

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian:

Greetings. As we now move into Lent, I have decided to try and preach on the 7 Deadly Sins as they have been defined by the Church for centuries. The sins are: Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony and Lust. These don't seem to be all that serious but when delving into them, I think we will see that they are pretty serious and lead to other sins which is why they are entitled "Deadly".

Sin is the problem we have between us and God, an offense against the way God has created us to be. St. Augustine defined sin for the Western church centuries ago by saying we are born a sinner, born into sin, for scripture says "In sin my mother conceived me." Was it a state of human existence or the act needed for conception. The Church debated that subject for quite a while. Today the Catholic church believes the highest form of adoration to God is through celibacy.

Our word for "sin" is from the Septuagint Bible (Greek Bible). Word is "hamartia" which means "missing the mark" which is not a good translation. Sin is more than simply missing the mark, not living up to our human potential, stumbling, messing up, making mistakes. It is an affront to God and who God created us to be.

Interestingly, is that the 7 deadly sins have little biblical grounding in the scriptures. They are throughout scripture but no clear statement of each sin. There are more terrible sins mentioned that are not considered "deadly".

Calvin believed we were all "worms" quoting a word from Psalm 22: 6, "I am a worm and not a man." This is often called the "crucifixion psalm" because it's from the one Jesus quoted from the cross, "my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me". It was only by the Holy Spirit that we could ever do anything right or noble or be more of whom God created said Calvin.

We don't like the word sin or think we are sinners. I think we live our lives through a set of lies about ourselves, false stories of who we are and are meant to be. As Christians we see ourselves in light of Jesus. How Christlike are we in our present life? How far have we strayed from who Christ is and what Christ expects us to be, and who we were created to be. Only through the cross do we see the utter depth and seriousness of our sins. Our sinfulness is why Christ came; to save and redeem. Sin has been defeated at the cross. The great 20th century theologian Karl Barth said sin is "Das Nichtige" nothingness, pointlessness, but the Adversary still lurks and draws us away from God's will for us and who we were created to be. The Adversary is disguised as an "angel of light." His name is Lucifer! (light)

So much more can be said but I hope I can put together a picture of the 7 sins and how they relate to us today. Lent is a time of deep reflection into our faith and lives. As one person said, "It's good time to come clean with God." The first sin will be "Pride".

Look forward to seeing you as we dig into the 7 deadly sins.

Peace,
C.O.

March Issue

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C.O. (on Cover)

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On February 9th, the participants and volunteers of The Gathering Place were entertained by the South Street Bluegrass Band. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the bluegrass and gospel songs played. The band consists of our very own volunteer, Audrey Hatley, as vocalist. She was accompanied by Don Meade (mandolin & guitar), Dave Stevens (rhythm guitar), and Chuck Roosevelt (bass fiddle). The participants and volunteers are so thankful for the blessing of Audrey, Don, Dave, and Chuck’s musical gifts!!



Chili Cook Off Winners!!

Congratulations to our Chili Cook Off Winners!!

- **Beaniest - Cindy Waggoner**
- **Spiciest - Jason Elkins**
- **Mildest - Faye Steckert**
- **Meatiest - Helen Escobedo**
- **Overall - Cindy Waggoner**



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 13, 2022.
Don’t forget to move your clocks ahead one hour.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol “Sissy” Gross
- 13 Laura Dantzman
- 14 Carol Warych
- 24 Cathy Rayburn
- 26 Lewis Rockwell
- 27 Evan Gondesen





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

BUILDING CONNECTIONS TO LAST
 ... Advocating for Environmental Justice

What does July 16 mean to you? If you are part of the Navajo nation, or have connections near Church Rock, New Mexico, that date might stir a heartbreaking memory of a preventable disaster that continues to have disastrous impacts.

Over 40 years ago, the earthen dam of a nuclear waste disposal pond broke near Church Rock and dumped tons of solid, radioactive waste and 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids into the Rio Puerco. The resulting contamination of the land, air and ground water affected nine Navajo municipalities.

The toxic and cumulative effects of this human-caused disaster have impacted the Navajo people for generations — especially in the form of such chronic health problems as asthma as well as a higher incidence of miscarriages, birth defects, and liver and pancreatic cancer. Each year, hundreds of Diné families and their allies come together near the tragic anniversary to pray, to heal and

to act, together.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with these families through MASE, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment. MASE's mission envisions respectful, peaceful communities cherishing a healthy environment. I like to think that's a lot like our Church's mission, too. It is part of what led the Committee on the Self-Development of People to connect with MASE, reaching out "like the arms of the Church," as the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson with SDOP puts it, to address the systems and structures that perpetuate oppression, leading to poverty.

Susan Gordon, MASE's coordinator, reminds us that "this is not short-term work. This is decades. And generations. Taking the long view has not prevented progress; the community took a very strong stand opposing new uranium mines on Navajo Nation and were instrumental in getting Navajo Nation to pass two fundamental laws. One prohibits new uranium mining and another prohibits the transportation of radioactive materials across the nation."

Uranium Legacy Action and Remembrance Day (July 16) connects the importance of lament, especially in the face of an intergenerational trauma, with

For we walk by faith, not by sight.
 2 Corinthians 5:7

Mark Your Calendars for Lent and Holy Week 2022

Ash Wednesday - March 2 at 6:30 PM

Lent Soup and Devotions - 6:00 PM

Please see Pg 6 for the schedule.

