

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings. We have just moved through Valentine's Day. It's a day when we show love to others especially our significant other. I use to not celebrate Valentine's Day for I believed we express love each day. Still do but I gave in to family requests to make that day a special day.

There is a historical founding for Valentine's Day. One source tells us it's about Claudius the Cruel. In the third century, the Roman Empire was ruled by Claudius Gothicus, known as Claudius II. He was nicknamed Claudius the Cruel because of his harsh leadership and his tendency for getting into wars and abusing his people. In fact, he was getting into so many wars during the third century that he was having a difficult time recruiting enough soldiers.

Claudius thought that recruitment for the army was down because Roman men didn't want to leave their loved ones. So he cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. Thousands of couples saw their hopes of matrimony dashed by a single act of a tyrant. No one stood up to the emperor.

A simple priest named Valentinus, or Valentine came forward and stood up for love. He began to secretly conduct weddings for soldiers before they went to war, despite the emperor's orders. In 269 A.D., Claudius found out about the secret ceremonies and had Valentine thrown in prison and condemned him to death.

St. Valentine gave his life so that young couples could be bonded together in holy matrimony. Eventually he was granted sainthood and the Catholic Church decided to create a feast in his honor. They picked February 14th because of the ancient belief that birds, particularly lovebirds began to mate on that very day.

Paul said in I Cor. 13, the great love passage, that if he didn't have love he would be nothing. That's quite a statement. Love makes us real. Love defines us. Unfortunately, love seems to be in shortage these days. I believe there is more love being expressed in our society but all we get is the bad news.

The Greeks had three words for love. Eros is physical love. Philia is brotherly/sisterly love, the kind we have for others. The third kind is agape. Agape is unconditional love, the kind of love God has for us. Paul uses agape in his letter of I Cor. 13. The four pillars of love as he defines it are: love believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, bears all things. These four conditions are four elements that can push love to its boundaries. Agape love can be there in the worse circumstances.

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Chilly Weather Cook Off !!

Sunday, March 2nd

During Fellowship

Prizes for the following categories:

Best Chili

Best Bread

Best Dessert



****Please deliver to the Fellowship Hall prior to Worship service.****

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



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol "Sissy" Gross
- 25 Gabriel Pearce
- 27 Evan Gondesen
- 29 Billy Steckert, Jr
- 30 C.O. Magee



And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24



Minute for Mission Empowering Indigenous Women Bring Hope and Healing

When Nathana Bird chose to follow a passion for community organizing, she found a path that led her home to New Mexico.

Raised in Ohkay Owingeh [ō-k ā ō-wing-ā], Nathana was looking for deeper purpose and connection with people from backgrounds like her own.

She was trying to find her story within the narrative of her people, to embody the wisdom that has been passed down to her from the mothers and grandmothers in her life.

Like Nathana, Talavi Denipah Cook, also originally from Ohkay Owingeh, had left to study environmental and conservation biology but ultimately found the pull of her people to be all but irresistible.

She wanted to help the people know how to connect with the earth, work to combat climate change and do better for the world.

Both of their journeys led them to Tewa Women United (TWU), a multicultural, multiracial, nonprofit organization founded and led by Native women, where Nathana currently serves as interim executive director and Talavi as program manager for Environmental Health and Justice.

Named for the Tewa concept *wi don gi mu*, which translates to “we are one,” the organization is committed to strengthening leadership for Native women and girls, addressing environmental, social, racial and gender justice concerns, shaping policy and reclaiming the people’s agricultural legacy.

And it is thanks to a grant from the Presbyterian Hunger Program, made possible by Presbyterians’ generous gifts to One Great Hour of

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For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

Mark Your Calendars for Lent and Holy Week 2025

Lent Soup and Devotions - 6:00 PM

302 South Johnson St, Fellowship Hall

March 12th

March 19th

March 26th

April 2nd

April 9th



Palm Sunday - April 13th at 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday - April 17th at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday - April 20th at 11:00 AM

Elder of the Month - Jason Elkins

Refreshments - Congregational Life

MoRanch

Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly is a conference and retreat center related by covenant to the Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since 1949, Mo-Ranch has served as a sacred and transformative place for those who retreat to the Hill Country for worship, fellowship, relaxation and renewal.

