

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings! As we move through Lent, we know it's a time of reflection, penance, and recommitment to Christ. We examine our lives and our faith and see if there needs to be a change. We ask, "what kind of life do I live?" Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." Choose life! In our faith we know Jesus is the Life, so we examine what it means to choose Jesus. I ran across a little story about this and it's about a seed, a rock and a grain of sand. Hope you enjoy the story.

God Is Revealed through a Plan for Life A SAND, A STONE, AND A SEED

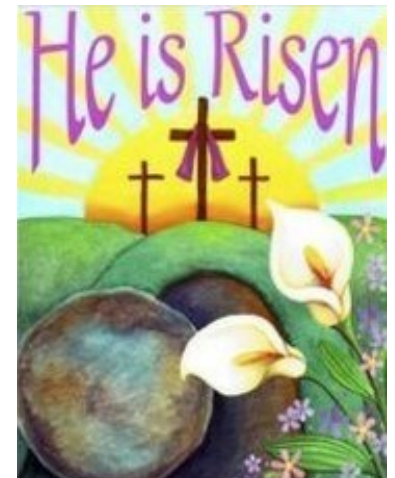
A sand, a stone and a seed once argued to see who was the greatest. "I am so small I can hide in a seashell," laughed the tiny grain of sand, dancing with the blowing wind. The heavy stone spoke in a loud voice. "I come from a mighty mountain that no man, or giant, or giant of a man can move!" The small seed was bigger than the grain of sand, but it could not move and it was smaller than the stone, so the seed was silent. "I can hide in a shell for many days and weeks and months, and make a beautiful, priceless pearl!" boasted the small grain of sand. The sturdy stone began: "Goliath was a huge man, a giant of a man who said to the people of Israel, 'No one is stronger or braver than I am.'" David, a small shepherd boy, heard Goliath's words. He was not very big, for he was only a boy. He had no weapons, only a slingshot he used to keep away the wild animals from his sheep. Bet he was brave. "I will fight the giant!" David declared. "Bring on your boy," laughed Goliath, the huge man. "Bring on a billion boys!" shouted Goliath, the huge giant. "Bring on your battle and I will destroy you all!" boasted Goliath. David, however, said not a word but stooped to choose a small, smooth stone from the stream. He placed the stone carefully in his sling. He lifted his arm and swung the sling over his head. The small stone sailed through the sky and the wicked giant fell to the ground. The sand and the seed stared at the stone. They were amazed! The small sand could make a precious pearl. The small stone could kill a wicked giant. The seed was silent, for the seed was sad, and the seed began to cry, for the seed thought it could do nothing. Shyly, the seed crawled into the wet hole in the ground that it had watered with its tears and stayed there alone, expecting to wither and die. But in the spring, when on that very spot a white lily bloomed to fill the

(Continued on page 7)

April Issue

A Message from the Pastor (on Cover)	
Children's Easter Event April Birthdays Holy Week	2
One Great Hour of Sharing	3
Presbyterian Men's Conference	4
Presbyterian Women's Conference	5
Prayer Concerns Elder of the Month Blooming Cross	6
One Great Hour of Sharing cont.	7

Insert:
April 2025 Calendar





"We love Him
because
He first loved
us."

1 John 4: 9-10

Children's Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, April 20 at 9:30 a.m. breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall for adults and children. Following breakfast all Sunday School classes will take place as usual. The children will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by doing crafts and participating in an Easter egg hunt. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!



April Birthdays

1 Alana Andreas	14 Alan Ruskey
3 Sheila Follmar	17 Jo Myers
4 Brenda Magee	19 Ruth Frerking
5 Amber Bennett	22 Eric Grimmett
8 Natalie Aparicio	23 Shirley Brothers
10 Christopher Odom	29 Jim Dallas
11 Audrie Gondesén	30 Jeremiah Stanley



We will have a Maundy Thursday service on April 17th @ 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are planning to attend, and are able, please bring one of the following: cheese, fruit, bread, or wine (optional). We will share what we bring as we gather around our tables for our meal and service.





