

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



To the saints at First Presbyterian Church:

Greetings. As we approach Easter, we celebrate the holiest day in the Christian faith. Without Easter we would be just another religion and would probably not have made it this far.

As a Christian we know Jesus has made it clear we are to be a difference in the world. We are to be in the world but not of it. Tough call. The worlds morays are not the Christian morays. They don't reflect the morals, integrity, honesty and decency of our faith as a whole. We see more of the wrongness of people than the goodness of people it seems. Politicians, clergy, businesses, corporations, military, all seem to have real problems with "doing the right thing" when it comes to how people are treated.

Morals appear to be less important. It's what you can get away with and when caught, it's always a cry of "not guilty". Wouldn't it be great if sometime the guilty person just admitted to their crime? Took responsibility for their actions?

There is an accountability of our actions here in this life and another in the life to come. Claiming "the Devil made me do it" just doesn't work in the final judgement. Christ has overcome evil so there is always an alternative to our decision making. What makes us decide on an action? Do we use our faith and what Christ would do or expect from us? Its it what is best for me no matter what the fall out? Is it legal? honest? Moral? Can I get away with it?

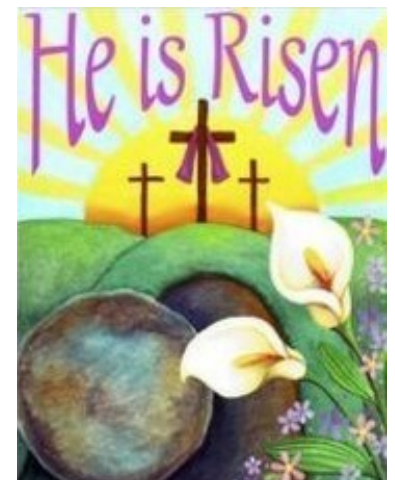
A lot of "big name people" have gotten into serious trouble over their actions with others. It's interesting that they feel "shocked" that they are going to be held accountable for what ever it was they did.

The bottom line is that no one is above the law, not ex-presidents, priest's, ministers, rabbi's, teachers, police, CEO's, just about any profession. Everyone is vulnerable to "ways of the world". Eventually it plays out and one must account for their previous actions.

April Issue

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Insert:
April 2023 Calendar





Children's Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m. breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall for adults and children. Following breakfast all Sunday School classes will take place as usual. The children will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by doing crafts and participating in an Easter egg hunt. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!



April Birthdays

- 1 Alana Andreas
- 3 Sheila Follmar
- 4 Brenda Magee
- 5 Amber Bennett
- 8 Natalie Aparicio
- 10 Christopher Odom

- 11 Audrie Gondesens
- 14 Alan Ruskey
- 17 Jo Myers
- 19 Ruth Frerking
- 22 Eric Grimmett
- 23 Shirley Brothers
- 29 Jim Dallas

"We love Him
because
He first loved
us."

1 John 4: 9-10



We will have a Maundy Thursday service on April 6th @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are planning to attend, and are able, please bring one of the following: cheese, fruit, bread, or wine (optional). We will share what we bring as we gather around our tables for our meal and service.





Passionate Generosity through One Great Hour of Sharing

June 16, 2019 by Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, Executive
Presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

Our conversations around what it means to **flourish** continues to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Presbytery filled with healthy congregations and innovative leaders who are seeking to serve God and others with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I have had the honor of talking to our committees, sessions, congregations, and to our Presbyterian Women about what it means to have passion for God's love for us, our love for God, and having a heart for the world. Thank you for inviting me connect through conversations that are life-giving and transformative.

As we think of the word of **passion**, I cannot help but to think of the ways we collectively work together as a

denomination to demonstrate our gratitude to God through passionate and compassionate generosity. One way we do that collectively is through our *One Great Hour of Sharing*. As some of you may or may not know, I didn't become Presbyterian until my early 20's. I served in youth ministry and I remember seeing these little fish boxes floating around. I thought to myself, "*What is this all about?*" One of my staff members, who worked directly with the children, explained that Presbyterians all over the nation have this huge offering to make an impact in hunger, disaster relief, and socioeconomic development of people who live in the communities where we serve. I remember describing to my youth that this kind of generosity is like a huge wave of compassion to reach those who may have lost sight of the truth that God loves them and that there are communities of caring who surround them.

