

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414

Return Services Requested



THE PRESBYTERIAN PROCLAIMER

March 2023

A Word From Our Pastor...

Hello everyone!

We are into the Lenten season, and I will be sending out to you, through Karin, our wonderful secretary, things to ponder and discuss on a weekly basis. You should have started receiving them, possibly before you get this newsletter. Look for it each week and when you stop by the church, or even call the church, we can discuss the items that you read about. The first week will be "Dust" and the following weeks will be these subjects: "Bread," "The Cross," "Coins," "Oil," "Coats, Towels, and Thorns and Stones." All these topics are a part of Lent and Easter. We will explore them (I hope enough), to pull most of you into thinking of them and discussing them.

We are still asking for prayers for JayE and her eyesight. Of course, we will update you when we have anything new.

Think about this, a pot of water put on to boil. As it heats up, you have only three items to put in the pot—a carrot, an egg, and a coffee bean. After you boil the carrot, it changes and becomes soft. After you boil the egg, it solidifies and becomes hard. In life either one, or both, can be you. The troubles of life can make you weak and you lose your way, or it can make you hard and you become bitter, cold, and unloving. When we let Jesus in our being and follow the scriptures God has given us to have full, productive, loving, fulfilling, and forgiving lives, we become the coffee bean. The carrot and the egg changed in the hot water, **but the coffee bean changed the water.** Jesus wants us to be like Him, to be an agent for changing into the image of God. Just an analogy to ponder.

May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and His Spirit to lead you in all things, *Pastor Charley*

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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

Committee Chairpersons for 2023

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

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, Gary Blackshear (throat cancer), Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Joshua Campbell (cancer), Family of Justin Chamberland, Family of Jim Coe, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Davis, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Paul Hanna, Family of Taryn Harris, Marie Hestand, Family of Aaron Hill (Marc's cousin), Family of Chris Hodges (John's brother passed away suddenly); Nancy Knapik, Ruth Leissner (hospice), Sarah Leverett, Peggy Loader, Greg Loring, Rachel Maldonado, Frances McMahon, Ed Miller (heart attack), Natalie Mullen, Richie Patterson, Family of Maria Esther Pensada (Lorena's mother), Zelda Regalado, Virginia Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Pastor Charley & JayE Shurtz, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, James (leaky heart valve) & Karen Trobl, Danny Wilson (lung cancer).

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.

Turkey—Syria earthquake and all those affected.

East Palestine, Ohio train derailment.

United States political relations and safety.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

March 2023 – Lectionary Readings

March 5 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a AND Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 12 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 AND Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19 – 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 AND Psalm 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 26 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 AND Psalm 130;
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

OUR SESSION

Class of 2023:

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Charles Townsend

Class of 2024:

Greg Westmoreland

Class of 2025:

Donna Baskin

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 Wednesday, March 1st, 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.



**First Presbyterian Church, Bay City
Will be Celebrating It's 125th Anniversary Soon!!**

If you have contact information of former pastors or church members, please give them to Karin Hill in the church office, (979)245-8327, so they can be invited to attend our big celebration.



Our worship services are being held in Robbins Hall at 10:30 AM every Sunday morning until the renovations to our sanctuary are completed.

Lenten Lunches Schedule

- 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

MARCH'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 6:00 PM
Spanish Class:	Every Saturday at 9:00 AM
Presbyterian Women's Council:	Wednesday, March 1 at 4:30 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, March 8 at 1:30 PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	March 12 following worship
Sunday Circle:	March 12 following lunch
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, March 14 at 1:00 PM
Congregational Care Committee:	Wednesday, March 15 at 9:30 AM
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, March 15
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, March 20 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, March 21 at 11:30 AM
Wednesday Night Supper:	March 22 at 6:00 PM
Session:	No meeting this month
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, March 11 & 25 10:00 AM – Noon

A Note from Our Building & Grounds Committee

As all of you know, the church has been undergoing some updating and renovations over the last few months. In order to get the most out of our hard work, we are asking that no tape, labels, etc. be posted on the new paint or other surfaces without permission from the committee. Sometimes when labels, tape, etc. are removed, they can remove the finish off the item, and we would like to prevent that from happening. Also, for safety's sake, please don't move major pieces of furniture without first talking to the committee. Change is not always easy for us, but a lot of planning and collaboration has gone into making FPC, Bay City the best it can be. We appreciate your support!



