

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414

Return Services Requested

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414
(979) 245-8327

<https://baycitytexasfirstpresbyterian-church.com>
www.facebook.com/fpcbaycity
E-mail: fpcbc@sbcglobal.net
Fax: (979) 244-4891

Pastor – Rev. Charley Shurtz
Church Secretary – Karin Hill
Choir Director/Accompanist – Donna Baskin
Nursery - Carol Petersen and Karen Trobl
Custodian - Angelica Alfaro
Ministers - The Members of First
Presbyterian Church



THE PRESBYTERIAN PROCLAIMER

October 2022

A Word From Our Pastor.....

Some places on earth can get pretty cold in October; it feels even more so when one stays out in the forest for days on end. The following is a story that gives pause on what to be thankful for...

In late October, a small American patrol is scouring the highland mountains looking for intelligence on enemy movements. They banter back and forth about how hot it was down in the jungle, but in the higher elevations, it can still become quite chilly. Temperature fluctuates when storms come in from the coast; it can routinely fall 30 or more degrees in a few minutes. To a scout that has been out for a couple of weeks, in the mountains, these fluctuations tear the body's system down. Often, soldiers in 90+ degree weather, can suddenly find themselves in 50-degree weather; it is a shock to the system that can cause violent shakes and, at times, even mental disorientation. On just such a hike, a squad of men found themselves shivering in the cold when they became drenched with rains and the temperature fell rapidly. With the condition they were all in, the young—heck, they were all young, it was not a place for old men—squad leader ordered them to begin to descend the mountain to seek warmer air. They helped each other because they were often stumbling from the severe shaking. Still, they kept, somehow, a form of crude soldier humor going and took care of all their equipment. The squad leader had the RTO (Radio Telephone Operator) call the company and seek an airlift out by chopper (helicopter). Walking hundreds of feet down in elevation, the soldiers began to feel warmer and actually dry in some ways, but they were all still shaking when they heard a familiar sound—the whop, whop, whop of Huey blades drawing ever closer. What a glorious feeling to see the whirlybird appear! The helicopter had to sit down some distance away, but knowing it was there, gave all of them joy and strength to move on. That day, three of the seven-man squad were sent over to battalion med station, while the other four remained.

I often think back on these stories of my life that seemed difficult, when my day or days seem tough as I have grown older. They remind me that the little things are what make life worth living. We often get stuck on waiting for that “big event” to bring us happiness, when sparks of joy are all around us, just waiting to become a warm fire in our day’s journey. I would encourage you to remember the love of Christ, the breath you breathe, the person you got to visit with today, your cup of coffee, or the “sleep in freedom” you had as sparks of joy to make a good day. Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me;” partake of the bread and the wine as the symbols of the gift of eternal life in the sacrifice of the Lord’s life. Little things to get you through the sudden storms.

Committee Chairpersons for 2022

Building & Grounds - Doug Huebner
Christian Education - Karin Hill
Congregational Care – Debbie Dennard
Finance/Stewardship – Greg
Westmoreland
Nominating - Greg Westmoreland
and Doug Huebner
Outreach & Mission - Carol Petersen
Personnel - Jim Coe
Worship – Donna Baskin

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Jami Ruth Ahysen (Greg Westmoreland's sister), Family of Hattie Andel, Family of Caleb Anderson, Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, Donna Baskin, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Ann Bond, Sharon Bumgardner, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Davis, Crystal Dominguez, Flo Dreher, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Giovanni (Natalie Mullen's nephew), Paul Hanna, Maeve Hernandez & Family, Eric Hestand, Jason James, Dr. Bob Kelly, Jeanine Kietzmann (Karin Hill's mother), Nancy Knapik, Doris Layton (Karen Trobl's sister), Ruth Leissner & Family, Sarah Leverett, Mark Longoria, Jim Matthes, Allison McGrath (Air Force, deployment to South Korea), Ed Miller, Felipe & Rachel Montalvo, Cliff Mullen, Natalie Mullen, Martha Osina, Aryn Pena (Army, deployment to Middle East), Family of Mary Petersen, Zelda Regalado & Family, Family of Jug Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Kirby Savage & Family, Rev. Frank Seaman, Pastor Charley, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, Family of Claude Stephens, Karen & Joey Trobl.

