



Press Bytes

To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings! As we move from October into November, we end the month on some important days in the life of the Christian year: All Hallows Eve (Halloween) and All Saints Day.

The event of Halloween comes from the Celtic tradition of Samhain. It was an important celebration at the end of summer harvest and the beginning of the dark and cold winter. It was a time of the year they associated winter and darkness with death.

The Celtic new year was November 1. They believed that on the eve of new year's, the boundaries between the living and the dead is blurred. On October 31, the ghosts of the dead return to earth. This event made it easy for the Druids, who were the Celtic's priests, to predict the future.

The Celts would put out the fires in their hearths and gather for the huge sacred bonfire built by the Druids. The bonfire would burn crops and animals as a sacrifice to Celtic gods. The bonfire would drive away evil spirits. People would wear costumes usually consisting of animal heads and skins. Often there was a lot of drunkenness and running around naked. After the bonfire celebration, they would relight their hearth fires from the fire from the sacred bonfire.

When Rome overtook the Celtic lands, they added a few customs of their own and when the Church got involved, they Christianized the Celtic events. Since the Celts believed the dead returned on October 31, the Church made Halloween a sacred time, called it All Hallows Eve, a time to remember those who died in the faith. All Saints Day was dedicated to November 1. In some traditions, Christians will decorate the graves of loved ones and will even leave food for the spirits. This happens in Louisiana and in other states.

On Sunday, November 6, we will honor those who came before us and who played a part in our spiritual journey. A table will be set up in the front of sanctuary with candles on it and you will be able to come up and light a candle in that person, or persons memory. You may say who its for or just light candle.

The book of Hebrews tells us we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. We honor those who have helped us to have the faith we have. We are never alone and look to the "saints" to help us persevere in our faith journey. Their lives give us strength for our witness today.

Peace

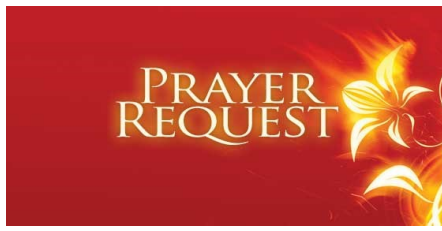
C.O.

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Ongoing Prayers

Kristy Myers, C.O. Magee, Rosa Ashley, The Family of Bob Baker, Lexi Roles, The Family of Charles Krampota, Michael Sen-Roy & Family, Michelle Reynolds, Diane

Winston, Irene Lemoine, Betsy Hatherill, Patty Costanzo, and Abby Kincaide .

Immediate Concerns : The Family of Michael Stanley, The Family of Judy Hamelmann, and The Family of Cecil Denney .

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Marisa Pearce
Refreshments - Mission & Outreach

Pumpkin Carving Contest Fun

Congratulations to our winners:

Cindy Waggoner: Most Original, Morgan Stanley: Scariest, Stephanie Meystedt: Most Traditional



Thanks to everyone for participating!

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,
that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Psalm 30:11-12



A Time of Remembrance



Sunday, November 6, 2022 is All Saint's Sunday

During the morning worship service we will have a time of remembrance for those church members, and those close to our church members, who have passed away this past year.

Members:

Henrietta Meyer

Those close to us:

Sara & Juan Barrientos	Cassie Anderson	
Brian Sweeny	Michael Cox	John Shaw
Jim O'Neal	Cesario Escobedo	
Charles Krampota	Johnny Hill	
Judy Hamelmann	Michael Stanley	



“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

**Daylight Savings
Time ends
November 6TH**



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Nance**
- 2 Barbara Bennett**
- 4 Max Gondesen**
- 4 Scott Gondesen**
- 6 Morgan Stanley**
- 8 Rhonda Ashcraft**
- 9 Clayton Ruskey**
- 16 Sara Pannell**
- 21 Annette Williams**

ALVIN FOOD PANTRY

The first Sunday of every month we ask for a donation from the congregation for the Alvin Food Pantry. The next two months please remind yourself to bring a few items from your pantry to help fill this need. Items can be canned meat, cereal, canned vegetables, or peanut butter. Monetary donations may also be given.



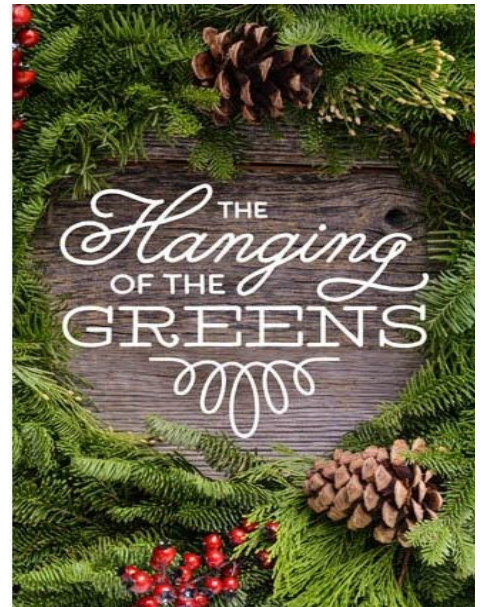
Thank You!

