

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

## Press Bytes



### Message from the Pastor

To the Saints at First Presbyterian

Greetings! I am very excited about being here with you for the next period of your church history.

I was honored and quite flattered when Craig asked me to consider becoming your Stated Supply. I was pretty much full time at Trinity Lutheran and didn't see another church in my future. I pretty much figured out that I would probably retire at Trinity considering my status there. I suspected that there were much more qualified folks who could fill the vacancy better than me. I have no doubt.

Craig visited with me and we sorta kicked this around for several months. I just didn't feel qualified but he was convinced I was the right person for the job. He was one of my parishioners at La Marque and I had the privilege of preaching his ordination sermon after graduation.

I agreed to meet with the Session and after visiting with them and having my wife tell me this was a great place to be, I agreed to "give it go" as they would say in Scotland.

I have really enjoyed being with you these few weeks and I look forward to a great time here helping and enabling you to look to a new pastor to guide you in the future.

I will help you go through a process where you look at yourself as a church with strengths, weaknesses, dreams of the future, situations to overcome, possible problems to solve, and all the things that make who you are as a church.

We will invite Presbytery to begin helping us go through the process of searching for a new person when we are ready. They will have a team to work with us.

My role is to "keep things going" on a daily basis, providing pastoral care and the daily events that take place in the congregation and just enjoy being part of your family.

I have really enjoyed the ride so far. You are warm, loving and accepting bunch of folks. It feels good to be a part. I trust the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us as we move into the future where Christ awaits. Who knows what's in store? Following Christ is always an experience. All He told us was, "Follow Me". So... hang on ya'!!!

Peace,

C. O.

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# Choir Special Events

On Sunday, January 13th, members from FPCA’s Choir were invited to sing during the Ordination service for Reverend Suzanne Smith at Grace Episcopal Church. After the service there was a reception in their Parish Hall.



(Pictured left) Scott Gondesen, Jason Elkins, Steven King and Chris Lo singing in the Ordination Service for the Reverend Suzanne Smith.



(Pictured right) Carver Mathis, Randy Smith (from Grace Episcopal Church Choir), with Chris Lo, Cathy King, Audrie Gondesen, and Scott Gondesen, attending the reception in the Parish Hall.

And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24

## Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10, 2019.

### Don’t forget to move your clocks ahead one hour.



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol “Sissy” Gross
- 4 Rachel Watkins
- 13 Laura Dantzman
- 14 Carol Warych
- 16 Dorothy DeWalt
- 24 Cathy Rayburn
- 26 Lewis Rockwell
- 27 Evan Gondesen





## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach

— ISAIAH 58

### One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts

#### *Help Increase Access to Nutritious Food and Farming*

In a few hours, something is happening that many of us look forward to — yes, I’m talking about ... lunch or brunch. A place to gather for fellowship, laughter, and maybe a few moments of quiet during those first few bites. Food is a good, good thing. While we give thanks to God for our food, we need to recognize lack of nutritious food is experienced by many of our sisters and brothers at alarming rates. Creating an opportunity for all people to become farmers, gain access to agricultural land, or manage farms are each ways we can secure healthy food systems for all. Urban communities of color continue to experience diminishing access to fresh and local food. This lack of access to healthy foods, and affordable food prices, also contributes to higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related illnesses. According to the USDA, 21 percent of black households and 19 percent of Latinx households face low or very low food security compared to 10 percent of white households. Leah Peniman is co-founder and co-director of Soul Fire Farm—a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program in upstate New York. She says, “Approximately 85 percent of U.S. food is grown by Hispanic and Latinx people, but they only make up three percent of farm management. On the consumer side, people with dark skin are four times more

