

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

April 2023

A Word From Our Pastor...

"April showers bring May flowers" is a saying that works only in certain areas and only for certain plants. However, during the end of Lent/Easter season, the only stability that humanity can find, the only solid rock, sure foundation, is found only in Jesus Christ. The thief on the cross saw the Light of Christ. He never attended church, never had a salvation, Roman road discussion, never had a Christian theological debate, surely never graced a church's doorway, yet the Solid Rock told him "...today you will be with me in Paradise." The Apostle Paul was a trained theologian, a Pharisee, a politician, a dyed in the wool Jewish leader, and yet he met Jesus on the Damascus trail, and the Solid Rock became his very life. Proverbs 10 teaches, in part, that if we hide hatred in our hearts, we are fools and if we speak ill of those around us to stir strife as if it was a pleasure, we are glad to wallow in it. When we forget Lent and why we celebrate it, we turn away from the suffering of the Lord who willingly died for us. In doing so, we become foolish, arrogant, and often backbiting. Let us not be like an April shower that comes to bring a smile but is very quickly gone to be replaced by the drying, deadly winds of craftiness, deceit, and tongue twisting. Rather, let us stand upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, who is our very Water of Life that can only be the answer to the thirsting of our souls. Easter is here! What will you do with that celebration this year? May it become a time of refreshing of the Holy Spirit within you. May you yield your life to Christ once again, so that the sure foundation of the Living Lord will be yours in greater measure.

Thank you to everyone who prayed for our son, Zachariah, and his wife Britney in the struggles they are having in this life. I have been touched by those who have asked and have offered comfort to our family. Your encouragement is a testimony of your faith in our Lord and Savior. May Jesus watch over you all. Amen, *Pastor Charley*

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.....

Peggy Badders, Gary Blackshear (inoperable throat cancer), Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Joshua Campbell (cancer), Tommy Countz, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Bonnie Davis, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Paul Hanna, Family of Taryn Harris, Marie & Zachary Hestand, Alecia James (arm repair), Nancy Knapik, Ruth Leissner (hospice), Sarah Leverett, Peggy Loader, Greg Loring, Rachel Maldonado, Frances McMahon, Ed Miller (heart attack), Natalie Mullen, Chuck Reddix, Zelda Regalado, Virginia Rhymes, Family of Jeanie Rowe, Nancy Ryman (doing better with pacemaker), Pastor Charley & JayE Shurtz, Britney, Zac, and Kade Shurtz, Family of Delbert Silva, 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.

Continued blessing of Majors Farms.

Our veterans and law enforcement.

All those affected by shooting at Covenant Presbyterian School.

Ukraine/Russian War and all those affected.

Turkey—Syria earthquake and all those affected.

United States political relations and safety.

Economic security for God's people.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

April 2023 – Lectionary Readings

April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 AND Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a AND Psalm 31:9-16; Philemon 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 OR Matthew 27:11-54

April 9 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 OR Jeremiah 31:1-6 AND Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 OR Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10; Isaiah 25:6-9 AND Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

April 16 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 AND Psalm 16 OR Exodus 15:1-11 AND Psalm 111; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 AND Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 OR Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 34:1-10; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 AND Psalm 23 OR Ezekiel 34:7-15 AND Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

OUR SESSION

Class of 2023:

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Charles Townsend

Class of 2024:

Greg Westmoreland

Douglas Huebner

Class of 2025:

Donna Baskin

Marc Hill

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.

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

SPECIAL GUEST

Help Inc. will be our special guests during our Wednesday Night Supper on April 26th. They provide companion care and are a healthcare resource in Bay City. Let's give them a warm welcome and hear what they have to share with us.

Sunday Circle will meet on the FIRST Sunday of April and May immediately following the church service. Please join us; a meal will be provided.



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

If you have contact information for 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.

Lenten Lunches Schedule

April 5: First Presbyterian Church at Noon



**OUR CHOIR WILL
PRESENT ITS EASTER
CANTATA ON PALM
SUNDAY, APRIL 2!**

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days.

APRIL'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
Sunday Circle:	Sunday, April 2 at 11:30 AM
Presbyterian Women's Council:	Wednesday, April 5 at 4:30 PM
Seder Meal:	Thursday, April 6 at 6:00PM
Second Sunday Lunch:	No lunch this month
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, April 11 at 1:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, April 12 at 1:30 PM
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, April 17 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, April 18 at 11:30 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	Wednesday, April 19 at 9:30 AM
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, April 19
Session:	Sunday, April 23 at 11:30 AM
Wednesday Night Supper:	April 26 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, April 8 & 22 10:00 AM – Noon

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

I would rather be an ignitor for my Savior than a firefighter. I would rather be one who starts that flicker of excitement for our Lord and has the courage to show it, to let others see it in my face and actions, than one whose words and actions tamp down the flicker of a growing fire for Christ.

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!"



Easter Sunday!

In addition to gathering together to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, we will be welcoming four families and four confirmands into our church family on this joyous day.