Men's Conference

May 2-4, 2025

This conference is a retreat for men of all ages to come together and build connections through fun outdoor activities and worship!

Register at: <https://www.moranch.org/events/mens-conference/>

Women's Conference

June 6-8, 2025

A conference for women to come together, build relationships, worship and do fun activities

Register at: <https://www.moranch.org/events/womens-conference/>

Scholarships available at: <https://www.moranch.org/support-mo-ranch/scholarships-to-mo-ranch/adult-conference-attendee-scholarship-application/>

EASTER LILIES

As we've done in the past, you will be able to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus. You can honor and/or remember a loved one by completing a form and placing it in an envelope, along with your donation in the form of a check or cash. The envelope containing your form and donation may be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. A form was included in last month's newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The forms need to be received by Sunday, April 6th. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) after worship Easter Sunday, April 20th, or Monday, April 21st. If you prefer, you may donate your lily to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Happy Easter!" This year the proceeds from the lily sales will go to the Ron McClendon Camp Fund to help our members with their camping activities.



Please join us for

Fat Tuesday, March 4, Pancake Supper

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Pancakes, Hot
off the Grill,
Sausage
Patties,
& choice
of beverages**



(Free will donations accepted.)



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ
1212 S. Durant St., Alvin**

Thank you for your continued support!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM



Ongoing Prayers Patty Costanzo, Irene Peltier, Nancy & Wayne Williams, Betsy Hatherill, Daina Petersen, Rod Koberstein, Carolyn Wayrch, Margie Hill, Dick Banks, Norman Hirsch, Frank Delgado, George Gaines, Carol Eason, Doe Bray, Jim Grefenstette, Raia Stanley, Alexis Perez, and Retta Pollio.

Immediate Concerns : The Family of Gene Ashley, the Family of Nancy Williams, and the Family of Wanda Cunningham.

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

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Human love is fickle, conditional. One day I love you, the next day I don't. We fall into love and fall out of love. Unconditional love hangs in there regardless. Not easy!

Love will overcome hate and all that hate brings to our lives. I John tells us where there is love there is God. Where there is God there is love. If we don't love our neighbor whom we can see we can't love God whom we can't see. If we say we love God but don't love our neighbor we are liars and the love of God is not in us. Tough words.

Love isn't always easy. Some folks are easy to love and others not so easy but the call is there to love. I try and remember this fact but there are times I fall into the mode of not wanting to love certain people and events. We are all sinners and fall short of God's glory but some folks seem to go out of their way making them almost impossible to love! Still the call is there. I hope God will give all of us the ability to reach out, even to our enemies. Like Kenny Rodgers sang in one of his songs, "love will turn us around". That is the definition of repentance!

Love and Peace,

C.O.

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Sharing, that TWU's life-giving initiatives bring hope and healing to Indigenous women and girls while its food justice programs help connect youth with their elders, their people's traditions and the land.

TWU began as a group of women from mainly the Tewa-speaking Pueblo communities around a kitchen table to confront systems of oppression and patriarchy. They wanted to create a space for women to uncover their own power and encourage them to use their voice to create change in the community.

TWU supports efforts for environmental health and climate change adaptability by creating community gardens, heirloom seed libraries, non-GMO seed exchanges, traditional agriculture, and bio and mycoremediation practices. They also

address the destruction that happens on their ancestral homelands and sacred areas and the violence that has been inflicted on their bodies and their land.

Nathana shared, "This work inspires me because I have three daughters and one son, who know this is their place. But it's also for all the young girls that come after me — that grow up here and connect back to their Tewa and cultural roots."

Helping neighbors in need around the world in tangible ways to share God's love is why we do what we do. And when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray~

Lord God, we thank you for the good earth on which we live and worship. Help us to nurture and celebrate the power of families and communities as together we strive for a world where we are truly one in your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.

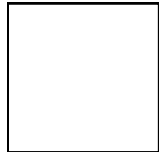
MATTHEW 25

"The possessing of
nuclear weapons
is immoral"

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



*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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