

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Pres:

Greetings! Hoping all of you are doing OK during this mess we are in. No one ever really imagined we would be experiencing what we are experiencing today. We will make it though. What's the saying, "Tough times don't last, tough people do"? Life will continue but maybe a little different.

There is talk about life returning to normal but I hope it doesn't. I don't want the normal life we had before the pandemic. I hope for a new "normalcy". What would that look like?

One, there would not be the terrible division we have in our country today. Politics have divided us into what sociologists call tribes. We care for only people like us. We are suspicious of others not like us and think only about what is good for "our type and kind". People who are different are a threat. This virus has made that type of thought wrong for we are pulling together as a society as we never have, all suffering from the same threat. We are realizing how much we really need each other and how we depend upon each other for life to be life.

Secondly, I would like a new normal when it comes to self-centeredness. It's not "all about me". It's about us. Having to be quarantined has not been easy for lots of people. Many are suffering from lack of jobs and income. Staying home not only helps protect the individual but protects others. I may not have the virus but I can carry it and expose others who may contract the disease and become sick or even die. My staying in and following medical expert's guidelines enable all of us to be more safe. As I may be protective of others, they are being protective of me.

We are reaching out to others as we never have. Even children have adopted the spirit and are doing things for other people. No one is concerned with who you are, where you come from, what language you speak, what religion you may be or no religion at all, what political party you support, what sex or age you may be. We are all the same in our needs and desire for a good life. Peter says, "God shows no partiality". Neither are we in our dealing with this disease. It's being Christ like, even though some don't profess Christ or the faith.

Thirdly, I would like for responsible leaders to look at the clean air and waters that have emerged as a result of folks being off the streets and off the roads. Keeping our environment clean is a must if we are to survive. Pollution is like the virus, it effects everyone in a very harmful way. Leaders need to encourage other forms of energy development besides fossil fuels that pollutes air, water and land. God has placed us as stewards of this beautiful planet. It's not just ours to do with what we want.

Fourth, I would like to see businesses take more seriously their employees. Employees and workers are the ones who make society happen. The division between rich and poor gets wider and wider. We see today more

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“As one whom
his mother
comforts, so I
will comfort
you.”

Isaiah 66:13



The Blooming Cross

Although we couldn't spend Easter Sunday together, the congregation was felt by many. The Blooming Cross looked absolutely stunning this year. Special Thanks to everyone who was able to bring flowers to place on the cross. We had so many compliments on our Facebook page.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**April 2020**

The Session met briefly to discuss where the church stands financially and to determine when it would be safe to return to service. At this time, they feel we need to continue social distancing until the threat of Covid-19 has subsided more.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL****Kids & Parents - Mark Your Calendars!****June 22 - 26**

Dates are tentative due to Covid-19.....more information to come.

Cont. from cover

clearly who we depend upon for life to happen, truck drivers, workers in plants and factories, the folks who are delivering food and necessary items to our houses or cars, stocking shelves in stores, teachers who are keeping our kids on target as schools have closed, all medical folks from EMS folks to hospital staff, including those who clean rooms and make beds. The list is very long. Wages, insurance and benefits enable the worker to be more productive in their individual jobs. Management and labor can work together in a very positive, affirming way. Everyone benefits.

So much more can be said about the serious changes we need to make as a nation and society. Jesus has given us a Way to make life happen for the betterment of all people. He has given us a Truth that enables us to see life as it should be seen. He has given us a Life that is full of purpose and meaning, something I think we are discovering today in a real way. We are learning what is really important and who is really important. I wonder if God is looking at us and saying, "It took you long enough!"

Peace,

C.O.

"God has a
great plan for
you."

Jeremiah 29:11



THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BEING IN THE NOW

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

you're supporting ministries
that unite young people and
inspire them to share their
faith in Christ.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

When Rev. Dr. David Gambrell was asked to speak at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) last year, he knew it would be both challenging and extremely personal. “Not many preachers have the opportunity to address several thousand teenagers,” he says. “So I did this with a healthy dose of humility, fear and trembling, especially mindful that one of those teenagers was my own daughter.” David attends Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, where he volunteers to teach confirmation classes. He has witnessed and guided the faith journey of many young people—including his two daughters. As each of us considers a gift to the Pentecost Offering, he says every person, young or old, should understand that ministry with youth is not just about the future, but also about being in the now. “Our kids need to know they are valued in this moment—their gifts, wisdom and experiences are important,” David explains. “They need to know that we take them seriously and honor them as members of Christ’s body and that we want to learn from them even as they learn

