

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

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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

February 2023

A Word From Our Pastor...

And the first month of the year is gone, just that quick. Time really stands still for no one. As you read this article, we are aware that our brother in the faith, Jim Coe, is in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was an icon to so many in the community—he taught here for so many years, his longtime service in our church, bowling, Lions Club, and so many other things. Jim will certainly be missed by so many people. Please keep his family in your prayers.

In the light of teaching, I would like to give these verses to you to dwell upon and hopefully apply to your lives this month as we head into the season of Lent. Found in Proverbs 6: 20-23, they are: My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For this command is a lamp, this teaching is a light, and correction and instruction are the way to life.

Let us all be open to listening to the teaching of God's Word that we might learn, grow, and live in peace, together, as a family in Christ Jesus.

For you sport's fans, it is the hope at our home that the Chiefs win, though it will be a tough game. Let us start preparing for Lent with Ash Wednesday, Lenten lunches, a confirmation class, then Easter with all that is planned for the Passion Week. Look for some interesting things that will help you be engaged in reflection and the Easter season this year. God bless you all!

Committee Chairpersons for 2023

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

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Ann Bond, Joshua Campbell (cancer), Family of Justin Chamberland, Family of Jim Coe, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Davis, Crystal Dominguez, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Zeinab Ghais, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Paul Hanna, Nancy Knapik, Doris Layton (Karen Trobl's sister), Ruth Leissner, Sarah Leverett, Peggy Loader & Family, Greg Loring, Diane & Jim Matthes, Ed Miller, Natalie Mullen, Richie Patterson, Brittany & Zelda Regalado Virginia Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Pastor Charley & JayE Shurtz, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, James Trobl (oral surgery) and Karen Trobl.

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

All those who have suffered and been impacted by COVID.

Our local homeless community.

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

Spanish class at our church.

Our veterans and law enforcement.

Ukraine/Russian War and all those affected.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

February 2023 – Lectionary Readings

February 5 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) and Psalm 112:1-9 (10);
1 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 – Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 24:12-18 and Psalm 2 OR Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 and Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

OUR SESSION

<u>Class of 2023:</u>	<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>
Debbie Dennard	Greg Westmoreland	Donna Baskin
Carol Petersen		Marc Hill
		Doug Huebner

Summer Camp Information!

Camp Cho-Yeh is a premier Christian summer camp and retreat center located in Livingston, Texas (160 miles northeast of Bay City). Their mission is “to be a place where Jesus Christ transforms lives through meaningful relationships and outdoor adventures.” Their camp is available for young people entering sixth—eleventh grades. Their weekly sessions begin May 28 with the last session being offered the week of August 6. According to their website, www.cho-yeh.org, spots are already filling fast. The \$150 non-refundable registration fee is paid for by the church as long as the child attends. You can contact Karin Hill in the church office if you need additional information.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, from 6:00—7:00 PM. The class will meet for seven weeks in Robbins Hall, a light supper will be provided, and the young people will join the church on Easter Sunday, April 9th. If you would like to be included in this group of confirmands, please contact Pastor Charley and let him know you'd like to attend. What a glorious Easter it is sure to be!

Scholarship applications are available now in the church office. The deadline to apply is noon on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Fun Facts About Lent

- The word "Lent" is derived from the word "lencten" which means "spring."
- Have you ever noticed the Lenten season actually lasts 46 days? Why, you might ask?

Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, this year and last until Holy Saturday, which always occurs the day before Easter, on April 8th. Lent is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 9th. Sundays are not included in the count, hence Lent lasting 40 days, not 46.

- 40 days is a significant number in Jewish-Christian traditions.

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer and, for some, sacrifice. It marks the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring temptations from Satan. 40 days also represents the duration of the Great Flood in the book of Genesis, it is the amount of time Moses spent in the wilderness before receiving the Ten Commandments, and it is the number of days the Hebrews spent in the desert before reaching the Promised Land.

Lenten Lunches Schedule

February 22: First Presbyterian Church

March 1: First Methodist Church

March 8: First Presbyterian Church

March 15: First Methodist Church

March 22: First Presbyterian Church

March 29: First Methodist Church

April 5: First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY’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 during worship
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
Presbyterian Women’s Council:	Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 4:30 PM
Afternoon Women’s Circle:	Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 1:30 PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	February 12 following worship
Sunday Circle:	February 12 following lunch
Worship Committee:	No Meeting in February
Congregational Care Committee:	Wednesday, Feb. 15 at 9:30 AM
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, February 15
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, Feb. 20 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 3:00 PM
Wednesday Night Supper:	February 22 at 6:00 PM
Session:	Sunday, Feb. 26 at 11:30 AM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, February 11 & 25 10:00 AM – Noon

From the Music Stand..... continued.....

colonists liked better when Newton arrived in the Americas. This song of God’s saving grace has become a world-wide favorite for the way it speaks to so many changed hearts, especially in times of trial.

Another song, coming from an unexpected source, is one made popular by singer/songwriter Barry Manilow, though he did not compose the song. When approached by his manager to record it, he initially turned it down; he did not want the listeners to get the impression that he was being egotistical due to the lyrics:

I’ve been alive forever
And I wrote the very first song.
I put the words and the melodies together,
I am Music and I write the songs.
My home lies deep within you
And I’ve got my own place in your soul.
Now when I look out through your eyes

I’m young again, even though I’m very old.