All those who have suffered and been impacted by COVID.

Our local homeless community.

All students, teachers, and administrators for a great school year.

Development of Spanish class at our church.

Spencer Hill, Army, deployment to South Korea.

Our military, veterans, and law enforcement.

Uvalde community and all those affected by the tragedy.

Ukraine/Russian War and all those affected.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

October 2022 – Lectionary Readings

October 2 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6 and Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 OR Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9;

2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 9 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Psalm 66:1-12 OR 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111;

2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 16 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34 and Psalm 119:97-104 OR Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121;

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 23 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65 OR Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84:1-7;

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 30 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 OR Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7;

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

October 8 and October 22

October 16: Ronnie Mullen

October 23: Marc or Karin Hill

October 30: Will Guynes

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1: Ronnie Mullen

October 6: Gene Klepac

October 8: Yasmine Ansari

October 10: Will Guynes

October 13: James Bounds

October 16: Charlie Boeker

October 18: Don Boyer

October 23: Veda Regalado

October 25: Jack Helmick

October 27: Alaya Ruiz

October 31: Linda Townsend

OCTOBER USHERS

October 2: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg Westmoreland

October 9: Ronnie Mullen, Jody Romine, Teresa West, Priscilla Obermeyer

October 16: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, Linda Brown

October 23: Nancy Knapik, Debbie and Crayden Dennard, Greg Westmoreland

October 30: James and Doreen Bounds, Will and Melissa Guynes

OCTOBER COMMUNION PREPARERS

October 2: Don and Sandy Boyer

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 28: Doug and Rebecca Huebner

OCTOBER COMMUNION SERVERS

October 2: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, Linda Brown

OCTOBER WORSHIP LEADERS

October 2: Doreen Bounds

October 9: Linda Brown

OCTOBER KITCHEN CREW

Marie Hestand, Doreen Bounds, Melissa Guynes

Grief, I've learned, is
really just love. It's all the love you
want to give but cannot. All of that
unspent love gathers up in the corners
of your eyes, the lump in your throat,
and in that hollow part of your chest.

Grief is just love with no place
to go.

-Jamie Anderson



The semi-annual Grief Support Group will meet every Thursday in October (October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th) from 5:30 PM—7:00 PM in Robbins Hall. Please contact the church office at 245-8327 during regular office hours, Tuesdays—Thursdays from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM, to add your name and contact information to our list of attendees.

Quieres aprender español?

In other words, do you want to learn Spanish?

Lorena Campos, a student in the English as a Second Language class that Linda Brown teaches three mornings a week at our church, is offering free Spanish classes on Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 AM in Marc Hill's Sunday School classroom. If you have any questions about the class, please call Linda Brown at

(979) 240-0319.

From the Music Stand.....

Hello friends! I'm switching some things around this month. For the last few months, I've been in teaching mode concerning our traditional and contemporary songs. As we are all worshipping in one musical way or another, we are truly all in one accord. We are all aware that the goal is the same; the road may vary, but the destination is the same—to worship together.

You are all aware by now that I have 4 little pups in my house. They are all about the same age and size, yet their personalities are all different: 1 grumpy male chihuahua mix, 1 over exuberant female terrier, a bully, miniature female long-haired chihuahua, and a high-pitched, mini poodle that likes to hear herself. Yet we all work together as a family.

With the choir coming together to work on special seasonal music for our services, we have a common goal: to know the music well enough to present the message in song with confidence and to help lead the congregation to also sing with confidence. "But I don't know that particular song!" is something I hear a lot. Well, how do you get to know something? By repetition of course—by saying it, or trying to sing it, OUT LOUD!!! When the time comes for you to teach something or give a speech, you practice by saying it aloud. You are then more able to have an idea of how it will come across to the listener. The same thing occurs when you are singing. When you sing with little to no energy, not very much can be heard. If you cannot hear yourself sing, how can others hear you or, more importantly, how can God hear you? "Oh, He knows what is in our hearts!" Yes, that is true, but He also wants to hear our voices lifted in praise and worship. Psalms 66:8-20 tells us to sing with loud songs of praise. God listens to me and hears my prayers (my paraphrase). Believe it or not, I can tell, when I look out at our church family, which ones are actually singing aloud, and which ones think they are fooling others.