I am thankful for the continued

passion around ministries like *One Great Hour of Sharing*. It reminds me that passion can be expressed in quiet ways and it can be expressed in ways that are bold and vivid. In [this month's newsletter](#) you will find stories of passion around hunger and disaster assistance, just to name a few. Let's keep sharing the stories about how our love for God pours out in tangible ways to transform that world. Here is a link to one man's story in Haiti who's life has been changed through the powerful passion expressed through our huge wave compassion found in *One Great Hour of Sharing*:

www.vimeo.com/320337801

As we continue through lent with our faces pointed towards Calvary, may we remember God's relentless love for us, embrace that love in our hearts, and offer it back out to the world.

This piece was written for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta newsletter, originally published March 30, 2019.

Providing **RELIEF** from natural disasters, **FOOD** for the hungry, and **SUPPORT** for the poor and oppressed.

PHOTO COURTESY FROM TOP LEFT: THE CLAREMONT COLLEGE; KATHY WALTON; ALLIANCE FOR HAITI/PHOTO

MATTHEW 25 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT
02.22.23-04.09.23

Baptism

On March 12th, we witnessed Colton Roger's baptism.

Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.



Special Thank you goes out to the following for taking their time & talent to make improvements around the campus.

- Nancy Melenric
- Buddy Ruskey
- Alan Ruskey
- Clayton Ruskey
- Scott Gondesens
- Jason Elkins
- Fred Thomas

Thank You!

Save the Date!!

Vacation Bible School will be June 19-23 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The theme is Hero Hotline. Adrienne Thomas is the 2023 VBS director. Mark the date on your calendars now. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office.



“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

Conclaves 2023

This year the Youth went to Conclaves in Livingston at Camp Cho Yeh. The theme was “When Did We See You?”. The theme focused on making sure we “see” others and acknowledging them. We learned new Energizers and songs. We met new, exciting people from other churches in the Presbytery. Our group had the privilege to host a few girls from Pearland Presbyterian. We hope that Kasey and June join us again in the future.



**Conclaves 2023
Camp Cho Yeh
Livingston, Texas**

(From L to R: Caleb P., June S., Lucas M., Morgan S., Chloe D., Mandi O., and Kasey T.)





Ongoing Prayers: Kristy Myers, Patty Costanzo, Brooklyn Palavicini, Jill Wheatley, Brandi Bowers, Joanne (Grandma) Froberg, Liam, Stephanie Meystedt, Irene Peltier, Charlie & Donna Pounds, Bryan Wilshire, Wayne Williams, Lucy Pannell, Perry, Lizzy & Laura, Vicki Thomas, Elizabeth, and Ronnie Basham.

Immediate Concerns: The Family of Nolan Garrett.

Please call the church office with updates.

Do you have a child or grandchild graduating this school year? Please let Mandi Odom or Barbara Bennett know as soon as possible. Thank you!!

Elder of the Month
Janet DeLeon

Refreshments
Education

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.



Gathering Place Happenings

On Wednesday, March 8th, the participants and volunteers of the Gathering Place were visited by Nancy O'Hare and her dog Ranger. They visit those who need some respite and good cheer. Everyone enjoyed the visit.



The Volunteers at the Clothing Outlet have let us know that donations are abundant and appreciated. They have put swimsuits out for the season.

This year, so far, we have given out Prom attire and accessories to about 20 students. In the future, we could use more items for young men. We lack tie clips and cuff links, so if you happen upon some throughout the year, please consider bringing them to the Clothing Outlet. Thank you!!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Mission Sale will be Saturday, July 22, 2023

Donations are now being accepted for the Summer Mission Sale that will take place on Saturday, July 22nd, 8 am - 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Accepted items should be gently used and may include tools, kitchen ware, household objects, toys, bags and purses, and small electronics in working condition. In addition to clothing and shoes, we are no longer accepting books, DVD's, and VHS tapes. You may donate your treasures any time before July 16th. If you need any assistance, or need to drop off your donations please call the church office, 281-585-3406. Remember that the proceeds from this sale will supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts. These include Clothing Outlet/School Supplies, Heifer Project, American Cancer Society, the Women's Center of Brazoria County, Joy Gift Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Christmas families, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Pentecost Offering. Thank you for your help.

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin
302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511
281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org
email - fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org

"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."



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

First Presbyterian Church
302 South Johnson Street
Alvin, TX 77511

