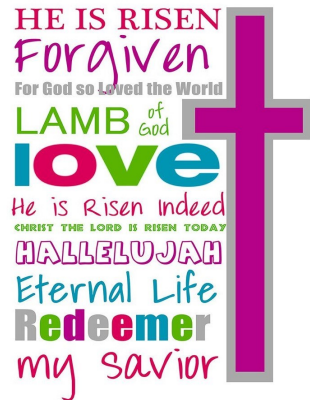
Sunday, April 21, Easter Day

9:30 a.m. The Education Team will provide a light breakfast for all members in the Fellowship Hall; and activities for the children.

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



This year, the Blooming Cross returns to the front of the sanctuary. Those attending will be invited to place a flower in the cross before worship. At the conclusion of the service we will follow the Blooming Cross outside, where we will receive the Benediction, followed by singing the Doxology together.



The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Psalm 34:18

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Reverend C.O. and Brenda Magee announce the birth of their grandchildren.

Proud Parents:

Travis and Maddie Grefenstette

Born: March 23, 2019

Amelie Hollin Grefenstette

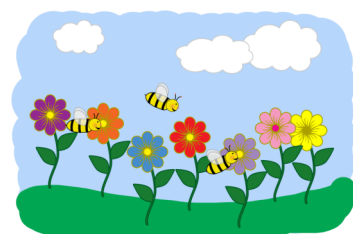
6lbs 5oz / 19.5 inches / 2:46 am

Owen Harden Grefenstette

7lbs 3oz / 19.75 inches / 2:59 am

Everyone is healthy and at home now!!

A shower for the twins is being planned for May. Be on the lookout for the details.



Fairy Godmothers @ DeGeorge Center

On March 14, five Fairy Godmothers delivered lap robes to the veterans at DeGeorge Center at Union Station in downtown Houston. These lap robes made from quilt tops have an amazing history. Carolyn Warych, a member of the Gold Star Wives, donated quilt tops to the Fairy Godmothers. To be a Gold Star Wife, a woman has to be the widow of a husband who lost his life due to military action. Carolyn was given the quilt tops by an 85 year old Gold Star Wife who had received them from yet another member of the group. They had been quilted by this Gold Star Wife's grandmother. The condition under which the quilt tops were given was that they be made into quilts to be given to veterans.

When the Dress-a-Girl sewing group was looking for a new project, Carolyn offered the quilts. With our church's connection to and support of DeGeorge Center, it was an easy decision to accept the mission work to complete as many lap robes as possible.

Upon our arrival at DeGeorge, we met the director of the center for homeless veterans and learned the history of the home. Veterans, both men and women, can live at DeGeorge as long as they wish. One resident has been there for 19 of the 20 years that the home has been in existence. A World War II veteran calls DeGeorge home. Many of the younger veterans accept the opportunity to go to college and establish a career. They usually move out of the home and begin a new chapter in their lives. There are rules to be followed and most residents willingly accept the rules and are happy to be there.

We were pleased to meet several of the residents and personally present them with the quilts. Barbara, a Navy veteran and fellow crafter, was delighted to show us one of her crocheted dolls and happily accepted the lap robe.

What will our next mission project be? We're undecided at this time, so if you'd like to join us and/or if you know of a project, please let us know.



Family Promise



Picture: (left to right) Arthur Jones, FPCC Program Coordinator, Cathy King, Toi* Jenkins, FPCC Volunteer, Junior at UHCLC majoring in Social Work and Gayle Nelson, FPCC Executive Director. *Toi is not a typo; that is how she spells her name. Pronounced toy.

Family Promise of Clear Creek (FPCC) held an Open House on Sunday, March 24. Janet Deleon and Cathy King of the FPCA Mission & Outreach Team delivered miscellaneous cleaning supplies to be used at the Day Center located at 1101 S. Egret Bay Blvd., League City. FPCC assists homeless children and their families by providing them temporary housing and meals at host churches in the area. While in the program, the families are required to find/maintain transportation and employment. They are also expected to take advantage of training in areas such as nutrition/meal planning, budgeting, parenting, completing resumes and the interview process. FPCA was one of the original host churches when FPCC was initially established in the Spring of 2012. The program provided services to a number of families for about two years before having to shut down. A couple of attempts were made to restart the program until the current program was launched about four years ago. Please go to ccfamilypromise.org for further information.



PAUL EFFREY/ACT


ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Join us!

You
 shall be called
 repairers
 of the breach
 — ISAIAH 58

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH
 OUR NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED
 AROUND THE WORLD BY
 PROVIDING RELIEF FROM
 NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD
 FOR THE HUNGRY, AND
 SUPPORT FOR THE POOR
 AND OPPRESSED.