We are trying to get our sound equipment to work at its optimum level and until that is done, we will be in some flux sound-wise. I know some of you are confused by the various individuals who have been helping with this, but I feel we are now on the right track for continued growth in our sound presentations being of better quality.

My friends, I love and appreciate all of you so much. We have some exciting and fun things coming up in our services and would love for you to participate to the best of your abilities. Never think that you are not enough, for God will use that which you are willing to give, even those voices that you think are different. God loves the trained and untrained, for voices lifted in praise are heartfelt.

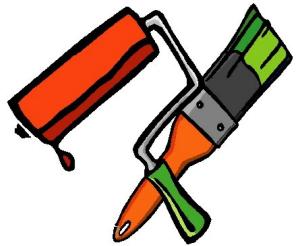
Your Sister in Christ,

Donna Baskin

OCTOBER'S IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday School for Youth and Adults:	Every Sunday at 9:15 AM
Worship:	Every Sunday at 10:30 AM
Children's Church:	Every Sunday at 10:45 AM
Prayer Group:	Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Bible Study:	Every Tuesday at 10:30 AM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal:	Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM
Spanish Class:	Every Saturday at 9:00 AM
PW Council:	Wednesday, Oct. 5 at 4:30 PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	October 9 following worship
Sunday Circle:	October 9 following lunch
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 1:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 1:30 PM
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, Oct. 17 at 11:45 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 9:30 AM
Christian Education Committee:	No meeting in October
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, October 19
Wednesday Night Supper:	October 19 at 6:00 PM
Church-Wide "Clean Out Day"	Saturday, Oct. 22 at 9:00 AM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, October 8 & 22 10:00 AM – Noon
Session Meeting:	Sunday, Oct. 23 at 11:30 AM

Notes from the Planning Committee



Our church will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2023. In anticipation of that, the Planning Committee, a subcommittee of Building & Grounds, has been diligently working with contractors to get bids and proposals on projects to update and refresh our spaces. Please be advised of the following:

- Painters will arrive on property Monday, October 24th, to begin painting Robbins Hall, the kitchen, and the church offices. This project is expected to last approximately three weeks.
- Our **Wednesday Night Supper will be held on Wednesday, October 19th**. This is a week earlier than usual because of Robbins Hall undergoing its makeover.

Looking for Volunteers!



After taking a break for a few years, we will once again be having our Christmas Tableau! Our Christmas Tableau will be held on December 22-24, from 7:00 PM—9:00 PM. Christmas Eve Service will follow at 10:30 PM on

December 24th with **no church service on Christmas morning**. Please sign up to be a part of our church's Christmas gift to our community.

Church-Wide "Clean Out" Day

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

As many of you know, we have a lot of "stuff" stored in every nook and cranny of our church. In anticipation of the renovations happening around our church, now is the time to get rid of the broken, unused, and/or unwanted items within our walls. Please make plans to put on your comfy "work clothes" and help make a difference in the future of our church. Lunch will be provided, so please join us as we move into the future with a decluttered and fresh church.

A Note From Your Christian
Education Committee

We ❤️ Our Teachers

Teacher Appreciation Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, October 9th. Let's shower our teachers with the love and appreciation they so richly deserve for their selfless service to the education of our congregation.



Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser

The Outreach & Mission Committee is supporting this fundraiser that benefits the Women's Pregnancy Center of Matagorda County. There are baby bottles located in the narthex to fill with change, cash, or checks. The fundraiser ends Sunday, October 16th.



Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 15th,
at 6:30 PM



What is "Blue Christmas" you may ask? It is a day during the Advent season that marks the longest night of the year. On this day, we honor people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief during the holiday season. Everyone is invited to attend.

OUR SESSION

Class of 2022:

Donna Baskin

Karin Hill

Doug Huebner

Class of 2023:

Jim Coe

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Do you like to sing along to the radio? Do you like to sing in the shower? Well, there is a perfect place just for you. The choir has a seat reserved with your name on it.

Come join the fun; festive holiday music starts soon!