

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



A WORLD AWAY, YET CONNECTED THROUGH FAITH

Just when most young people were beginning to imagine what nontraditional instruction might look like during COVID-19, Sami Han took things a step farther — a big step farther.

She moved to South Korea with her parents.

When the 16-year-old's parents, the Revs. Myung Sung "Martin" Han and Jieun Kim Han, accepted the call to serve as regional liaisons for East Asia in World Mission for the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), Sami left everything she knew in the U.S.

behind — church, school, her two older brothers, her friends — but the one thing she didn't leave behind was her deeply felt connectedness to her church.

Sami enjoyed developing, planning and leading a worship service as a member of the youth group at New Goshen Presbyterian Church in Kentucky, where her father most recently served as transitional pastor before the family relocated to Seoul. She also participated in many other ministries, and even volunteered at two of the PC(USA)'s national Big Tent events, first in Indianapolis in 2011 and then in Louisville in 2013.

It is through young Presbyterians like Sami that we are building the Church, together. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering help our youth build a strong foundation of faith that will last a lifetime. Our gifts support the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Young Adult Volunteer Program and the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative. Sami says she is already setting her sights on joining teens from all over the world who will attend the 2022 Youth Triennium (INCLUDING FROM OUR CHURCH).

Although the Pentecost Offering may be taken anytime, most congregations receive it on Pentecost Sunday. Sixty percent of the offering is used to support children-at-risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency while 40% of the offering is retained by our congregation for local ministries with our youth and young adults.

Supporting young Presbyterians like Sami is what the Pentecost Offering is really all about, according to Gina Yeager-Buckley, Mission Associate for Formation including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other youth-focused ministries.

"It's such a joyful, positive and formative thing to invest in as we continue to watch young people like Sami take their next steps into leadership in the church and in their communities," she said. "To me, the Pentecost Offering witnesses to a church — from every level, local to national — that is excited in lifting up its young people and connecting them. You've got a healthier church. You've got a vital church. That's what I believe in."

That's what we all believe in, too. And here is something else we believe ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering.



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Gathering Place Shenanigans

On April 14th, the participants and volunteers of FPC Gathering Place were treated to a surprise performance by the South Street Bluegrass Band. Gospel and Bluegrass music was expertly played by Don Meade on the mandolin and guitar, Dave Stevens on the guitar, and Chuck Roosevelt on the bass fiddle. Our very own Gathering Place volunteer, Audrey Hatley, (also a member of the band) provided vocals along with the fellas. A hand-clapping, toe-tapping event was enjoyed by all!!!



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

Isaiah 66:13



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS **April 2020**

The Session met after church on Sunday, April 18th. They discussed the repairs to the library, office, and manse. They also discussed the importance of the roles of the committees.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids & Parents we are excited to announce we will have in-person VBS this year!!

Dates To Be Determined

Education Committee Announcement

On Sunday, May 16, during our morning worship service we will honor Gabriela Dantzman and Eric Odom who will be graduating from Alvin High School on Wednesday, May 26. We hope you can be there to congratulate them on their graduation and wish them well on their future endeavors.

Mission & Outreach News

The Mission & Outreach team is pleased to announce that a mission sale is planned for June 26th from 8am to 2pm.

Due to Mission team's number of members dwindling, we could really use some help from the congregation such as setting up tables before the sale and taking down tables afterward. We are preaying for good weather, so we can put some items outside; this will hopefully keep the crowding down in the Fellowship Hall. As always, we will not accept clothing, shoes, VHS tapes, or books. Please call Mandi Odom at the church office or Janet DeLeon if you can help, or if you have any questions.

“God has a great plan for you.”

Jeremiah 29:11





Graduating Seniors



Gabriela Dantzman

Gabriela Dantzman, daughter of Laura and Tom Dantzman and granddaughter of Helen and Robert Escobedo, is graduating with honors and is one of the top 20 students in the 2021 graduating class of Alvin High School. Her class rank is #11 out of 694 students. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is President of the new Biology/Science Club called the Biohazards Club which she started. Gabriela plays the snare drum in the Alvin High School Marching Band Drumline and this year was in the new AHS Indoor Competition Drumline. She has created several award-winning art pieces. She plans to attend the University of Texas at Dallas to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering.

