

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the saints at First Pres:

Greetings: Looking at our world and the total mess we have made of it, one has to wonder if God even cares what we do. We believe God is always involved in our lives but can't always feel or believe God is there. It's like, "God, do something about our mess." I suspect God is saying, "Hey, I did my part. Sent my Son to help you clean up your mess". Well, God has a point. It's our terrible choices that create a terrible society and world. Better choices, better society and world.

Let me share a story about a minister and congregant dying in the hospital. William Willimon shares this story in his new book, Heaven and Earth. Goes something like this: The member of this minister's church was a reluctant member to visit for some reason. He went to the hospital and here's what happened:

"She was in the hospital in the last days of her life. He entered the sick room and there she lay, her head back on the pillow. He could hear her gasping for breath.

He resolved not to sap her strength with a long visit. After initial pleasantries, he asked, 'why don't we pray? What would like for me to pray for?' Between wheezes she said, 'That...I'll be healed! Of course.' He sighed, then prayed something like, 'Lord, if it be thy will. Please deliver this sister from her illness and pain. But if it is not thy will, we pray that you would be with her, that you would help her to better accept her situation, however this turns out Amen.'

The moment he ended his prayer, the woman's eyes opened. She lifted her head, then she sat up. She threw her feet over the side of the bed. 'I think I am healed' she exclaimed before a dumbfounded pastor. 'Yes, I feel strong. I'm healed.'

The young man stood stupefied as he watched her get up and trot down to the nurse's station proclaiming, 'I'm healed!'

The pastor left the room and staggered down the hospital steps without a word. When he got back to his preacher-mobile, he put his hand upon the door, looked up to heaven and shouted, 'Don't you ever do that to me again!'

How many of us are praying for a new beginning with God and life? So many people are going to churches that offer unreal and un-biblical promises, giving people hope that isn't real. It makes me sad that so many are led astray, but how much I wish we could reach those who are hoping in the false

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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

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

- Upcoming events in:**
- September**
- 2nd Tai Chi
 - 3rd Congregational Meeting & Potluck
 - 7th Coffee with C.O.
 - 16th Tai Chi
 - 17th Session Meeting
 - 21st Coffee with C.O.
- October**
- 1st World Communion Sunday
 - 5th Coffee with C.O.
 - 7th Tai Chi
 - 19th Coffee with C.O.
 - 21st Tai Chi
 - 28th Pumpkin Carving contest in the Fellowship Hall.
Snacks will be provided.
 - 31st Trick or Treat trail at Oak Park 6:30p-8:30p
- November**
- 2nd Coffee with C.O.
 - 4th Tai Chi
 - 16th Coffee with C.O.

2023-2024 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
CLASS	TEACHERS	CURRICULUM
Preschool	Rachel Grimmett, Cindy Waggoner	Sermons 4 Kids
2 nd – 5 th Grade		Sermons 4 Kids
Junior High	Barbara Bennett	Youth Specialty "Talk Sheets"
Senior High	Adrienne & Scott Thomas	TBD
Women Wondering Why	Barbara Whitfield (Ruth Frerking)	TBD
Fellowship Class	Herb Myers (Pat Spiller)	Luke



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.

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“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 : Kristy Myers, Kim McDonald, Benny & Dorothy Howard, Stephanie Elkins, Dan Thomas, Dennis Ashley, Johnny Davis, Barbara Bennett, Edith Rockwell, Natalie Flores, the Nelson Family, Richard Yeats Froberg, Joe Martin, and Irene Peltier.

Immediate Concerns : The Family of Brandy Johnson, and much needed rain.

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Cindy Waggoner

Refreshments - Worship

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Aunnie Petersen | 1 | Emma Andersen |
| 3 | Marietta Benson | 5 | Jill Wheatley |
| 5 | Madizen Gondesen | 9 | Marisa Whitfield |
| 12 | Kaye McDonald | 19 | Nancy Williams |
| 19 | Paul Froberg | 20 | Kelsey Del Basso |
| 22 | David Pannell | 23 | Pat Spiller |
| 23 | Shelley Andreas | 24 | Dinah Bupane |
| 25 | Sarah Thomas | 26 | Alfred Froberg |
| 27 | Gloria Mercer | 28 | Mary Aparicio |



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promises.

God is very present in our lives and world, but doesn't always make His presence known, not obviously anyway. God is always near and dearly cares for all of us.

I can't say I have had an experience like this young minister, but I have had a few sort of close, some healings that can't be explained, but I have seen God at work in people's lives. God is bringing in His kingdom and things happen. We are blessed to be part of that event. So, buckle up. The ride will be exhilarating. God is always full of surprises!

Peace,
C.O.

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

Seafarer's Boxes

- ◆ Our Youth are collecting items to prepare Christmas boxes for Seafarers.
- ◆ Below is a wish list from the Seafarers.
- ◆ Please place items in the container in the Narthex labelled SEAFARERS or place a donation in the offering plate with Seafarers in the memo line.
- ◆ Please send empty shoe boxes.
- ◆ We plan to prepare 48+ boxes as we have in the past.
- ◆ Deadline for items is November 12th.



Please try to pack a shoebox full with new items such as these:

**** Note: Full-sized items are much preferred over small travel size**

Body Wash (sealed)	Band-Aids (fabric)	Socks	Popcorn
Shampoo/Conditioner (sealed)	Lip Balm	Pocket-sized Notebooks	Gum & Hard Candy
Deodorant	Nail Clippers	Cold Weather Caps	Needle & Thread
Toothbrush/Toothpaste	Q-Tips	Pens	2023 Calendar
Dental Floss	Gold Bond Powder	Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books	Magnets
Disposable Razors	Gold Bond Cream	USB Flash Drive	Key Chains
Shaving Cream	Baseball Caps (NEW)	Earbuds/Headphones	Playing Cards
Hairbrush/Comb	T-shirts (NEW)	Flashlight w/ batteries	Texas Souvenirs
Lotion	Whistle	Bible/Devotional materials – Daily Bread, Open Door, etc.	Personal note or card



Baptism

On August 13, 2023,
we welcomed
Alana Elise Andreas
into our congregation
through baptism.
She was accompanied
by her parents
Eric & Shelley Andreas
as well as several
extended family
members.



We will be participating in Alvin Parks & Recreation's Trick or Treat Trail on Halloween. Last year, approximately 3000 children came through the line. We can use your help!! Please donate a bag or two of candy/ small toys to help distribute to the children of Alvin. If you'd rather help financially, please indicate "Trick or Treat Trail" on the memo line of your check. If you are able to give your time to help at the booth, please let Janet DeLeon know as soon as possible.

Thank you!!



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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."

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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

