

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



## Press Bytes



To the saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings. I don't know about you but I am very weary of all the gun deaths that have begun to spring up in our country. As I write this letter, there was another shooting in Atlanta a few minutes ago. What's going on?

We are setting a record for mass killings. Once a week so far this year. We have killed 88 people in 17 mass killings over 111 days in 2023. The carnage gets worse week by week. Children killed at a Christian school in Nashville, farm workers in N. California sprayed with bullets over a workplace grudge, Dancers in a ballroom outside L.A. as they celebrated Lunar New Year. Last week four partygoers were slain and 32 injured in Alabama. It was a sweet 16 celebration party. A man just released from prison fatally shot four people in Maine, including his parents and then started shooting at cars on the interstate. A little six-year-old was shot along with her parent for going into the neighbors yard to get her basketball. A young man knocked on the wrong door and was shot by man inside. Two cheerleaders shot as they got into the wrong car even though they apologized and were going away from vehicle. A small child was shot when a gun discharged in home hitting small child. In Cleveland north of Houston, a neighbor was asked to stop shooting his assault rifle because it was waking their child who was trying to sleep. After all, it was after 11pm and he went inside their house and killed five of them including a young boy.

Schools and even churches seem to be the focus of so many shootings. Gun deaths are the number one killer of young people. 2842 people have been killed since 2006. There are so many more examples unfortunately. Texas seems to be a leader in shootings. There is one in less than every seven days nationally.

There are over 400 million guns in society and 300+ million people. We are a society addicted to guns. Like alcohol, it has the tendency to make many feel strong and tough; invincible! The results, like alcohol, are devastating to society.

I grew up with guns. Dad and I went dove hunting in the Valley and deer and duck hunting when they were in season. There were gun laws that one needed to follow. No one seemed to object to sensible requirements. Guns are dangerous and are designed to kill. We didn't have the horrible assault weapons we have today or multiple rounds of bullets in other type guns to my knowledge.

Gun laws make perfect sense to me. There are people who should never be allowed to have a gun for many reasons. Having safety measures in gun ownership makes sense to me to keep a society safe from what we are experiencing today.

The Supreme Court has ruled everyone is entitled to a gun which I think is a horrible interpretation of the second amendment. No other Supreme Court ever ruled like this one. They threw out decades of rulings that kept gun laws on the books to keep society more safe than today.

Jesus told Peter when Jesus was arrested, to put away his sword after Peter cut off the ear of one of the arresting men. He said if you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. Today we are living by the gun and are dying by the gun. There is no need for this.

Senator King (I) from Maine said we have glorified guns and until guns become a scourge in our society, we will keep on killing. He also said that when enough people die, only then will we begin to regulate gun possession.

How many more will die before we act and realize Jesus was right on with his

### May Issue

A Message from the Pastor (on Cover)	
Prayer Requests Thank You Education Announcement May Birthdays	2
Vacation Bible School Mission & Outreach News Bay Area Choir Ad Message Cont.	3





**Ongoing Prayers** Kristy Myers, Patty Costanzo, Brooklyn Palavicini, Jill Wheatley, Lucy Pannell, Lizzy Cordova, Laura Cordova, Vicki & Fred Thomas, Ronnie Basham, the Family of Nolan Garrett, Betty Faulkner, Kathryn Wilkerson, Jerome Jozwiak, John Cornell, Patty & Norman Hirsch.

**Immediate Concerns** : The Family of Rene, the Family of Paylen Alaniz, the Family of Gene Calkins, the Family of Gladys McKissick, and the Family of Mary Delassandro.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

**Elder of the Month: Audrie Gondesen**  
**Refreshments: Congregational Care & Personnel**

**MANY THANK YOU'S**

I want to thank all of you for the wonderful gift you gave me for my birthday. I certainly didn't expect any gift at all, explaining that your gift to give was yourself. It was fun to get together for the celebration April 1. I will certainly enjoy the very generous gift on our cruise. Again, thank all of you so much. I am very honored.



Peace and Love,  
C.O.

**Education Committee Announcement**

On Sunday, May 7th, during our morning worship service we will honor our 2023 seniors who will be graduating school soon. We hope you can be there to congratulate them on their graduation and wish them well on their future endeavors.

**Allison Roles                      Emma Gondesen                      Braiden Anderson**

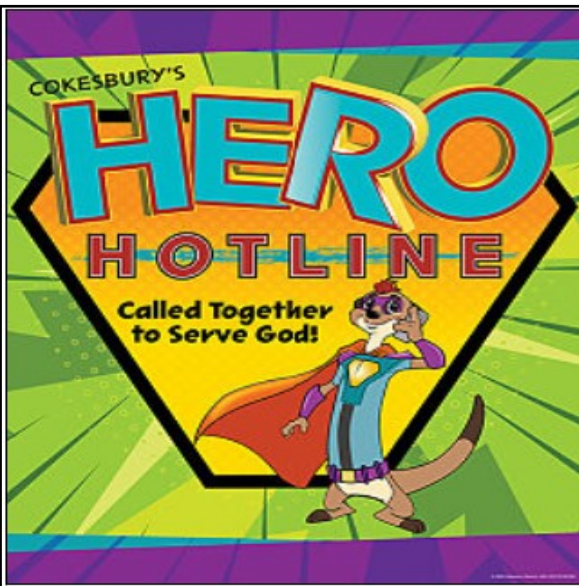
**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- |    |                  |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Eric Andreas     | 2  | Wendy McGhee     |
| 3  | Betty Montgomery | 11 | Alyssa Wells     |
| 11 | Diane Dallas     | 15 | Lucy Pannell     |
| 19 | Zach Thomas      | 20 | Matt Ober        |
| 27 | Phillip Escobedo | 28 | Belinda Busscher |



“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.”  
  
Isaiah 66:13





Join us for  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 19, 2023**  
**9:30a - 11:30a**  
**302 S. Johnson St**  
**Alvin, TX 77511**  
**281-585-3406**  
**fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org**

Please scan the QR Code to register today.



### Mission & Outreach News

The Mission & Outreach team is pleased to announce that a mission sale is planned for July 22nd 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. 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.

THE BAY AREA CHORUS OF GREATER HOUSTON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MILTON PULLEN Presents

**CELEBRATING THE MASTERS**  
 MasterWorks Concert

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2023 | 4 PM  
 GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 RECEPTION TO FOLLOW PERFORMANCE

Buy Tickets Now at [BayAreaChorus.org](http://BayAreaChorus.org)  
 Call 832-932-5991 | Purchase from a BAC Member  
 Adults \$20 | Seniors 65+ \$15 | Students \$10

INFO@BAYAREACHORUS.ORG

“God has a great plan for you.”

Jeremiah 29:11

statement to Peter. When will the right to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” become more of the law of the land? Will we ever listen to Jesus who told us something about ourselves and weapons? Maybe one day we will. That day can't come soon enough.

Peace,  
 C.O.



First Presbyterian Church of Alvin  
302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511  
281-585-3406 www.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."*



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

Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church  
302 South Johnson Street  
Alvin, TX 77511