Repairers of the breach

Here is a big question: What is “the church?” You might think that it is mighty strange for me, of all people, to throw out that question, but think about this: As the wider culture becomes less traditionally religious, the church — something we share as a congregation and individually hold dear in our hearts — becomes less understood, or misunderstood, by many. Like it or not, it’s a fact. And as hard as it is to admit, sometimes we too fall into the trap of reducing “the church” to the buildings where people gather on Sunday mornings. But let’s move past that idea of buildings, of structures. Of walls. Many of us learned in our childhoods that “the church” is the people — it is you and me. “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, see all the people.” For those of us who are gathered today, this rhyme is a useful reminder that the church isn’t a building with a steeple (maybe) and some doors. The church is the people who come through the doors to worship. But it is something more. I think we might unlock something else in that simple rhyme. When we “open the doors” to “see all the people” we usually wiggle our fingers to remember the church as the people inside the doors. As we sit inside this building today, we need to open the doors and see ALL the people outside the doors: people whose homes and even loved ones have been washed away by hurricanes and floods, people trapped in systems of injustice and oppression, and people who will go to bed tonight hungry or without a roof over their heads. The church’s makeup may be determined by opening its doors and welcoming people, but the church’s identity is

defined by opening its doors and joining with the most vulnerable of God’s children in the world. The church’s identity reflects the call of Isaiah to become repairers of the breach. It is through One Great Hour of Sharing that Presbyterians come together to open our doors to become the church with all the people we see. We open our doors to join those dependent on outsiders for food, those who now receive seeds and silos to sustain a future for their children and communities; to partner with those whose land and livelihoods are threatened and who now receive legal aid and protection for the land that is rightfully theirs; and to work alongside those whose homes and loved ones have been lost to a catastrophic event, offering hands to help rebuild and prayers to help restore. Let us open our doors, again and again, to see the vulnerable we’ve been called to stand with and to serve. Let us open our doors, again and again, to share through this offering the love of Christ by ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. Let us open our doors, again and again, to become, not THIS church on THIS corner, but CHRIST’S church in the whole world. Let’s open our doors. And let’s walk through those doors to share Christ’s love. Let’s give of ourselves, and let’s pray. Let us pray, Mighty and merciful God, in Jesus Christ you opened the doors to us. Make us a church whose doors open so that we go out to join in mission and ministry with all our neighbors in need. Through the gifts we offer to One Great Hour of Sharing, may your light break forth before us, and may we be called repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58)

“Do not lag in zeal,
 be ardent in spirit,
 serve the Lord.
 Rejoice in hope, be
 patient in suffering,
 persevere in
 prayer.”

Romans 12: 11-12





Ongoing Prayers Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Bill Pannell, Louisa Vera, Cathy Gross, Joe Rossano, Dave Powledge, Nancy Williams, Ralph Varenkamp, John Shaw, Johnnie Martin, Brandy Brooks, Henrietta Meyer, Candice Strong, Pat Carpenter, Linda Estes, Janette Arterburn, Cheryl Martin, Margie Martin, Maudine Moffet, Roy Case, Genie Hayes, Jerry McCalla, Margaret Gibson, Shirley Brothers, Ashley Burns, Avery Jones, and Alan Gray.

Immediate Concerns : Joan Rossano, Travis Tidwell, Jim Hilton, Gary Miloradovich, John Hartman, Louie Schneider, and Cody Langley.

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Wanda Cunningham

Refreshments for - Worship

Note to Congregation: Please remember that the Committee is only responsible for coordinating the refreshments. Please consider helping our committees in supplying refreshments for our after church fellowship. Its an easy and great way to be involved.

Thank You, Your Session

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The March Stated Session meeting was held on Monday, March 18, 2019. Pastoral concerns include those who are suffering, those who are dealing with illness, and all who are in need of extra prayers. Rev. Magee also reported that things are going well and has had positive comments from many congregation members and Elders. He also expressed his concern for those in the congregation who may not agree with some changes, but have not come to talk with him. The Session was in unanimous agreement that they like the changes, and they welcome any comments from those who may not agree. Our Treasurer, Cindy Waggoner, reviewed the accounts for us, and the Session was glad to see that our investment account has recouped some of the losses from December when the market was continuously down. The Payte balance has increased to \$367,491.50 from the January 31st balance of \$319,607.83. Individual Chairpersons of the committees presented news of what they've been working on including news of the Adult Sunday School class led by Herb Myers, which will continue to meet even though they have lost members. Children's Easter will be on April 21st, during Sunday School. David Gonzales has submitted his resignation, effective March 28th, because he is moving. Jason Elkins has agreed to assume the leadership of this committee. The Session discussed roof repairs, and a leak which has affected the Riesel Prayer Room. Palm Sunday is April 14th, and there will be a Maundy Thursday service in the Fellowship Hall, with bread, cheese, and wine and fellowship with each other. There is no service on Good Friday. Congregational Care, led by Janet Deleon, made sixty-three contacts during February, including two for in-home Communion. The next Mission Sale will be July 20th. The Youth will participate in the service on March 31st, since it is a fifth Sunday.

Easter Crossword

Across

- Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
- Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
- The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has ____!"
- Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
- The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

Down

- On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was ____.
- The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- Jesus became the ____ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
- Jesus was meant to die on this.
- This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.

April 13, 2019
FAMILY PROMISE OF CLEAR CREEK
3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
CLEAR CREEK GOLF CLUB

1:00 PM Shotgun Start
Sign up at ccfamilypromise.org