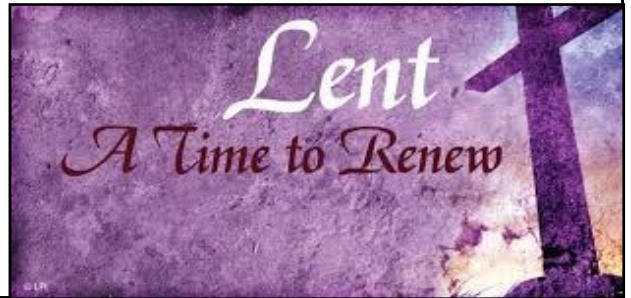
Watch for the sign-up sheet for soup, salad, bread and dessert



Palm Sunday - April 10 at 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday - April 14 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday - April 17 at 11:00 AM



Elder of the Month - Cindy Waggoner

Refreshments for - Buildings & Grounds

Hand Bar Choir To Resume

There is an interest in resuming the hand bar choir. Years ago, our worship services delighted in the music made by the hand bars, which sound much like hand bells. We are in need of enough people to play the bars. The music is easy to read with color coding - no real need to be an expert in reading music. This would not require weekly practice and the bars wouldn't be played every week during worship. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please let Cindy Waggoner know.

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 31st. You will be able to pick up your plant (s) after worship Easter Sunday, April 21st, or Monday, April 22nd. 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.



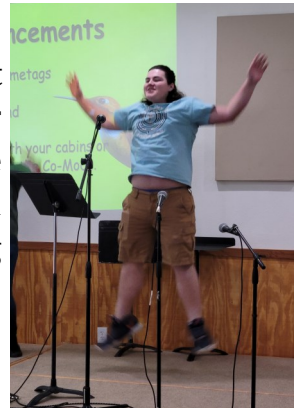
CONCLAVES 2022



This year the theme for Conclaves was **“Rebuilding”**. After dealing with the Corona Virus: Covid-19 over the last two years, our youth is feeling the effects of **Major Life Changes** which cause different reactions such as **Anger**. The PYCC showed examples of how to **Reach Out** and to **Deal with Feelings**, while **Rebuilding as we Heal**.

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.



Easter Sunday Celebration

On Easter Sunday, April 17 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!



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 Jill Wheatley, Evelyn Robison, Patty Costanzo, Kathy Mayfield, Anna Neff, Christy Alexander, Kristy Myers, Diana Jones, Dorothy Steckert, Aaron Lieber, the Fralick Family, the LeBouef Family, Judy Benson-Boren, Henrietta Meyer, Harry Ebert, Kevin Stinson, Dorothy DeWalt,

the Sweeney Family, Pat Spiller, Mary Loreda, Mr. Davis, the Elkins Family, Maddie Geiman, Sara Pannell and the People of Ukraine.

Immediate Concerns : The People of Ukraine.

+

Please call the church office with updates.

Lenten Soup & Devotion

On March 16, 2022 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
<i>March 9, 2022</i>	6:00 p.m	FCC
<i>March 16, 2022</i>	6:00 p.m	FPCA
<i>March 23, 2022</i>	6:00 p.m	GEC
<i>March 30, 2022</i>	6:00 p.m	FCC
<i>April 6, 2022</i>	6:00 p.m	FPCA

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

FCC - First Christian Church - 1212 S Durant St.

The Reverend Loretta Smith

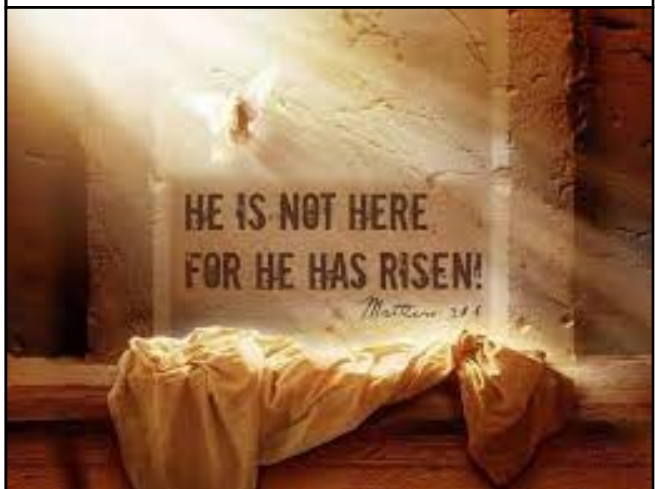
the opportunity to educate and expose Navajo youth to the realities of environmental racism.

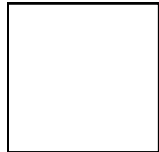
Today I am grateful for Diné neighbors, Gordon, and Johnson, for this church, and the Whole Church, together, for reminding us that this day and every day are part of the decades and generations where we seek change.

Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing connect us with people finding their voice and accessing their God-given power, and is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience and sustainability. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with those "who have the least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about.

Thank you for your generosity! For as we always say ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. nts 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 Penniman 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.





First Presbyterian Church
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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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