

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414

Return Services Requested

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

<https://baycitytexasfirstpresbyterian-church.com>
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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

November 2022

A Word From Our Pastor.....

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice today and be glad in it. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

These verses call to mind the very deep need for us to be thankful and to show gratitude. The season of thanksgiving is upon us. We make plans. We prepare to visit and interact with family. We often look forward to eating too much, for it is Thanksgiving after all. How is it, that in our humanity, we need to have a calendar event to remind us to be thankful or to remember to be grateful? There are lots of lovely things we take for granted daily: good people, family, graceful trees, cool breezes, flowers, birds—indeed all the beauties of nature. We love them, are grateful for them, appreciate them, and, in the nicest way, we take them for granted. We expect them to always be there, to always be beautiful. God, divine love, is all. He is everywhere. He is closer and more dependable than the air we breathe. We take the air for granted; we know it is all around us—it is a natural thing. In the same manner, we can accept with reverence the omnipresence of God. It is not good to take a fellow human being for granted. It is especially not good to take God for granted. Many people are guilty of this. We fail to appreciate God as we should because we have become too familiar with Him, His blessings, and all the things He has done for us. We are so used to what He does for us, or the benefits we enjoy from Him, we assume they are our right. We feel we deserve them. We are so used to them; we behave as if they are normal things we **should** have. Sometimes, because this is how we treat fellow human beings, we extend this same treatment to God. Scientific research supports the health benefits of a grateful heart. Gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. It helps us feel more emotionally positive, helps us relish good experiences, helps us deal with adversity, helps us build strong relationships, and even improves our health. Gratitude opens our spiritual eyes. There's a beautiful cycle in giving God thanks: the more we thank Him, the more we see Him working in us, and around us. Gratitude helps us sense God's presence, His personal care, and His perfect timing. Gratitude, for the magnitude of God's undeserved kindness, draws us to Him and is something He asks us to be in all things. May we have a grateful heart, a grateful spirit, then we can find peace in life. The more grateful we are, the more like Christ we become, and the more satisfying life is.

Have a blessed holiday season starting with being thankful and grateful,
Pastor Charley and Chaplain JayE

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), Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, 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, Dr. Bob Kelly, Jeanine Kietzmann (Karin Hill's mother), Nancy Knapik, Doris Layton (Karen Trobl's sister), Ruth Leissner & Family, Sarah Leverett, Jim Matthes, Ed Miller, Felipe & Rachel Montalvo, Natalie Mullen, Martha Osina, Family of Courtney Rapier (friends of the Hill's), Zelda Regalado & Family, Virginia Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Kirby Savage & Family, Rev. Frank Seaman, Pastor Charley, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, Sam and Sara Steele, Karen Trobl, Sonja Varnell.

Our active-duty military personnel: Spencer Hill, Aryn Pena, Allison McGrath, and Dustin Needham.

All those who have suffered and been impacted by COVID and the hurricane in Florida.

Our local homeless community.

All students, teachers, and administrators for a safe, productive school year.

Spanish class and Grief Counseling at our church.

Our 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.



The Women's Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 9th, at 6:00 PM, at Joe's Italian Restaurant. A \$15-\$20 gift exchange is optional. The restaurant requires a head count, so please RSVP by December 5. You may sign-up to attend in the church office, or you can call the church office and Karin will sign you up.

November 2022 – Lectionary Readings

November 6 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 OR Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9;

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 OR Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98;

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 OR Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46;

Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;

Matthew 24:36-44

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

November 12 and November 26

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1: Knox Kubena

November 9: Crayden Dennard

November 17: Will Frazier

November 18: Alissya Krause

November 20: Marc Hill

November 21: Cliff Mullen

November 23: Linda Brown

November 29: Taylor Greenway

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 3: Gene and Pam Klepac

November 24: Marc and Karin Hill

November 27: Jerry and Teresa West

NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

November 6: Linda Brown

November 13: Ronnie Mullen

November 20: Melissa Guynes

NOVEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS CONTINUED

November 27: Doreen Bounds

NOVEMBER USHERS

November 6: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg Westmoreland

November 13: Ronnie Mullen, Jody Romine, Teresa West, Priscilla Obermeyer

November 20: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, Linda Brown

November 27: Nancy Knapik, Debbie and Crayden Dennard, Greg Westmoreland

NOVEMBER COMMUNION PREPARERS

November 20: Marie Hestand and Teresa West

NOVEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

November 20: Nancy Knapik, Crayden and Debbie Dennard, Greg Westmoreland

NOVEMBER KITCHEN CREW

Priscilla Obermeyer, Marie Hestand, Linda Brown



Special Second Sunday Lunch!