from us.” It’s one of the things Gina Yeager-Buckley, Associate for Ministries with Youth at the Presbyterian Mission Agency, truly appreciates about being a Presbyterian—all people, regardless of age, are welcomed into ministry. Gina handles the organization of the Triennium, which is funded in part by the Pentecost Offering. (Did your congregation have youth attend, or adults volunteer at the PYT? Mention it here.) “Ministry is not just for older adults or the middle-aged. Presbyterians understand that each of us, youth as well as adults, is called to be in relationship with God and to share our faith,” she says. The Pentecost Offering not only supports the Triennium, it also supports the Young Adult Volunteer Program and children at risk through the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. “We tend to say something like ‘we’re investing in the future because the youth are the future of our church,’” says David. “But our youth already have gifts to give and important ways to serve and lead in the church. Supporting the Offering is a way to give youth the opportunity to do things and share their gifts in the present moment.” Serving others is a joy Gambrell experienced as both a faith leader and a father. Following his service at PYT, he received a truly special gift—a text from his daughter who attended. It read, simply, “I’m proud of you, dad.” Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering, for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



First Presbyterian always has plenty of places and opportunities to serve either within our own church family or the community.

Please contact a Session member or C.O. if you have some time to help in the following areas:

Homebound Communion	4 G's
Gathering Place	Relay for Life
Delivering to Alvin Food Pantry after first Sunday	
Sound System	Special Music during worship
Vacation Bible School	Mother's Day Luncheon
Setting up the fellowship hall for events	
Meals on Wheels	Father's Day Lunch
Clothing Outlet	School Supplies

Heartfelt  **THANKS**
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Elder of the Month - Jason Elkins



"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9





Ongoing Prayers Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Nancy Williams, DJ McClendon, Amelie Grefenstette, the troops killed in Afghanistan and their families, Jill Wheatley, Terry Johnson, the family of Louisa Vera, Doris Rasmussion, Ed Wells, Matt Ober, people suffering from the COVID-19 Corona Virus, Cindy Roberts, Lisa McCalla, Belinda Busscher, Kim Hill,

Lorenda Baldwin, Nick Cordero, Patty Costanzo, Billy Steckert Jr., Brian Downs, Brenten Dietrich, Acie Barentine, Brittany Broussard, Oscar Quiroz, Clyde Shepherd.

Immediate Concerns : Our Congregation, City, County, State, & Country.

Please call the church office with updates.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Wendy McGhee	3 Betty Montgomery
9 Bill Murff	11 Alyssa Wells
11 Diane Dallas	15 Lucy Pannell
19 Zach Thomas	20 Matt Ober
27 Phillip Escobedo	28 Belinda Busscher

“Thy Kingdom Come”

– Christopher Lo

Between Ascension Day (May 21) and the Feast of Pentecost (May 31), you are invited to a global prayer movement called “Thy Kingdom Come.” Begun in 2016, Christians from around the world gather to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

During the eleven days of “Thy Kingdom Come,” it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray for 5 friends or family to come to have faith in Jesus.

Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

After the very first Ascension Day, while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples gathered with Mary, devoting themselves to prayer. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at this time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ picks up this tradition. Over the past three years, more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray ‘Come Holy Spirit’. Along with people from every Christian tradition, we are praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

As Christians, it is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond by following Him. The “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer movement invites Christians across the globe to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of five friends who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.

Some suggestions of how to pray:

Prayer and Care: As we pray for those we know and love to become followers of Jesus, keep up contact. Make a phone call, send an email, letter or card saying that you



are praying for them.

Continuous Prayer: Connect with other churches locally from different denominations or even connect with churches in different parts of the world.

Pray Together at regular times: In these social distancing times, arrange a Zoom, Skype or WhatsApp prayer meeting at a regular time. Or commit to saying the Lord’s Prayer at a specific time of the day.

Light up the World in Prayer: Encourage as many Christians as possible to commit to lighting up the world in prayer during these 11 days.

Digital resources: This includes the Prayer Journal with reflections, Bible verses and actions, particularly suitable for young people, and the Family Prayer Adventure Map - which includes additional Augmented Reality bonus features that can be accessed through a new Family Prayer Adventure app.

I hope that this year – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 114 countries around the world, you will pray as Christ taught us, “Thy Kingdom Come.” In six languages, the “Thy Kingdom Come” app will also be available in May at www.thykingdomcome.global