Rhonda Ashcraft, one of our newest members, is a member of The Bay Area Chorus. Please let her know if you are interested in tickets to the event. They can be purchased through Rhonda, online @ BayAreaChorus.org , by phone @ 832-932-5991, or at the door.

Season of Advent

We will begin this festive season in preparation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ during worship on Sunday, November 27th. The sanctuary will be adorned with the beginnings of the seasonal decorations, and we will complete the decorating with our Hanging of the Greens throughout service. It is a joyful time when we, as a church family, decorate the tree with Chrismons and remember and honor loved ones with the poinsettias. Be sure to be a part of these services.

We will continue with the Advent worship services each Sunday as we approach Christmas.



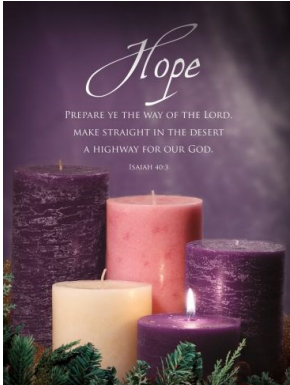
UPCOMING DATES !

Mark Your Calendar

- November 13 Session Meeting
- November 20 Have your Poinsettia Ordered
- November 27 Hanging of the Greens
- December 10 Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

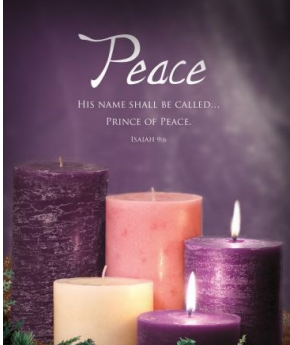
SHARING OUR TIME, TREASURE, AND TALENTS WITH THE MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

during this Season of Love, Peace, Joy & Hope



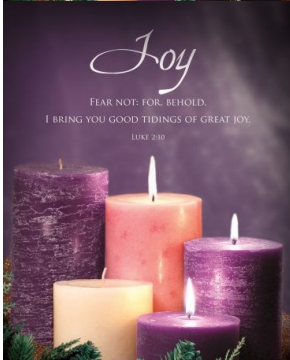
Christmas Families

We would like to help families for Christmas again this year. You may choose a from the church wall or give a monetary donations in anticipation of helping at least 4 families. We will be collecting toys and/or money through December 4th. This is an awesome opportunity to bring joy to those who would otherwise do without at this time of the year. Thank you!



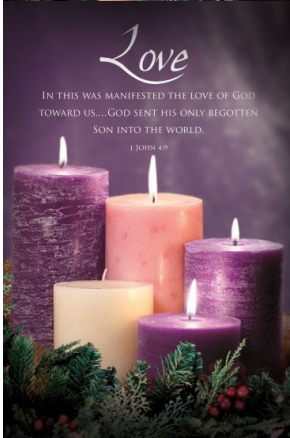
Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

Our congregation has committed to stand beside the Salvation Army red kettle in front of the Alvin Walmart and ring the bell on Saturday, December 10th, between 2:00 pm and ending at 8:00 pm. in shifts of one hour. The sign-up sheet is available in the church narthex. Sign up as soon as possible to guarantee that you get the time slot you want. Thank you for committing one hour of your Saturday for this outreach ministry.



Joy Gift Offering

Over the recent months we have seen first hand the real hands-on things that our special offerings do and the people they help! As a church family we responded to the Peacemaking & Global Witness Offering with commitment. Now as we approach the Season of Advent we focus on the Joy Gift Offering.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

**WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DO?
SUPPORT OUR PAST AND PRESENT LEADERS**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



"Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.'" — Exodus 33:18

Baptisms & Confirmations

On October 16th, we witnessed Gavin Pearce, Gabriel Pearce, and Arian Hunt's baptism.

Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.



On October 30th, we witnessed Lucas Meystedt's baptism and the Confirmation of Chloe Davis, Lucas Meystedt, and Morgan Stanley.

Confirmation is an opportunity to celebrate the youth of our church and their decision to make a public profession of faith. It is also a time to remember our own baptismal covenant and the faith we profess in Jesus Christ. It is a time to recommit ourselves to greater spiritual growth and discipleship.

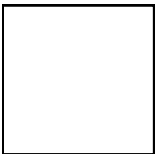


As in the past, you will be able to purchase poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Instead of asking for a specific price, we're asking for a love donation to help defray the cost of poinsettias and other decorations. This year the proceeds from the poinsettia sales will go to the Ron McClendon Camp Fund. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The completed form, along with the donation in the form of a check or cash in an envelope, can be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. The poinsettias need to be ordered by November 20th. You will be able to pick your plant(s) up after worship either Christmas Eve or Sunday, December 25th. Or if you would prefer, you can donate your poinsettia for delivery to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Merry Christmas!"



Poinsettia Orders

**First Presbyterian Church
302 South Johnson Street
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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