Let us gather together as a church family and give thanks to our Lord for His many blessings. Please bring your family's favorite, "must have" Thanksgiving side dish, **along with the recipe**, to our **Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner** during Second Sunday Lunch on November 13th. Two turkeys will be provided. Karin will compile the recipes into a Holiday "Must Have" Recipe Booklet that will be available in the narthex in December.



Order your Christmas poinsettias today! The deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 27th. You may order them in red, white, or pink for just \$15 each. Your poinsettias will beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 11th and you can bring them home with you after our Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the School Supply Drive. With your support, in January they will be able to help the campuses in our district who are "most in need" of school supplies. Y'all are the best!

THANK YOU

And the tradition continues....



Christmas 2001

Joseph: Marc Hill

Mary: Karin Hill

Baby Jesus: Spencer Hill



June 6, 2021

Marc, Karin, and grown-up baby Jesus, Spencer, the day before he began his enlistment in the United States Army. Spencer is currently stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas.



Did you know we now have a Fitness Club available at the church? It is free to use for all church members. All you need to do is sign a waiver, to protect the church, and then you will be given an access code to gain entry to the gym. Please remember to always sign in/out.



DON'T FORGET!

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6. With an extra hour of sleep, we look forward to seeing your bright, smiling faces in church.

Huge "Thank You" Shout-Outs

- Thank you Jody Romine for compiling the history of our Christmas Tableau!
- Thank you to all our "worker bees" for working so hard this month to declutter our beautiful building!



OUR SESSION

Class of 2022:

Donna Baskin

Karin Hill

Doug Huebner

Class of 2023:

Jim Coe

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Class of 2024:

Greg Westmoreland

"A Scrapbook: The Tableau Through the Decades" by Jody Romine

A tradition that started in 1950, continued until 2015, went on hiatus from 2016-2021, returns this Christmas!

As most of you know by now, we are going to revive our Christmas Tableau this year. The following is a brief history. It was started in 1950 by the 3M (Mr., Mrs., and Miss) Sunday School Class. Our preacher at that time was Jack Lancaster. There isn't much historical information available; however, The Tribune was on it! The newspaper articles and pictures are old and yellowed, but describe those early years.

The Presbyterian tableau quickly became an event that the community looked forward to every Christmas. If you ask anyone who has been in Bay City any length of time about the tableau, the thing you hear most is "Never missed it!" In 1953, The Tribune called it "one of the most impressive aspects of Christmas in Bay City."

Most everyone who participated through the years has fond memories. Luke Speckman says, "I remember helping Dad direct traffic when I was too young to participate; those smudge pots were always burning and smoking. I told people to dim their lights and waved them on with my flashlights. I felt real grown up! Sometimes it was so cold, I had my hands stuck in my pockets to keep warm." Luke's sister, Caressa, also participated and she continued the tableau tradition at their church in Pleasanton when they moved there many years ago. The Speckmans were a three-generation tableau family!

Renee Gloeckner Smith adds, "I remember when we had to change out our shifts, we had to do it quietly and with the least amount of distraction, so it didn't disrupt the scene. I also remember being so cold and soooo thankful for the hot cocoa after our shift. I would take my mug of cocoa outside, walk across the street, and stand and take in the tableau scene

in front of me. That is one of my most favorite memories—looking at what God did for us.

I also remember those life size camels; you needed a ladder to get up on them; they were so impressive! The cars drove by so slowly trying to take it all in; everyone seemed so respectful.

The Christmas Tableau was an important part of Christmas for me. Looking back, I can see that it helped me refocus on what Christmas is all about."

Jody Romine remembers "how quiet everything seemed. Outside, with all the people and cars going by, the Christmas music coming from the speakers was the only sound. I too remember the hot chocolate and refreshments after our shifts. The aroma of the hot chocolate filled Robbins Hall with such a welcoming and inviting atmosphere to come in from the cold! Even in Robbins Hall, the center of all the activity, it was fun but quiet at the same time. The cold and the quiet made it almost mystical."



This is how the church looked in 1950. Pay particular attention to the small ledge outside the middle window above the front door.

From the Music Stand....

We all know that music speaks to everyone in some manner. After all, it is a universal language. I can go anywhere in the world, even if I do not know the spoken language, and participate in the local music in some way. I can do this by singing (using the teaching method of Solfege (do, re, mi) or Kodaly (hand signs for the notes)), by playing the piano (even in a limited capacity), or by reading the notes of the music.

Certain songs remind us of different times in our life—happy or sad, uplifting or reflective. As a kid, the hymn "This Is My Father's World" is one I remember marching into the church house singing during summer's Vacation Bible School. There were 150 kids of all ages singing it together! Even after I had graduated to being a helper and teacher for VBS, this tradition continued.