From the Music Stand..... (continued)

you. These songs are wonderful yet will not always speak to the person beside you in the same manner.

When selecting songs for worship and attempting to meet the emotional and spiritual needs of each person in our congregation, I won't always hit the mark for everyone, yet hope I will be successful with some.

Your Sister in Christ,
Donna Baskin

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

March 11 & 25

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1: Virginia Rhymes

March 4: Denise Frazier

Haley Mullen

Sherman Mullen

March 7: Jim Matthes

March 10: Carolyn Barclay

March 15: Jerry West

March 20: Hubert Boeker

MARCH KITCHEN CREW

Doreen Bounds, Melissa Guynes, Marie Hestand, Debbie Dennard

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

March 5: Sandy Boyer

March 12: Diane Matthes

March 19: Natalie Mullen

MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS CONTINUED

March 26: Ben Flores

MARCH USHERS

March 5: Doug Huebner, Greg Westmoreland, Marc or Karin Hill, Nancy Knapik

March 12: Ben Flores, Brittany Regalado, Melissa Guynes, Ronnie Mullen

March 19: Doreen Bounds, Jim Bounds, Jim Matthes, Zeinab Ghais

March 26: Linda Brown, Karen Tilley, Natalie Mullen, Will Guynes



USHER TRAINING: SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP. PLEASE ATTEND ON THE DATE THAT IS MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

MARCH COMMUNION PREPARERS

March 5: Marie Hestand and Linda Brown

MARCH COMMUNION SERVERS

March 5: Doug Huebner, Greg Westmoreland, Marc or Karin Hill, Nancy Knapik

From the Music Stand.....

Let's play a game! This is not hard. I will give you several **topic** words and will then ask you which song comes to mind. Love, Joy, Peace, Soldier, Praise, and Home. Were you able to recall a song name or some lyric phrases that would match the topic?

This is what the pastor and I strive to do for each service; we seek to connect the music with the message. All the hymns and choruses in hymnals strive to teach, recite scriptures, and to provide a message through the song. Church ministers like to use the songs to set the tone, to help prepare the listeners' hearts for the message God has inspired them to present.

I do understand that everyone has a style they enjoy listening or worshipping to, but since a congregation is made up of many different people, with many different ideas, the attempt to meet as many various preferences as possible can be daunting. In doing some research, I found some scriptures to help me support my thinking (and no, I am not taking them out of context). Matthew 11:17 says "we have been given songs for weddings yet there was no rejoicing with dance; we played funeral songs of sadness and still there was no mourning." There is basically no pleasing everybody, which means we strive for a happy safe zone during our worship service.

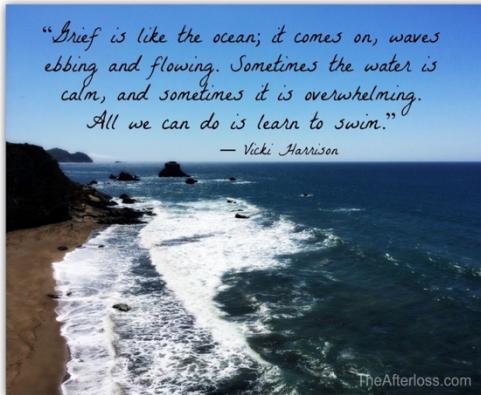
Friends, I say that all songs are for our worship service. They may not be to everyone's preference, but they do serve a purpose.

With the above listed songs, these are what immediately come to my mind: Love—"Love Lifted Me;" Joy—"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, (Down in My Heart;" Peace—"I've Got Peace Like a River;" Soldier—"I'm in the Lord's Army;" Praise—"Praise Him, Praise Him;" Home—"Poor Wayfaring Stranger."

These songs speak to me for various reasons and, consequently, they are forever in my heart and mind. I'm sure there are songs you grew up with, or songs that have made a home in your heart for reasons that are special to

Grief Counseling

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.



Easter Lilies Are On Sale for \$12 Each!

Order forms are available in the bulletin and in the church office. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 19, 2023.



We will observe seven stations of the cross during Holy Week, April 2-9, at various locations around the church. It is a self-guided tour prepared by our Session. Please watch for more information.



Seder Meal

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023
6:00 PM in Robbins Hall

Please sign up in the church office no later than Sunday, April 2, 2023. Friends and family are welcome to attend.