

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](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbaycity)  
E-mail: [fpcbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcbc@sbcglobal.net)  
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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

May 2023

## A Word From Our Pastor...

Some have said, "Spring has sprung all over." I believe this to be true in nature. However, we of the human species are often not so ready for the changes that come, even while knowing they must come. Mark Twain had a lot to say about nature and one of them was "Change is the handmaiden nature requires to do her miracles with." What is a more beautiful way to see that God is always moving, always creating, than to see the changes in nature as they take place? We could learn a lot from that simple statement. How much do we like flowers when they bloom, or certain times of the year when they come, or various temperatures at various times, rain or not? Yet we find it hard to apply this to our lives. Every day we change a bit more. Young folks can't wait to be 10, 13, 16, 21; older folks want to put the brakes on time but have learned it waits for no one. Still, we fight change. Now change for the sake of changing may not be a good idea but trying to fight change is a waste of time. We should evaluate change and take that which is good and shun away from change that is bad as much as we can. Ignoring change allows change to be directed by outside influences we may not like, but we choose, too often, to remain inactive when we should be proactive. We dig in our heels, try to stop change, but it only creates a hard time for ourselves. Mark Twain also said this, "If you hold a cat by the tail, you learn things you cannot learn any other way." As people of the family of God, we should be active in, and appreciative of, the changes God brings. Reach out to that new person attending church. Learn to know them, thus love them. Be an active part of the church and help affect positive change in the physical building, in worship, in prayer; be an agent of change found in Christ. If not, we find the church goes into decline and is disruptive, much like the proverbial cat by the tail. It is so much easier and rewarding to be active in change than waiting until change is biting and scratching you to pieces  
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## 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

## **May 2023 – Lectionary Readings**

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Peggy Badders, Doreen Bounds, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Joshua Campbell (cancer), Lorena Campos, Tommy Countz, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Family of Bonnie Davis, Beverly Deborde, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Adel Ghais & Family, Paul Hanna, Family of Taryn Harris, Mike Hatton, Marie Hestand, Jason James, Ruth Leissner (hospice), Sarah Leverett, Peggy Loader, Greg Loring, Rachel Maldonado, Frances McMahon, Ed Miller, Natalie Mullen, Virginia Rhymes, Nancy Ryman, Rev. Frank Seaman, David Sellwood, Family of Delbert Silva, Percilla Thompson, Karen Trobl, Danny Wilson (lung cancer).

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

Our local homeless community.

Our schools.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Economic security for God's people.

### **May 7 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60 AND Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 OR Proverbs 4:10-18 AND Psalm 119:9-32;

1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

### **May 14 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31 AND Psalm 66:8-20 OR Ezekiel 34:1-7a AND Psalm 115;

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

### **May 21 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14 AND Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 OR Isaiah 45:1-7 AND Psalm 21:1-7;

1 Peter 4:12-14 AND 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

### **May 28 – Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 OR Numbers 11:24-30 AND Psalm 104:24-35b;

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 OR Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 OR John 7:37-39

## **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 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-ye.org](http://www.cho-ye.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.

Sunday Circle will meet on the FIRST Sunday of May, May 7, immediately following worship. Please join us; a meal will be provided.



There will be no Second Sunday Lunch in May. Enjoy this day with the special women in your life.

**Our annual  
Easter Egg  
Hunt was a  
huge success!**



## Spotlight on New Members

Ten wonderful people joined our church in April. They are George and Peggy Loader, Lorena Campos, Ben Flores, Dave and Sue Zan Mayer, Liam and Bella Van Druten, Isla Regalado, and Jared Boyer. Over the next two months, we will learn some fun facts about each of them. Here are the first five...

Ben is married to Ana and they have a daughter named Nadia. His favorite color is yellow. His favorite food is bbq. His favorite scripture is Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—"

Bella is a freshman at Van Vleck High School. Her favorite color is gray. Her favorite food is steak. Her favorite scripture is Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Liam is in sixth grade at Van Vleck Junior High. His favorite color is blue. His favorite food is steak. His favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Isla is in sixth grade at Bay City Junior High. Her favorite color is purple. Her favorite food is Pho. Her favorite scripture is Ephesians 4:25-26, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 'In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry."

Jared is in sixth grade at Tidehaven Junior High. His favorite color is red. His favorite food is pizza. His favorite scripture is Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

## **MAY'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, May 3 at 4:30 PM
Sunday Circle:	Sunday, May 7 at 11:30 AM
Second Sunday Lunch:	No lunch this month
Worship Committee:	No meeting this month
Afternoon Women's Circle:	Wednesday, May 10 at 1:30 PM
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, May 15 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, May 16 at 11:30 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	Wednesday, May 17 at 9:30 AM
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, May 17
Session:	No meeting this month
Wednesday Night Supper:	May 24 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, May 13 & 27 10:00 AM – Noon



**First Presbyterian Church, Bay City**

**Will be Celebrating It's 125<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Vacation Bible School is Coming!**

Theme, dates, and time will be announced soon. Keep watch for updates!