likely to live in a neighborhood without a supermarket or farmer’s market.” This pattern doesn’t have to continue. Presbyterians, through their gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, support efforts toward giving everyone access to nutritious food by addressing the root causes of hunger. Soul Fire Farm raises and sells organically grown vegetables and eggs and then sets prices based on the customers’ ability to pay. It is seeking to increase the number of people of color who are farm owners and/or managers. More than 1,000 people attend training opportunities at the farm each year. Census data show that in 1910, African Americans operated 14.5 percent of the 6.4 million farms. The most recent census revealed that African Americans owned just 1.4 percent of the U.S.’ 3.2 million farms. This is no accident. In 1999, in a historical settlement, a judge found that farmers had been systematically denied federal loans solely because they were black. As people of faith, we can move toward a more just and sustainable food system in which people of color gain access to the land, credit, and training necessary for successful farming. With One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, Presbyterians can nurture a new generation of food growers. By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts help the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to engage in ministries that are moving us outside the walls of our churches to help build a more just world.

For we walk by  
faith, not by  
sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

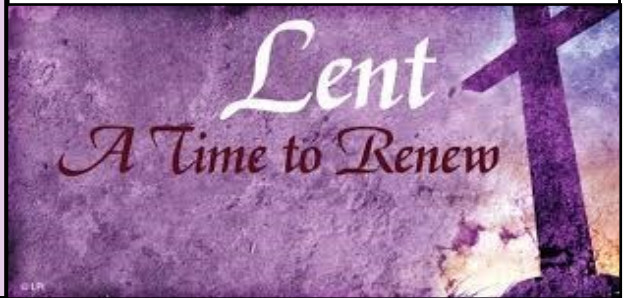


## EASTER LILIES

As we've done the past two years, you will be able to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus. You can honor and/or remember a loved one by completing a form and placing it in an envelope, along with your donation in the form of a check or cash. The envelope containing your form and donation may be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The forms need to be received by Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) after worship Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, or Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you prefer, you may donate your lily to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Happy Easter!" This year the proceeds from the lily sales will go to the Youth Fund to help our young people with their activities.



March 6th starts the Lent season. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm in the Sanctuary. For the following five (5) Wednesdays, we will have our Lent Soup and Devotionals. Please see Pg 6 for the schedule.



**Elder of the Month - Janet DeLeon**

**Refreshments for - Mission & Outreach**

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday, February 18, 2019. There were nine elders present; the meeting was moderated by Rev. C.O, and the Clerk of Session was Martha Phipps. The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Magee.

C.O expressed his gratitude for being with us in this time of transition. He talked a bit about his mission, to help us to explore what we want, where we want to go, how we will get there. He discussed a few ideas, one of which is to survey both the session and the congregation. He also mentioned that we will have a guest preaching this Sunday, March 3. The Angleton Presbyterian Church is considering Lora East to lead their congregation. When a church is considering this, the person being considered needs to preach a sermon (sort of like a try-out) in a neutral church setting, not the church for which they are being considered. C.O will officiate along with Ms. East. It is likely that we will have some visitors from Angleton, members of the committee who will hear her sermon. We wish her the best in her quest to fulfill her ministry mission. He also sought Session input (as he did at the Worship Committee meeting) about some changes he wants to make in the worship service. We'll be using the revised order this coming Sunday. He also expressed his concern for many in our congregation who are dealing with illness, life changes, and hard times.

ADK will be using the Fellowship Hall on April 27<sup>th</sup> for a garage sale. Final plans were discussed about the Soup and Devotion series, beginning March 13<sup>th</sup> beginning with AFPC. Then March 20<sup>th</sup> at Grace Episcopal, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Breath of Life, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at First Christian, and concluding with April 10<sup>th</sup>, back at our church. All will begin at 6:30 p.m. If there are any members of the congregation who would like to attend, but find it difficult to drive at night, should contact Martha Phipps at 409-739-0404 or by email at [tikiguys@yahoo.com](mailto:tikiguys@yahoo.com). You can also contact Mandi at the church office, and she will pass on the information. Finally, if you are interested in helping with transportation for these members, please let me or Mandi know. We hope to extend this to all nighttime events so that those who can't usually attend, but would like to, can join us.

For all those interested in a copy of the budget but don't have email, please stop by the church office to get a copy. Everyone who has email will have a copy emailed to them.

