

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings! This month is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving. While it formerly was a Christian celebration, that changed with time to a national holiday so all people could celebrate. Churches still have thanksgiving services to remember all that God has done to bless us.

To share a quick history of thanksgiving, we go back to 1621. The English colonist, called pilgrims, shared a feast with the Wampanoag Indians who were the natives surrounding Plymouth where the colonist lived.

History tells us the colonist went out "fowling" possibly for turkeys but maybe easier game like geese and ducks. They reportedly killed enough game for a week. They began the feast when 90 or so Wampanoag Indians showed up. The colonist were surprised and a little unnerved but they invited the Indians to join in the feast which lasted a few days. The Indians brought venison, fowl, fish, eels, shellfish, stews, veggies, and beer. The feast was held outside since Plymouth had few buildings.

The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This sealed a treaty between the two groups until King Phillips war of 1675-76 in which hundreds of colonist and thousands of Native Americans were killed.

New England colonist regularly celebrated Thanksgivings, days of prayer thanking God for blessings. The Continental Congress proclaimed a national Thanksgiving upon the enactment of the Constitution, yet after 1798, Congress left Thanksgiving to the states. Didn't want government involved in a religious observance. Southerners were slow to adopt a New England Custom. It has been said Thanksgiving didn't become a national holiday until Northerners dominated the government.

Sarah Hale campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity and finally won support of President Lincoln. On Oct.3, 1863 Lincoln proclaimed a national day to be celebrated on Thursday, Nov. 26. Roosevelt in 1942 designated the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

As families began to move away from each other as society expanded, Thanksgiving became a time for reunion and family gatherings. The holidays moved away from its religious roots so immigrants of every background could participate in common tradition.

Football games began with Yale vs. Princeton in 1876. In the late 1800's parades began. In 1920, Gimbel's department store staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1927, Macy's department store added huge balloons.

The meal is usually around Turkeys and more food is eaten during Thanksgiving than any other time. People often consume 3-4,000 calories during the course of the dinner.

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C.O. Magee
(on Cover)

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Inserts

November Calendar
Poinsettia Order Form

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Debbie Nance**
- 2 Barbara Bennett**
- 4 Max Gondesen**
- 4 Scott Gondesen**
- 6 Morgan Stanley**
- 9 Clayton Ruskey**
- 14 Lisa McCalla**
- 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!



This year, you will be able to sponsor poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Instead of asking for a specific price, we're asking for a love donation. 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 sponsored by November 24th.



**Poinsettia
Orders**

Season of Advent

We will begin this festive season in preparation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ during worship on Sunday, December 1st. 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 !

November	10	Congregation Meeting
November	11	Veteran's Day (Office Closed)
November	24	Have your Poinsettia Sponsored
November	28	Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)
December	1	Hanging of the Greens
December	8	Children's Christmas Pageant
December	9	Christmas Walk-A-Mile
December	14	Bell Ringing for Salvation Army
December	22	Christmas Cantata



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 chose 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 1st. This is an awesome opportunity to bring joy to those who would otherwise do without at this time of the year. Thank you!

Adopt a Christmas "Person":)



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 14th, between 9:00 am 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***



JOIN US FOR A
BABY SHOWER
WELCOMING
BENNETT DEL BASSO



SUNDAY
17
NOVEMBER

PARENTS:
BRENDAN & KELSEY DEL BASSO
GRANDPARENTS:
REV. C.O. & BRENDA MAGEE

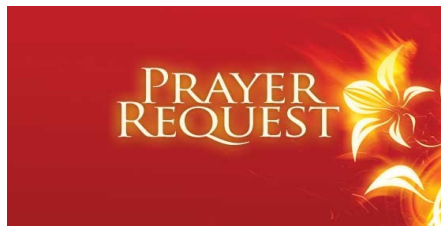
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

REGISTERED AT TARGET AND AMAZON



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



Ongoing Prayers

*Patty Costanzo, Irene Peltier,
Joanne Froberg, Nancy & Wayne
Williams, Rosemary Hervol,
Roger Hawkins, Karen Hensley,
Marilyn Thomas, Brenda Magee, Betsy Hatherill, and
Frank & Sandy.*

Immediate Concerns : *The Family of Ron Mercer, and
the Family of Jim Healy.*

Please call the church office with updates.

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

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

*Vouchers Accepted

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

**Daylight
Savings**

**Time ends
November 3rd**





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Food has a lot of variety, a lot after Native American dishes. Many different foods have been served. Here is a menu of the White House Cookbook of 1887: oysters on half shell, cream of chicken soup, fried smelts, tartare sauce, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, giblet grave, mash potatoes, baked squash, boiled onions, parsnip fritters, olives, chicken salad, venison pastry, pumpkin pie, mince pie, almond ice cream, lemon jelly, hickory nut cake, cheese, fruit, and coffee. The dinner obviously can be anything you like. It is the second most popular holiday after Christmas.

Thanksgiving has come to symbolize intercultural peace, opportunity for newcomers, and the sanctity of home and family.

With so much division in our country today I wonder if we can make Thanksgiving what the origins of the holiday meant?

We thank God for all God has done and how we have been blessed even with all the situations that have challenged us over the year.

It was meant to be a time of peace and accepting others. That can be something for which we can be thankful. The Pilgrims probably wouldn't have survived without the help of the native American tribe that helped them in survival. We need and depend upon others for our survival as well. Often these folks are different from us yet are important to us.

I hope this will be a thankful Thanksgiving for all of us and remembering how God as truly blessed us in our lives this past year. Thanksgiving is giving thanks.

Peace,

C. O.



"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



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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