

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian:

Greetings. We were very fortunate to escape the terrible hurricane Laura that went through our neighboring state. It was really rough. It will take a long time to recover.

There are two other hurricanes raging through our nation: the Virus and Race Relations. We struggle with both situations. Both are very destructive. Both are invisible and we see only the results.

The virus is somewhat controllable if we distance ourselves from one another and we masks up. A vaccine is coming we are told. Since wearing a mask the rate of infection has dropped 10% as I try and follow the news. No one likes the masks but it seems to be effective and 1000 people dying each day is inexcusable. Unfortunately we have had little or no guidelines as to how to deal with it from our leaders.

That also seems to be the same situation with the other storm: race relations. Don't know if they are worse than before but certainly more visible and a lot more hostile and more dangerous. One of the big differences from the 60's is the amount of real hate being displayed. We never saw guns in the streets or at least the way we are seeing them today.

The senseless killing of several black folks recently by the police has caused a major uprising all over the world, and not just here in the US. These killings as I see it were totally unnecessary. Sure, police have to deal with an unbelievable amount of really "bad guys". I suspect there is a breaking point where things happen that shouldn't happen, but the deaths of these folks were totally inexcusable. I hurt for their families. As a chaplain of a police academy for 6 years I know what police men and women face each day. It's a tough vocation, putting your life on the line every time you go to work. I personally couldn't be a policeman, so I do support them in their very difficult job.

The main problem with "police brutality" as I see it, is that there are cops who have a terrible racist attitude and no tolerance for people of color. No amount of training or instruction will ever change much of their attitude. Out of all the police in our country, I believe there are a very small amount of these people behind the badge, but it doesn't take but one or two incidences to make things explode. Vetting the recruits and future police is where we need to be spending a lot of energy and effort to know more who are becoming police. Gutting the police departments is the absolute wrong way to go. More should be spent in training and ascertaining who will serve. Police unions can also be more attuned to fellow officers and dealing with potential problems. They know each other better than anyone.

Let me say if I was the President, I would gather the sharpest thinkers in the law enforcement business in our nation as well as military experts and sit down together and try and formulate a national policy of policing our nation. It could be guidelines to better deal with our situation rather than "every state for itself". Good leadership is needed now.

Jesus grew up in a prejudicial environment. Race prejudice, religious prejudice, sexist prejudice, homosexual prejudice, wealth prejudice, etc. Just like it is today. His message was one of love, acceptance, forgiveness and grace. God shows no partiality Peter says. We all belong to God. We can come through all these hurricanes. We are created in God's image. My prayer is that we will remember who we are. We are the United States and children of God.

Peace,

C.O.

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♥
Every
journey
begins
with
just
a
single
step

“Behold, I am doing
a new thing; now it
springs forth, do you
not perceive it?
I will make a
way in the wilderness
and rivers in the
desert.”

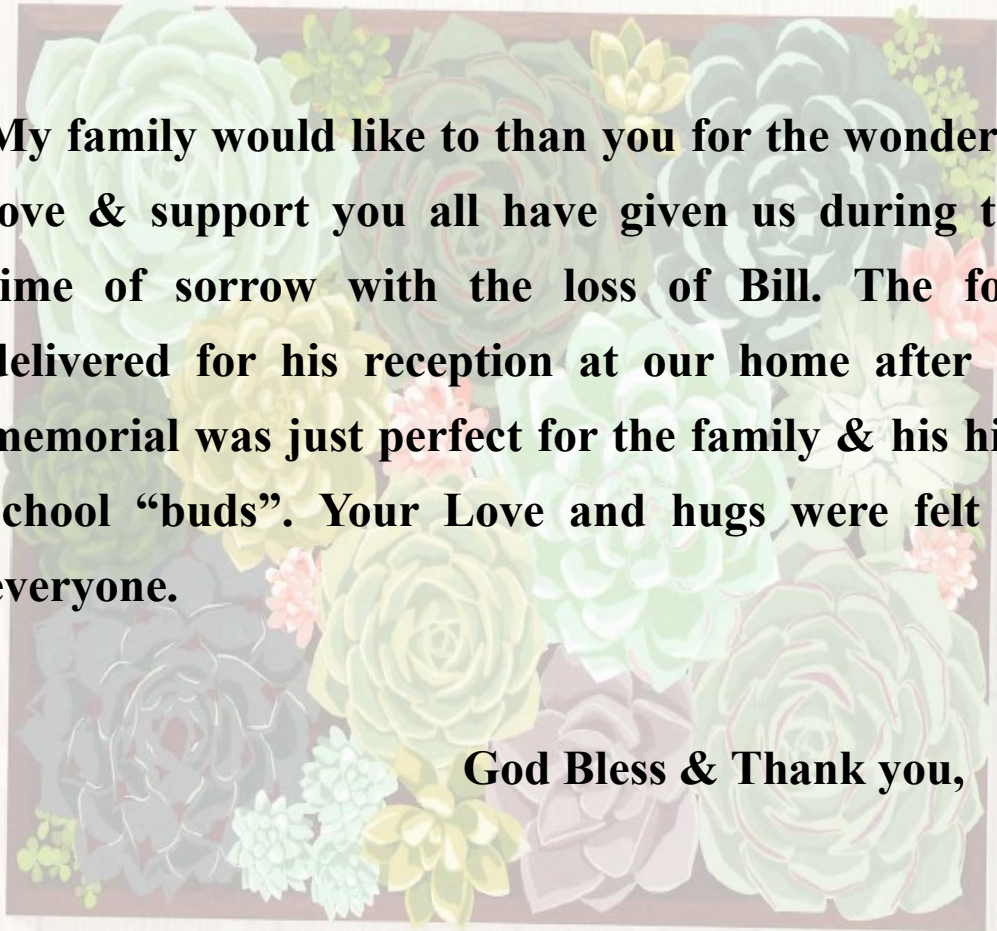
Isaiah 43:19

To the Women of the Church @ FPC Alvin,

My family would like to than you for the wonderful love & support you all have given us during this time of sorrow with the loss of Bill. The food delivered for his reception at our home after his memorial was just perfect for the family & his high school “buds”. Your Love and hugs were felt by everyone.