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Minute for Mission

We Are There

In Isaiah 58, we are called to be repairers of the breach. Showing our love and sharing our love are how we repair the breach in many of our interactions in this world. Throughout the Lenten season, we have been inspired by the stories of women who are answering Jesus' call to love one another, and to put that love into life-changing action.

In every time and in every place, women have played this role — diligently, persistently, if often quietly — *lovingly*. Stop for a moment and think about the women we know — those in our communities and right here in our own church. Let's pause to honor and remember the many faithful women in our lives.

But let's not forget, we are the Church ... together, and as the saying goes, it takes a village.

We are there with Lyndsay and the Alliance

for Community Services in Chicago, who work for civil and human rights for people with disabilities, low-income families and front-line service workers to, as they say, put the "human" back in human rights. They are supported by the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People — another way that the love we share through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing is making a difference.

With our gifts, we are part of Lyndsay's village.

We are there to empower women like Nathana and Talavi, who are working with Tewa Women United in New Mexico to strengthen leadership for Native women and girls, to advocate for civil rights and to help reclaim the Indigenous people's agricultural legacy. As a partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Tewa Women United receives support through gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing from people just like us and congregations just like ours.

With our gifts, we are part of Nathana and Talavi's village.

(Continued on page 7)

Presbyterian Men's Conference @ MoRanch

What Is Men's Conference?

Men's Conference is a God-filled weekend in the wide-open spaces of the Texas Hill Country along the banks of the Guadalupe River at Mo-Ranch. This is our single largest and longest-running conference where hundreds of men from all ages gather together annually for fellowship and spiritual renewal.

What Will We Do?

Conference activities will include keynote presentations, worship, song, relaxation and recreation. Workshop courses will be offered covering a wide variety of educational and spiritual topics through five primary categories: Bible study, church, mission, personal development and social issues. Other course opportunities will be available that include a chance to learn new skills, indoors or outdoors. During Saturday afternoon, optional free time activities include kayaking, paddleboarding, canoeing, swimming, ropes course, rappelling off the catwalk, fishing, washer pitchin', sports activities and more!

Who Can Come?

All generations, men from 13 years and up. Ages 13-17 require an accompanying adult registration.

Conference Vision

The Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch is a gathering of men who on a weekend meet to worship together in Word, song and Sacrament. United in their bond with the Lord and moved by His Spirit, they engage

in fellowship, study, recreation and ministry to each other. Through the gifts of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, they receive renewed strength to go forth and live daily, sharing the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ, through words, deeds and activities.

Conference Goals

Inspire the participants of this conference to reach beyond the manmade barriers of this world and share the love, understanding and joy of Jesus Christ.

Provide an opportunity for each man at the conference to experience the presence of God in his life.

To find it in ourselves to be open to finding ways to enrich our personal lives through establishing closer bonds among ourselves (men, fathers and sons/sons-in-law) using our faithfulness as a base.

Provide instructive workshops for spiritual development, daily living, personal and congregational ministry.

Encourage the men in the conference to minister to each other and learn from one another.

Create an atmosphere for each man to have a joyful weekend at the conference.

Increase the number of men of all ages whose lives are enriched by the conference.

Inspire men to go forward as ambassadors for the ministry of Mo-Ranch.

Don't miss an unforgettable weekend to grow in your faith with God and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Presbyterian Women's Conference @ MoRanch

As people of faith, we have opportunities to mark these liminal spaces by recognizing that God is with us on the journey, giving us grace. We will spend the weekend reflecting on God's presence in all the times of our lives – and in the midst of singing, prayer, worship, keynotes, workshops, and rest, we will mark those times and places of grace in our lives.

