

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

## *Press Bytes*



To the Saint at First Presbyterian:

Greetings. The lectionary Old Testament text for Oct. 1 is from the prophet Ezekiel. It is very relevant in light of what's happening in our country today. Let me share a few verses of Ezekiel 18: 23-35.

"Hear now O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it, for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life." Ezekiel has more to say but I think we get his drift!

God demands righteousness from His people. The nation of Israel was turning away from God and God sent the prophets to try and bring them back. Israel didn't listen so they fell as a nation. Civil war divided Israel and the Northern kingdom fell and finally the Southern kingdom fell. They ceased to exist as a nation.

As a nation, we seem to be following in their footsteps. The corruption, dishonesty, lack of morals and personal greed has become overwhelming. The acquittal of Paxton, when the evidence was overwhelming, is a clear message, it really doesn't matter to the people who vote to keep putting these kinds of people in office. Morals, honesty, integrity, decency seem to no longer be important to so many in our nation. What happens to a nation that has begun to be corrupt? Tyrants are put in place to govern the nation and the nation falls into decay. History has shown this over and over.

We have been a nation that has claimed to be a nation under God, yet there is very little shown that justifies that statement.

I'm not talking about a theocracy. Theocracies and bad historically. You can't force people to adhere to one religion and ultimately have a nation for all people. Many came to this country to escape that kind of forcing.

A nation under God would be a nation where good moral people would be the leaders of the nation, a nation where mortality and honesty were qualifications for office. Where all people were respected and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, for all was important.

Turning against the expectations of God is a fatal mistake. Just read scripture. Cities and nations have fallen because of the corruption of its leadership.

The hope is that those who are corrupt will do as Ezekiel writes, will turn away from corruption and live. It's also a hope that good people will be elected to govern this great nation. God forgives. It's not God bless America, but America, bless God.

Peace,  
C.O.

### October Issue

Message from the Pastor C.O. Magee (on Cover)	
Heads Up! Love, Grow, Serve	2
World Communion Sunday	3
Prayer Concerns Pumpkin Carving	4
Trick or Treat Trail	5
Remembrance Sunday October Birthdays	6
Pastor Appreciation	7





## Heads Up!

As in the past, you will be able to purchase poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Once again, we're asking for a love donation to help defray the cost of poinsettias and other decorations. The proceeds from the poinsettia sales will go to the Ron McClendon Camp Fund. Order forms will be in next month's newsletter.

Thank you!



## Poinsettia Orders

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"

Luke 6:41



### Love. Grow. Serve.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12

The new Christian Education year has begun! This is always an exciting time of the year! We honored our third graders with a bible, commissioned Sunday School teachers, and blessed backpacks. Everyone is always excited to begin new lessons and learning more about Jesus. Mission, Outreach and the Church's Ministries restart each January but get refueled at this time of the church year. With summer ending and fall beginning we are also fast approaching the Advent Season. As you begin studying your new lessons also take a few moments to see how you can better serve your church in our Outreach and Ministry opportunities. Below is a list of opportunities to serve our church and community. If you see something you would like to volunteer or serve please contact a Session member or Mandi in the office.

Gathering Place

Sunday School

Headstart Christmas

Children's Worship Bags

Refreshments after worship

Ringing Salvation Army Bell

Watering Poinsettias during Advent

Clothing Outlet

Children's Christmas Party

Potluck setups

Choir Christmas Cantata

Decorating for Advent

Hanging of the Greens

Baking Cookies for Advent Season

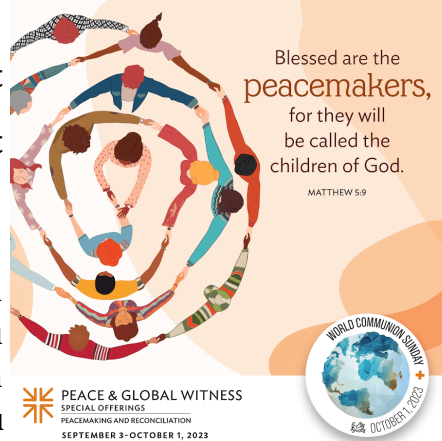


## Minute for Mission

**“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, NRSV).**

### You Are With Me

“God, you are with me.” What a powerful statement of faith that is! Say it with me: “You are with me.” One more time: “You are with me.” How does that make you feel? Do you feel safe? Do you feel at peace? Do you sense the “blessed assurance” of God’s Holy Spirit in your life? The psalmist says that even though we walk through “the darkest valley,” we fear no evil. The King James Version of the Bible, the one that many of us grew up reciting, says, “the valley of the shadow of death.” The shadow represents the uncertainty in our lives. The uncertainty of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes — climate change. The uncertainty of aggression through war, gun violence, human trafficking and international tensions. The uncertainty of employment, inflation, illness — a global pandemic. Yes, the shadow of death is all around us. Yet, in Christ, we can boldly proclaim, “You are with me. Your rod will protect me from uncertain foes who wish to do me harm, and your staff will guide me on the right path for your name’s sake. I fear no evil.” In so doing, you proclaim God’s presence of peace — peace amid uncertainty — in your own life. As a community of faith, we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering, and as we do, we extend Christ’s peace throughout our community and world even in these uncertain times. Twenty-five percent of the gifts we receive will stay right here in our church to work for peace and reconciliation alongside (share how your congregation will be using its portion of the offering). Another 25% will support the peacemaking efforts in our mid council, and 50% will go the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of peacemaking and global witness all around the world. In just a little while, we will celebrate the Lord’s Supper on this World Communion Sunday. Luke’s Gospel tells us on that very first Easter as Jesus was walking down the road to Emmaus, he met two disciples who were unknown to him. When they invited him to join them for a meal, Jesus took bread and blessed it. When he did, their eyes were opened, and their hearts were strangely warmed. They were in the “real presence” of their Risen Lord and Savior. Our hope this morning is that when we share this holy meal, our eyes will also be opened, our hearts will be strangely warmed, and we will recognize the presence of the Risen Lord among us. Then, we can boldly proclaim, “You are with me.”