Come share the love!

Why, you might ask, are eggs associated with Easter?



Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection—the hard shell represents the sealed tomb and the cracking of the egg represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Early Christians abstained from eating eggs during Lent, so they were a welcome treat on Easter Sunday. Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. Early Christian missionaries dyed the eggs different colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. They used yellow to represent the resurrection, blue to represent love, and red to represent the blood of Christ shed on the cross.

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

April 8 & April 22

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

April 16: Cliff and Norma Mullen

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 4: Melissa Guynes

April 6: Meredith Adams

April 7: Blayn Adams

Debbie Dennard

April 8: Mia Mullen

April 9: Tommy Osina

April 17: Natalie Mullen

April 23: Lurinda Barnwell

April 28: Steve Sliva

APRIL KITCHEN CREW

Teresa West, Linda Brown, Marie Hestand, Priscilla Obermeyer

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

April 2: Doreen Bounds

April 9: Bella Van Druten

April 16: Cody Longoria

April 23: Charles Townsend

April 30: Ronnie Mullen

APRIL USHERS

April 2: **Priscilla Obermeyer**, Nancy Knapik, Teresa West, Zeinab Ghais

April 9: **Debbie Dennard**, Crayden Dennard/Liam Van Druten, Linda Brown/Isla Regalado, Sandy Boyer

April 16: **Jim Bounds**, George Loader, Natalie and Ronnie Mullen

April 23: **Doreen Bounds**, Brittany Regalado, Greg Westmoreland, Melissa Guynes

April 30: **Will Guynes**, Ben Flores, Charlie Boeker, Karen Tilley

The head usher (in bold) only means that person, for the day, is responsible for the lineup of the ushers and will be the primary greeter. The head usher will also assign someone to get the visitor cards to our visitors.



USHER TRAINING: SUNDAY, APRIL 2, AND SUNDAY, APRIL 16 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP. PLEASE ATTEND ON THE DATE THAT IS MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

APRIL COMMUNION PREPARERS

April 9: Don and Sandy Boyer

APRIL COMMUNION SERVERS

April 9: **Debbie Dennard**, Crayden Dennard, Linda Brown, Sandy Boyer

LIGHT BEARERS

April 2: Melissa Guynes

April 9: Jared Boyer

April 16: Eaquer Rodriguez

April 23: Reghan Townsend

April 30: Nadia Flores

From the Music Stand.....

I have a question for you... What does it mean to be on fire? Has anyone described you, or you said of others, they are "on fire"? Why did you use that term? What did you see in them to bring this image to mind?

Is there a song you exercise or walk to that helps you to keep up the pace? A music selection that ignites or adds "pep to your step"? What about a hymn or sacred song that lifts your spirit, no matter what? The youth song, "Do Lord," "Do Lord, oh, do Lord, oh, do remember me" is a simple song that is a quick fix for me along with "Jesus Loves Me."

In the same vein, are you a firefighter? Are you someone that sees a spark or small flame and your first thought is to put it out? The children's song, "This Little Light of Mine," says *"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine....Don't let Satan blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine."* This song is instructing our children to stand fast and be strong against those who will knock them down for following Christ.

Alicia Keys burst on the soul and pop music scene with the song "This Girl is on Fire." The lyrics say, "Looks like a girl, but she's a flame So bright, she can burn your eyes" "She got both feet on the ground And she's burning it down." This is someone doing what they believe in and is not going to let others put out their fire, their drive to do what they think is right.

In our worship, should we not have the desire to be "on fire" for the Lord? Should we not be excited about having others join us in our zeal for sharing our Lord with others? Church is a place where we can be excited about what the Lord has done for us. Now I do know that many of you feel we should be solemn in our worship, but false piety is not a way to worship that will get others to want what you have.

Ever been to a ball game where your team is winning and everyone is quietly cheering their team on to victory? This is not reality. Everyone is hyped up and sharing their joyous time. We should be the same in our worship and in our choral praise to our Heavenly Father.



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.

Seder Meal

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

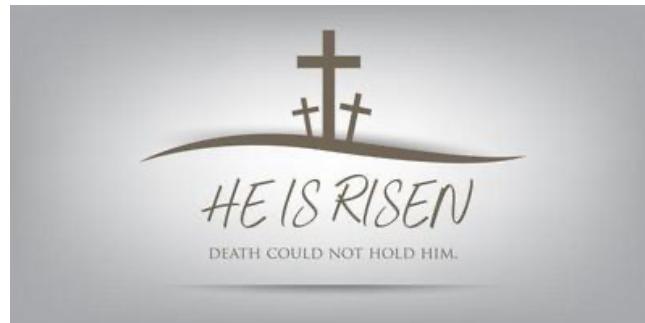
6:00 PM in Robbins Hall

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

Easter Sunday!

Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM,
First Methodist Church

Pancake breakfast immediately following sunrise service in Robbins Hall.



Easter Egg Hunt for all children immediately following worship on the church playground.