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

pain in my body until the performance is over. I become lost in the music, be it singing or directing singers. When the performance is over, yes, I admit to crashing. On the drive home, I'm often still singing and allowing my brain to calm down from the over stimulation.

By singing music of your choice, you are in control of how your body will react. Praise songs can do a fine job of uplifting and getting you ready for the upcoming challenges of the day. While singing or listening to others sing long, melodious songs, your body and mind are helped to slow down from the multitude of things we are involved in each day. A suggestion is to remember Proverbs 17:22, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." *Happy singing, Donna*

**DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES**

May 13 & 27

**MAY KITCHEN CREW**

Priscilla Obermeyer, Rebecca Huebner, Jody Romine, Karen Tilley

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

May 18: Trevor Frazier

Morgan Greenway

May 19: Jared Boyer

JayE Shurtz

May 29: Clyde Workman

**MAY USHERS**

May 7: Teresa West (chair), Doug Huebner, Sandy Boyer, George Loader

May 14: Doreen Bounds (chair), Jim Bounds, Melissa and Will Guynes

May 21: Ben Flores (chair), Natalie Mullen, Brittany Regalado, Dave Mayer

May 28: Ronnie Mullen (chair), Nancy Knapik, Priscilla Obermeyer, Linda Brown

**MAY SERMON TITLES**

May 7: "Killing a Saint"

May 14: "How Religious Are You?"

May 21: "Something Strange"

May 28: "Are You Willing to Be Burned?"

**MAY COMMUNION PREPARERS**

May 28: Doreen Bounds and Melissa Guynes

**MAY COMMUNION SERVERS**

May 28: Ronnie Mullen (chair), Nancy Knapik, Priscilla Obermeyer, Linda Brown

**MAY WORSHIP LEADERS**

May 7: Linda Brown

May 14: Karen Tilley

May 21: Diane Matthes

May 28: Zeinab Ghais

**LIGHT BEARERS**

May 7: Veda Regalado

May 14: Teresa West

May 21: Isla Regalado

May 28: Violet Loader

## From the Music Stand.....

Friends, do you find yourself at the point of "Wow, I'm just tired! I slept well and almost through the night, but I'm waking up tired before the day even begins!" It may not be all the time, but I'm sure it does happen from time to time. How do you get a little more motivated? A little more pep in your step? Oh, you might say something like "I just need another cup of coffee," or "Taking a little run will get me going," or maybe even "Doing some chores will help." Have you tried singing a song? Not the uninspired Volga Boat song, "da dee dahhh dahhh, de da dee dahhh dahhh. Da dee dadada dahhh, da dee dahhh dahhh," but maybe something from your youth or early adult time like "Do Lord, oh do Lord, oh, do remember me" or even "Kum Ba Yah, My Lord."

Singing has been proven to release "happy chemicals" called endorphins, serotonin, and dopamine. These chemicals boost your mood and help you to feel happier. I'm not saying that it must be a fabulous sound, but this simple act can help your day along. The scriptures tell us to make a joyful noise before the Lord. Between the amount of oxygen you take in, and the energy released to just create these sounds, your spirit is uplifted and soon motivation follows. The amount of oxygen it takes to sing, even softly, aids in lung function and oxygenates the brain. An added bonus is the effect it has on memory. The act of singing the same song repeatedly helps with your ability to remain focused while multitasking. This brain engagement helps with the symptoms of dementia; sparking memories is also a benefit of singing.

Studies have shown that another benefit from singing is that it helps you to not focus on those areas of our body that may hurt. When your mind is engaged elsewhere, pain seems to diminish. An example for me is my back and shoulders are where I carry my tension. When I have had a long time of preparation for a program, my neck and shoulders become as tight as the proverbial drum. However, when I get "into the zone," I am not aware of any

## A Word From Our Pastor... (continued)

before you do something for the kingdom of our Lord. May we be united in the cause of Christ; a loving family seeking to change our community for our Lord and Savior. Thought for the month is James 5:16, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." God be with each one of you, *Pastor Charley*



Wednesday Night Suppers in June, July, and August will also be Game Nights. Bring your favorite game(s) along with your covered dish on June 28, July 26, and August 23. Let's fellowship and share some laughs as we escape the summer heat!



Do you see something around the church that needs fixing or attention? Please fill out a Job—Maintenance Request form in the office. The Building & Grounds Committee will make sure it's addressed as soon as possible. Thank you!



During the summer months, we are wanting to spotlight our members favorite hymns and praise songs. Please let Donna know your favorites, so she can get them worked into the music portion of our services.