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

“There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.”

Mark 7:15







**Ongoing Prayers:** Kristy Myers, Barbara Bennett, Joe Martin, Irene Peltier, Luke Ratjen, Nancy Williams, Brenda Magee, Angela Reckard, Clem Garza, Morgan Stanley, and Hayslee Barnes

**Immediate Concerns:** The Family of Lucy Pannell, Gloria Mercer

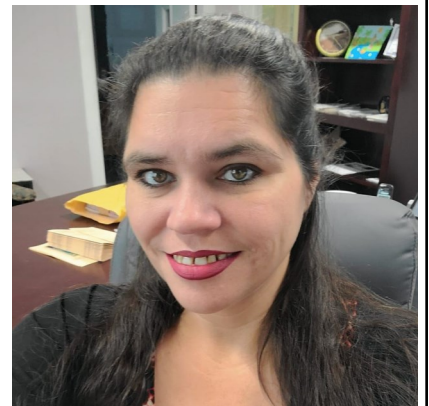
*Please call the church office with updates.*

**Elder of the Month - Buddy Ruskey  
Fellowship - Buildings & Grounds**



**Happy  
Work  
Anniversary**

**October 3rd**



**Pumpkin Carving Contest**

**On Saturday, October 28th we will have a pumpkin carving contest!**

**The Fellowship Hall will open at 4:30pm.**

**The judging will occur at 6pm.**

**Categories: Most Creative**

**Spookiest**

**Funniest**

**Snacks will be provided.**



# Trick or Treat Trail



For the past few years, the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Alvin has sponsored the Trick or Treat Trail event as an alternative to the traditional going from house to house on Halloween to trick or treat. In keeping with First Presbyterian Church’s focus on mission, we will once again be sponsoring a booth along the trail where goblins, ghosts, and other Halloween creatures can get their candy in a safe environment. The Trick or Treat Trail will be held on October 31st from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the National Oak Park by the railroad station in downtown Alvin. In order to accomplish this, the church needs your help. This can be done in several ways.

First, we need CANDY, CANDY, CANDY! *Please remember as you shop for candy that allergies to peanuts are much more common than they were when you and I were young, so try to stay clear of candy containing peanuts. Please bring your candy to church beginning now through Sunday October 29th. We will have totes set up in the Narthex for you.*

Second, we need people to help set up our canopy, lights, and tables. These people need to be at the National Oak Park at 5:30 pm.

Third, we also need people to work the 2 hour event.

Fourth, we need people to take down our canopy, lights, and tables when the event is over.

As you can see, there is a lot to do to make the Trick or Treat Trail a wonderful and safe experience for the children of Alvin. To get an idea of who can work the event, there will be a signup sheet in the Narthex of the sanctuary beginning the first Sunday of October for those who can help with the last three items needed.

## OCTOBERFEST

Saturday, October 7, 2023  
10am - 2pm

**ALVIN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1800 FM 1462

**ALL ARE INVITED TO VISIT OUR**

**FARMHOUSE**

**HANDMADE ITEMS AND DÉCOR**

\*Proceeds benefit local and world relief charities\*



Vouchers are available for those with needs such as job changes, homelessness, fire at home or relocation.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED ANYTIME

### Hours of Operation

#### Mornings:

Wednesday 9:00am - Noon

Saturday 9:00am - Noon

#### Evenings:

Monday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Sunday, November 5, 2023 is Remembrance 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:**

**Pamela Bates Betty Faulkner  
Gladys McKissick Lucy Pannell**



**Those close to us: Paylen Alaniz Gene Calkins Brandy Carlson  
James Conner Mary Delassandro Nolan Garrett  
Brandy Johnson Alex Jones John Landers  
Terry Lynn Reyes Cindy Roberts**



- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Joan McNabb        | 3 Jeanine Richey  |
| 3 Mark Busscher      | 8 Robert Escobedo |
| 14 Buddy Ruskey      | 24 Ayla Busscher  |
| 26 Alex Pannell      | 27 Chance Keffer  |
| 28 Barbara Whitfield |                   |





We are so grateful to have you as our pastor, C.O.! You may have started and lead elsewhere, but we've got you now. We appreciate all the talents you have that you have shared with us. Who knew what a dulcimer was before you introduced it to us? We hope you know just how much you are loved!

A potluck meal will be held in honor of Pastor Appreciation day on Sunday, October 8th. Please bring your favorite dish to share.



Pictured:

1. C.O.'s first church in Olivia, North Carolina
2. 1972 @ First Presbyterian Church of Olivia
3. Approx. 1976 @ St. Andrews Presbyterian in Little Rock, Arkansas
4. Playing the dulcimer in 2019
5. Leading us during the Pandemic 2020
6. C.O.'s 80th birthday party

email - [fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org](mailto:fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org)

281-585-3406 [www.fpcalvin.org](http://www.fpcalvin.org)

302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511

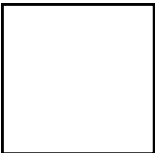
First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

*"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