Peace and Blessings to all,

Martha Phipps

# CONCLAVES 2019



## Seeking My Path (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Conclaves is created and led by youth for youth. This year our theme was "Seeking My Path." The curriculum was tied closely to Proverbs 3:5-6 and encourages our youth to realize they may be frustrated at not having all the answers or having to go through difficult times but God never abandons them. They accomplished this through the following sessions:

1. What Does it Mean To Be Lost?
2. Am I Lost?
3. What Am I Seeking?
4. How Am I Seeking?
5. What's Next?

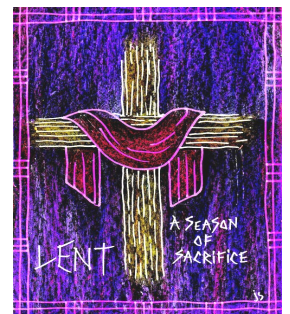
Youth today have to deal with a lot of difficult situations and we want them to know that no matter what God loves them and they should always have hope in that knowledge. We are blessed to have a congregation that supports our youth by ensuring they have many opportunities to learn and grow.

We look forward to what the future brings.



For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9





## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

**Ongoing Prayers** Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Bill Pannell, Louisa Vera, Cathy Gross, Joe Rossano, Dave Powledge, Melodie Chandler, Nancy Williams, Ralph Varenkamp, John Shaw, Johnny Martin, Brandy Brooks, Henrietta Meyer, Candice Strong, Dustin Hamelmann, The Overshown Families, Lisa Freitag, Kara Blakemore., and The Santini Family.

**Immediate Concerns** : Joan Rossano, Gladys McKissick, Travis Tidwell, Jim Hilton, Gary Miloradovich, John Hartman, The Stanley Family, The Guisti Family and The Hufnagle Family.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

## Lenten Soup & Devotion

On March 13, 2019 FPC will host the Lent Soup and Devotion again. Cindy Waggoner is the lead on this event. If you can help by making and bringing a soup, salad, bread or dessert please contact Cindy or you can sign up in the church Narthex. She will also need assistance with the setup and cleanup that day. Please give Cindy a call if you can help!

Here is the schedule:

Date	Time	Location
<b>March 13, 2019</b>	<b>6:30 p.m</b>	<b>FPCA</b>
<b>March 20, 2019</b>	<b>6:30 p.m</b>	<b>GEC</b>
<b>March 27, 2019</b>	<b>6:30 p.m</b>	<b>BOLCC</b>
<b>April 3, 2019</b>	<b>6:30 p.m</b>	<b>FCC</b>
<b>April 10, 2019</b>	<b>6:30 p.m</b>	<b>FPCA</b>

Legend: FPCA - First Presbyterian Church of Alvin - 302 S Johnson St.  
 The Reverend Dr. C. O. Magee  
 GEC - Grace Episcopal Church - 200 W Lang St.  
 The Reverend Suzanne Smith  
 BOLCC - Breath of Life Community Church - 1611 W South St.  
 (Formerly Church of the Nazarene)  
 The Reverend Jay Williams  
 FCC - First Christian Church - 1212 S Durant St.  
 The Reverend Loretta Smith



# Easter Word Search

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H	I	G	H	P	R	I	E	S	T	H	E	R	F	V	G	J	U	D	A	S	I	S	C	A	R	I	O	T	I
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	K	I	C	S	Y	D	S	G																					
	P	N	H	N	S	Q	E	S																					

- ANGELS
- APOSTLES
- BETRAYAL
- BLOOD
- CALVARY
- CROSS
- CROWN OF THORNS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DARKNESS
- DEATH
- EARTHQUAKE
- EASTER
- GOLGOTHA
- HIGH PRIEST
- JESUS CHRIST
- JOSEPH
- JUDAS ISCARIOT
- KING
- LAMB

- MARY
- NAILS
- PASSOVER
- PIECES OF SILVER
- PIERCED
- PILATE
- RESURRECTION
- ROBE
- ROMANS
- SACRIFICE
- SIMON OF CYRENE
- SOLDIERS
- SON OF GOD
- SPEAR
- STONE
- TEMPLE
- THIEVES
- THREE DAYS
- TOMB