Songs come to us when we need them most and they serve a purpose. When was the last time you woke up with a song going through your head? For me, I actually realize I am singing a song while I'm sleeping and then awaken still singing it. The song can be sacred or secular, from your past or something you recently heard. It resonates with you for a reason.

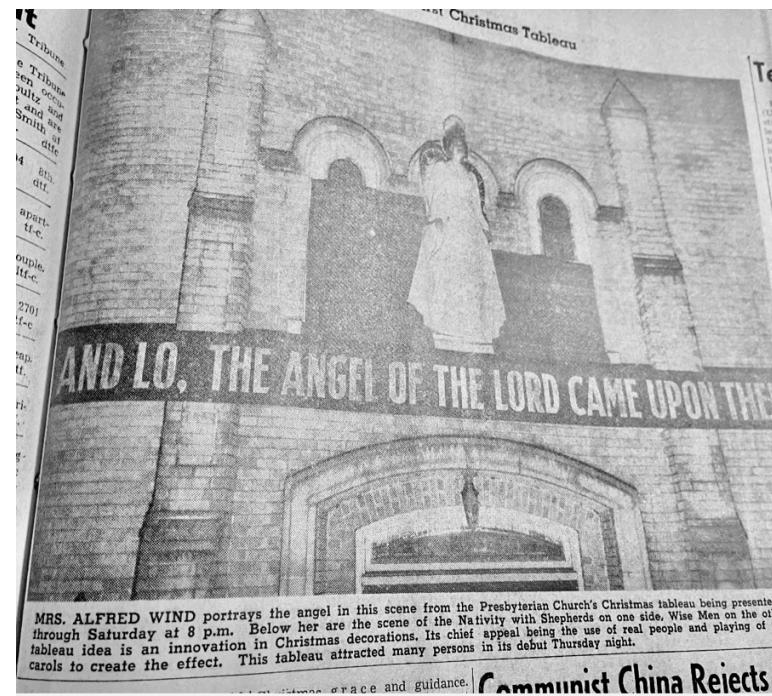
What songs speak to your heart? Which ones come to your mind more often than others? God does not hesitate to speak to us, to reach out to us continually, and He will use any method necessary to do so. We just need to listen and then sing that song with a glad heart.

Your Sister in Christ,
Donna Baskin

NOVEMBER'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
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 3:00 PM
PW Council:	Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 4:30 PM
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 1:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 1:30 PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	November 13 following worship
Sunday Circle:	November 13 following lunch
Congregational Care Committee:	Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 9:30 AM
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, Nov. 21 at 11:45 AM
Wednesday Night Supper:	No Supper in November
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, November 12 & 26 10:00 AM – Noon
"Hanging of the Greens":	Saturday, Nov. 26 at 9:00 AM
Poinsettia Order Deadline:	Sunday, November 27
Session Meeting:	No Meeting in November

In 1950, the Angel would stand in a half barrel on the ledge outside the second-floor window above the front door.



A quote from Prissy Obermeyer who was once an angel standing in that half barrel:

"First of all, the costume was long and flowing; it had wings and a halo. By the time you got all that on over all the warm clothes you owned to keep yourself warm, you were much larger than usual. The stairs back then were different than they are now. They were narrow and hard to navigate with your new size. Once you did make it upstairs, you had to climb out the window and step into a half barrel attached to the window and drape your angel robe over the front of the barrel and stand in the "angel pose" for an hour. For you "new" angels, the angel pose is hands out in front of you, palms facing up. Try standing still like that, for an hour!"

The camels arrived in the 1960's....



Camels for Bay City

"If we only had a camel," has been the wishful cry of the young people who present a live Christmas tableau at First Church Bay City each year. This year the Senior High Fellowship decided to take the matter—using papier-mâché medium—into their own hands. Shown fattening one of three camels prepared for this year's tableau are Bay City Senior Highs. They presented the tableau in three scenes: the shepherds with the Angel, the manger with Mary, Joseph, and the Babe, and wise men and camels in the distance.

Camels Wined Out In Dead Sea

They were created by the 1966 Senior High Fellowship Class

Top Left: Marsha Fettters, Pam Wilson (Klepac), Martha Salter.

Kneeling: Becky White, Nancy Wirth (Knapik), Barbara Baldridge, Lynn Austin.

Top Right: Caressa Speckman, Elizabeth O'Neal, Sylvia Shimek, unknown.

Special Church Service

Sunday, November 27th

We will once again be dressing our sanctuary for the Christmas season. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26th, we will partially decorate our church. Then, during this special worship service on the 27th, we will explain the significance of different Christmas items. Please make plans to join us for this informative, yet festive, church service.



Please sign up to be a part of our church's Christmas gift to our community.

Blue Christmas Service
Thursday, December 15th, at
6:00 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.