Each year, hundreds of women from across the region gather together for the Mo-Ranch Women's Conference. Take a break from the busyness of life to recharge physically, mentally and spiritually.

- Conference activities include keynote presentations, worship, fellowship, recreation, free time and workshops.
- Create an inviting and safe environment for growth and renewal
- Hear God's word through inclusive and intentional worship
- Reach a diverse cross-section of women by culture, age and background
- Celebrate and be good stewards of God's creation
- Practice inclusiveness, radical hospitality and joyful fellowship
- Allow a place to reconnect with ourselves, God and each other

Mothers, daughters and granddaughters come together for a time of reunion and growth. Friendships that last a lifetime are made by women who would not have otherwise met.

Send in your FPC photos!

Do you, or anyone you know, have pictures of your family members or friends at FPC activities. Some examples might include photos of VBS, families with Christmon tree, blooming cross or Easter lilies, and other FPC celebrations. We are trying to compile a photo file for historical purposes as well as giving us the capacity to make videos of church activities for future FPC events. Please send your pictures to Mandi at: fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org



“Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, be
patient in suffering,
persevere in
prayer.”

Romans 12: 11-12





Ongoing Prayers: Patty Costanzo, Irene Peltier, Wayne Williams, Betsy Hatherill, Daina Petersen, Margie Hill, Dick Banks, Norman Hirsch, Frank Delgado, George Gaines, Carol Eason, Doe Bray, Jim Grefenstette, , Raia Stanley, Alexis Perez, Retta Pollio, Carolyn Warych, , Mike Wheatley, Jane Landers, Cyndi, Jill Wheatley, Anthony Gondesen, and Benny Howard.

Immediate Concerns: The Family of Nancy Williams, the Family of Gene Ashley, the Family of Wanda Cunningham, and the Family of Carmen (Helen Escobedo's sister).

Please call the church office with updates.

Do you have a child or grandchild graduating this school year? Please let Mandi Odom or Barbara Bennett know as soon as possible. Thank you!!

Elder of the Month
Herb Myers

Refreshments
Education

Easter Blooming Cross

Since Easter comes later in the spring this year, the Worship Committee would like to invite everyone who may have blossoming flowers in their yard to consider bringing some of them for placement on the traditional Blooming Cross in the sanctuary on Easter morning. This act of kindness will help decorate the cross.



(Continued from page 3)

We are there with Juneli Nepal — a small nonprofit run primarily by women high in the mountains where hundreds of remote villages dot the landscape. These women are working to provide safe, clean drinking water to many families following a devastating earthquake. Their president, Anjila Khadka, said that thanks to a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, supported by our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, life for the villagers has steadily begun to improve.

With our gifts, we are part of Anjila's village.

We are there. For over ¹9 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love. Your gifts bring a beacon of love and hope in our world and put the power of healing into the hands of those who need it most.

Please give what you can to One Great Hour of Sharing. For as we always say ... when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

LIFE AFTER FORTY

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLD WHEN

- ⇒ Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.
- ⇒ You look forward to a dull evening.
- ⇒ Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- ⇒ Your back goes out more than you do.
- ⇒ Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
- ⇒ You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.
- ⇒ Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- ⇒ The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off.
- ⇒ You join a health club and don't go.
- ⇒ You want to see how long your car will last instead of how fast it will go.
- ⇒ You remember today, that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.
- ⇒ You are startled the first time you are addressed as "old timer".

****FOR COMEDIC RELIEF ONLY****

(Continued from page 1)

world with color and perfume, the small grain of sand and the sturdy stone agreed that the silent seed was the greatest of all, because God had given the seed the gift of life.

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

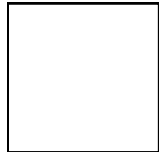
Evenings:

Monday 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Wednesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm



We need your help!! Are you available the 3rd Wednesday 6p-8p or the 4th Saturday 9a-noon? We'd love to see you there!



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."*

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin
302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511
281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org
email - fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org