Manilow’s manager told him to contact the composer for the back story. Upon speaking with Bruce Johnston of The Beach Boys, Manilow was told the “I” refers to the Creator of the Universe. After hearing this, Manilow realized how potent the lyrics were and sang them even more from the heart.

Music that moves us to dance, to weep, to be joyful or to heal our spirits will not speak to every individual, every time, or even in the same way consistently, but we need to be aware that it **does** communicate to someone. I want to encourage you to consider the reason some songs are sung in various settings and wonder who it might touch.

Your Sister in Christ,

Donna Baskin

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

February 11 & 25

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 14: Martha Osina

February 19: Chandler Hill

February 23: Greg Westmoreland

FEBRUARY KITCHEN CREW

Priscilla Obermeyer, Marie Hestand, Karen Tilley, Linda Brown

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

February 5: Linda Brown

February 12: Ronnie Mullen

February 19: Marc or Karin Hill

February 26: Melissa Guynes or Doreen Bounds

FEBRUARY USHERS

February 5: James and Doreen Bounds, Will and Melissa Guynes

February 12: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg
Westmoreland

February 19: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West,
Marc Hill

February 26: Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West,
Linda Brown

FEBRUARY COMMUNION PREPARERS

February 5: Linda Brown and Donna Baskin

February 19: Doreen Bounds and Melissa Guynes

FEBRUARY COMMUNION SERVERS

February 5: Ronnie Mullen, Teresa West, Linda Brown, Priscilla
Obermeyer

February 19: Nancy Knapik, Greg Westmoreland, Crayden and
Debbie Dennard

From the Music Stand.....

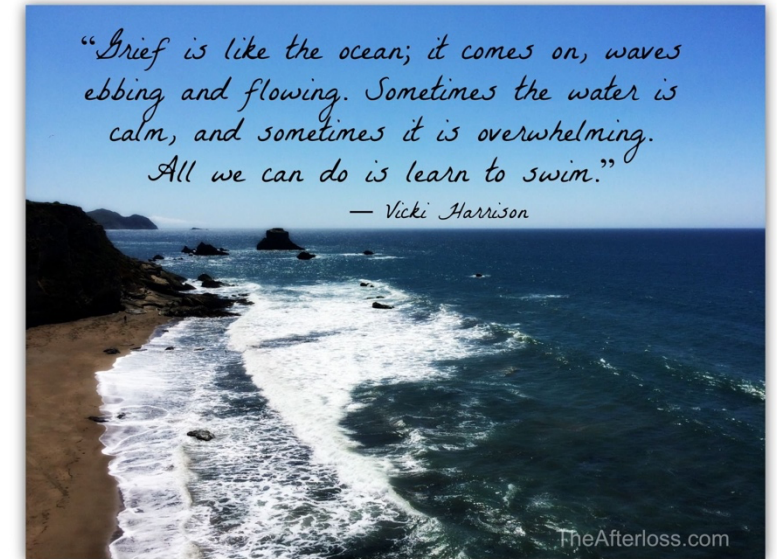
Have you ever considered what needs to occur to give birth to a song? What was the reason or the catalyst for its creation? This is not like any of the Taylor Swift songs where her inspiration came from her relationship, or not, with a boyfriend. We tend to either like or dislike a song because of how it makes **us** feel. We then try to project our impression of the song on to others. I want to offer you three different songs and how they came into being.

You are familiar with the hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul" by Horatio Spafford. He wrote the lyrics after the death of his children. Spafford was a prominent and successful Chicago attorney with many business properties. Just prior to the Great Chicago Fire, where he lost almost all his investment properties, he lost his only son. In an attempt to give his family a much-needed respite, he sent his wife and four remaining daughters to Europe. Before he could sail to join them, he received a telegram from his wife stating, "saved alone." The ship the family was sailing on had been wrecked and the mother was the only survivor of the family. Spafford sailed to join his wife and at the location of the shipwreck, he was moved to write the words to this beloved hymn. From Horatio Spafford's greatest time of trial and heartache came a song that testifies to the salvation he found in Jesus Christ; it carried him through the best and worst times of his life and has given many of us a musical venue through which we may also worship.

The words to the world-wide favorite song, "Amazing Grace," came into being when John Newton, a slave trader, was lashed to the steering wheel of his slave ship; he fought a raging storm for eleven hours and survived. While the waves washed many of the sailors overboard and several of the slaves were also drowned, Newton cried out for God to have mercy on him. From then on, Newton set aside March 21 as a day of reflection and prayer. Newton went on to become a prominent abolitionist against the slave trade. The tune, originally set to an English song, was changed to one that the

We will be offering our semi-annual grief counseling sessions on Thursday evenings starting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 5:30-7:00 PM in Robbins Hall. The four sessions will meet on March 9, March 16, March 23, and March 30. A light meal will be provided.

To register, or if you have any questions, please call the church office at (979)245-8327 or Pastor Charley at (417)496-6723.



Blue T-Shirt Day: Sunday, February 26

Please wear blue t-shirts to church on this day to mark the First Sunday in Lent.

Memory Makers Quilt Guild

There is a display of the 2022 quilts at the Matagorda County Museum until Saturday, March 11, 2023. Everyone is invited to see these beautiful pieces of art on Wednesdays—Saturdays from 1:00—5:00 PM. Donations are given to veterans every year.