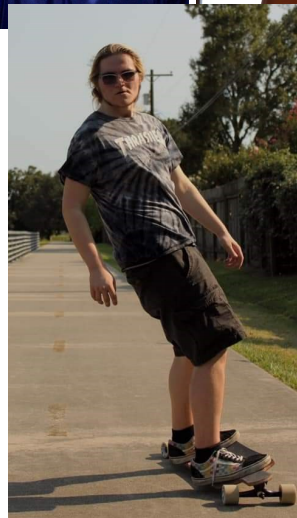


Eric Tristan Odom

Eric Tristan Odom, son of Mandi Odom and Jeremiah Stanley and grandson of Dorothy and Ron Dewalt, is graduating from Alvin High School on May 26, 2021. He is enrolled in the cosmetology program at Alvin ISD's JB Hensler College and Career Academy. He lettered in Academic Excellence and played trombone. Eric's future plans include becoming a licensed cosmetologist with a booth of his own.



Congratu-
and good
future en-



lations, Eric,
luck on your
deavors!



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 |



Elder of the Month - Marisa Whitfield



“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 Jill Wheatley, Mark & Belinda Busscher, Rachel Grimmett, Mike Wheatley, Wanda Cunningham, Evelyn Robison, Joy Dell DeWitt, Patty Costanzo, Gale Froberg, Annette Winston Williams, Michael DeLeon, John Shaw, Greg Copeland, Herb Myers, Ayla Busscher, and James Hill.

Immediate Concerns : The Family of Jeff Christ, the Family of Larry Allen.

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 |



Thanks to our Guest Musician

On Sunday, April 25th we welcomed the talented, young violinist, Arna Green and her family. We thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Pictured left are Chris Lo, Audrie Gondesens, Scott Gondesens, Arna Green, Christian Green, Rev. C.O. Magee, Brenda Magee, Degi Green, Ingrid Green, and Maxton Green.

Thy Kingdom Come

Acts 1: 7-14

In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke tells us that after the first Ascension Day, while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer. Through the centuries, Christians have gathered at this time to pray. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

This year, the Feast of Ascension, falls on May 13 and the Feast of Pentecost on May 23. I invite you to participate in the 2021 “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer initiative (www.thykingdomcome.global).

Christians from over eighty denominations in 172 countries, will pray together, ‘Come Holy Spirit.’ We pray that friends and family, neighbors and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. We also pray that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share with them the Good News of Our Lord.



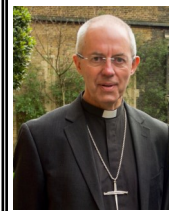
William Temple (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944) once said that “the Church exists for those who are not its members. The spreading of the good news of Jesus is the greatest gift we can offer the world and the source of unhindered joy.”

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will: Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray for five friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.

Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that

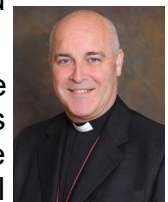
we would be effective in our witness.



On March 9, Justin Welby, the present Archbishop of Canterbury said “a number of people have drifted away from participation in worship because they can’t get with the whole thing of taking part while looking at someone on a screen. But there have been some incredible blessings. One of them is that huge number of people that have joined in because they can do so and just taste what being a Christian is about, without physically having to go through a door. First, we are going to pray for the people who have drifted away. And secondly, we are going to pray for those who have just been ‘tasting,’ that they see the wonder and the love of Christ. As they draw closer to the church, may they see also the remarkable things that the Church has been doing.”

The Reverend Canon Jean Kerr, a clergy staff member at Lambeth Palace in the United Kingdom, invites us to ask God to bless those with whom we encounter. To bestow God’s blessings on the people we pass in the street or in traffic. Our request is part of God’s chain reaction to enable them to know of His love for themselves.

On January 26, 2021, Archbishops Justin Welby of Canterbury and Stephen Cottrell of York wrote:



“Most of all, we have hope because God raised Jesus from the dead. This is the Christian hope that we will celebrate at Easter. We live in the hope that we will share in his resurrection. Death doesn’t have the last word. In God’s kingdom every tear will be wiped away.” Amen.