God Bless & Thank you,

Barbara Lewis



2019-2020 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CLASS	TEACHERS	CURRICULUM
Preschool	Rachel Grimmett, Cindy Waggoner	Sermons 4 Kids
2 nd – 5 th Grade	Alice Sloan	Sermons 4 Kids
Junior High	Barbara Bennett	Youth Specialty "Talk Sheets"
Senior High	Steven King	Bible Lessons for Youth
Women Wondering Why	Barbara Whitfield (Marissa Whitfield, Ruth Frerking, Sara Pannell, Brandi Bowers)	Great Prayers of the Bible—Fisherman Bible Studies
Fellowship Class	Herb Myers (Pat Spiller)	1 Thessalonians, LifeChange Bible Study

**YOUR LOVE
NEVER
FAILS
NEVER GIVES UP
NEVER RUNS OUT
ON ME.**



About the 2020 Season of Peace

September 6 – October 4, 2020

Welcome to the 2020 Season of Peace! This four-week pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. Through daily “Path of Peace” reflections, “Peace Cards” for children and families, Bible and book studies for adults, children’s curriculum, a coloring poster, an intergenerational peace fair, and other downloadable resources, Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers. This season is a time of encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education.

While these resources are designed to culminate in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, they are appropriate for any time of the year. This year’s theme returns to a text that the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has used for a number of years to guide its work. It is the concluding hope of the second letter to the Thessalonians: “May the God of peace grant you peace at all times in all ways.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16) It is our hope that you will be enriched, renewed and enlivened in all the times and ways of your peacemaking and global witness.



“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.”

John 6:37





Ongoing Prayers : Rachel Grimmatt, Mark Clark, Martha Phipps, Helen Escobedo, Maysa Martinez, Colton Rodgers, Shawn Petersen, Henrietta Meyer, Kaye McDonald, Patty Costanzo, John & Lisa Shaw,

Immediate Concerns : The family of Bill Lewis, the family of Maysa Martinez, the family of Jacqueline.

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Randy Phipps

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August Meeting

The Stated Meeting of the Session was held on August 23, 2020 with six Elders present, Rev. C.O. Magee, and Martha Phipps, Clerk of Session. The meeting was opened in prayer. Janet DeLeon gave the devotional. The Session discussed purchasing new candle sticks for the communion table, a baptism scheduled for September 13th, and postponing communion until September 13th. C. O. will be out on September 6th for vacation and we will welcome Fr. Preston to deliver our sermon. They also discussed Genesis Sunday and possible guidelines to follow once a determination is made to return to Sunday School.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Aunnie Petersen	1	Emma Andersen
3	Marietta Benson	5	Jill Wheatley
5	Madizen Gondesen	5	Gina Gregory
9	Marisa Whitfield	12	Kaye McDonald
14	Butch Passmore	17	Gladys McKissick
19	Nancy Williams	19	Paul Froberg
20	Kelsey DelBasso	22	David Pannell
23	Pat Spiller	24	Dinah Bupane
25	Henrietta Meyer	25	Sarah Thomas
26	Alfred Froberg	27	Gloria Mercer
28	Mary Aparicio		



Genesis Sunday -

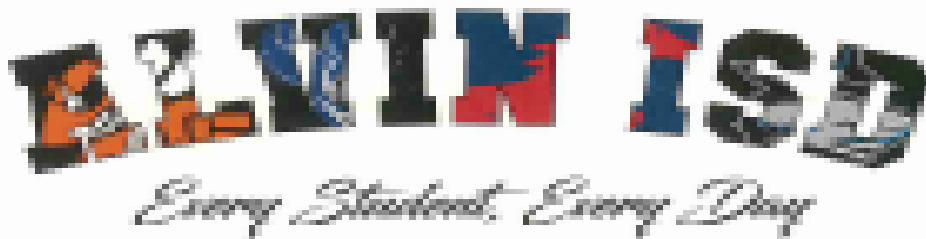
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Jeremiah 29:11

The Sunday School teachers are eager to get back to teaching God's word. An announcement with information about returning will be coming soon. Please keep an eye on your email.

Thank you,

The Education Team



Church Family,

Words cannot express our gratitude for your service and sacrifice with this year's Operation Backpack. Your hard work and support enabled us to serve over 3000 students and counting. Thank you for your time & resources that has made this happen.

Thank you,

Ana Pasarella & Melissa Igo

SCHOOL SUPPLIES MINISTRY 2020 (AKA: OPERATION BACKPACK) The Supplies have arrived!



The brown bags have been sorted.



The crew sorting the supplies by grade level.



The first round of backpacks have arrived, as well as the additional supplies!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES MINISTRY 2020 CONT.

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED:

3,000+!



Packing the backpacks!

So many bags full of backpacks.



Thanks to AISD maintenance dept for picking up the filled backpacks.

Drive-through distribution was a complete success!!

