

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

July 2023

A Word From Our Pastor...

There are four verses in Galatians Chapter 6: 6-10 I would like for you to consider this month. They are: **The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches the word. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let's do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.** We have entered hurricane season and our long, hot summertime. We will often get tired of the heat, afraid of the potential or actual storms that may come, and not act at times as the people of Christ we should claim to be at all times. In that light, may I encourage you all with these scriptures today and every day. First, let us remember we should not get ourselves in the place of needing to ask "Are we mocking God? Is my life in tune with what God wants of me? Am I taking in enough of the Word, spending enough time with fellow believers, and letting Christ be my all in all?" We are in a battle, a struggle to walk in our faith in Christ, and we must stay the course and not grow weary of doing that which is good. This includes attending church. It is often said if one misses church, then it becomes easier to miss church; this in turn makes us weak. Let us endeavor to lift up one another, love one another, speak well of one other, and help one another. In these things we will not grow weary. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, may the grace of the Lord be with you all, and may your strength and comfort come from spending time with Jesus Christ and God's people. In this way, we remain free in Christ, regardless of life's situations. 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, Donna Baskin's birth mother, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, KonGu Chong (JayE's nephew), Tommy Countz, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Ashley Eagan, Steve Evans, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Session, Adel Ghais & Family, Family of Chin Ham (JayE's brother-in-law), Marie Hestand, Jason James, Sandra Kimball, Melodie Kacal, Ruth Leissner (hospice), George Loader's Family (his mother passed away), Greg Loring, Betty Jo Lowry (knee replacement), Lacey Lowry (colon cancer), Rachel Montaldo, Frances McMahon, Ed Miller, Nancy Ryman, Carolyn Salazar, Rev. Frank Seaman, David Selwood (dialysis), Britney Shurtz & Family, Kade Shurtz, Percilla Thompson, Karen Trobl, Katy Wendtland, 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.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Economic security for God's people.

Church Family,

We have discovered a need within our family. As a result, we are asking you to enter into a time of sacrificial giving. We are setting the month of July aside for this extra offering.

This special offering is over and beyond your normal offerings to the church. This type of giving is something that needs to be bathed in prayer. The goal is not to directly benefit the giver, though in most cases the giver receives more (Continued on page 10)



July 2023 – Lectionary Readings

July 2 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 AND Psalm 13 OR Jeremiah 28:5-9 AND Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 AND Psalm 45:10-17 OR Song of Songs 2:8-13; Zechariah 9:9-12 AND Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

July 16 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 AND Psalm 119:105-112 OR Isaiah 55:10-13 AND Psalm 65: (1-8) 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a AND Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 OR Isaiah 44:6-8 AND Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 AND Psalm 105:1-11, 45b OR Psalm 128 OR 1 Kings 3:5-12 AND Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

Our choir has earned some much needed rest
in July and August!

CHOIR WILL NOT MEET:

July 5—August 6

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, August 9, at
6:00 PM.



Sacrificial Giving (continued)

than they gave, but to give for a specific purpose, for a designated time. Sacrificial giving is giving for the love of another. This is a tangible act of worship and devotion to God. It is giving beyond your means (sacrifice) for an immediate need that will ultimately bring joy because it is pointed to the Kingdom.

Microtia is a birth defect which affects the ear. Depending on the severity, or lack of the external ear growth, it can affect the hearing of a child. In turn, this affects the child's speech and, at times, his/her ability to learn because he/she does not hear as others do.

As many of you know, Cody Longoria suffers from this condition. At this time, we still do not have the exact amount that will be required for a prosthetic ear for Cody. It could cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$28,000, depending on what is required.

Consider all the ways the Father has blessed you. Spend time in family discussion and prayer and allow the spirit of God to show you how you can give sacrificially. Remember to do all things in prayer.

A Message from Our Presbyterian Women

We need a few volunteers to assist on three of our committees.



Historian: This position entails taking pictures of our activities and events, collecting any newspaper articles that have been written about us, and putting a photo album together.

Ecumenical Missions: This position orders and maintains the envelopes for Blanket Sunday, Thank Offering, and Birthday Offering.

Personal Faith & Family Life: This position organizes meals for families of church members that pass away and prepares bereavement meals.

Presbyterian Women's Council meets September—May on the first Wednesday of the month. Please consider helping the ladies with their work. If you have any questions, please contact Priscilla Obermeyer, Teresa West, or Doreen Bounds for more information.



First Presbyterian Church, Bay City
will be celebrating its 125th anniversary during worship on
Sunday, October 8, 2023!

On October 8 we will celebrate our Second Sunday Lunch, but there is no need to bring any food on this day. Light refreshments will be provided. This will be a momentous day as we reflect on our past and look towards our future. Please join us!

JULY'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:	NO CHOIR JULY 5—AUGUST 6
Spanish Class:	Every Saturday at 9:00 AM
Presbyterian Women's Council:	No meeting this month
Sunday Circle:	No meeting this month
Second Sunday Lunch:	July 9 at 11:30 AM
Vacation Bible School:	July 11—13, 6:00—8:00 PM
Worship Committee:	Tuesday, July 11 at 1:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	No meeting this month
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, July 17 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, July 18 at 11:30 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	No meeting this month
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, July 19
Session:	No meeting this month
Wednesday Night Supper/Game Night:	July 26 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, July 8 & 22 10:00 AM – Noon

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

Praise joyfully recounts everything that God has done and shows him gratitude for it. Praise usually goes along with thanksgiving—recognizing God for all the mighty and good works He has done in our lives. Praise is a universal thing and can be applied to anybody. It doesn't require much from us other than the acknowledgement of the righteous acts of God. In the Bible, praise is usually presented as highly spirited, joyful, and uninhibited. God asks all creation to praise him.

Worship, on the other hand, goes deeper than praise. It is something that comes from the spirit. It is often said that it is a state of the heart. In the Bible, Jesus spoke about worship in John 4:23, “But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.”

Worship for Christians goes beyond singing. Songs are just tools for worshipping. Praise stems from recognizing the good acts of God, but worship is not a function of the acts of God. Worship comes from the core of who the worshipper is and what God means to him/her.

In true worship, a Christian is required to surrender himself/herself totally to God and adore Him not just for what He has done but for who He is. Real and true worship is insightful and reflective. Worship is a lifestyle; it is not limited to when people raise their hands to sing to God in church. Praise comes from a heart of worship.

Psalm 95:1-6 states, “Come, let us sing to the Lord. Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. For the Lord is the great God, a great King above all gods. He holds in his hand the depths of the earth, and the mightiest mountains. The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, also. Come, let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”

I challenge you to prepare your hearts and minds to be ready to both praise and worship in our services.

Your Sister in Christ, Donna Baskin

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

July 8 & 22

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 4: Amanda Hill

Eaquer Rodriquez

July 12: Doreen Bounds

Ruth Leissner

July 13: Diane Westmoreland

July 14: Karen Trobl

July 16: Zeinab Ghais

July 20: Spencer Hill

July 23: Priscilla Obermeyer

July 24: Lorena Campos

July 26: Karen Tilley

July 31: Sandy Boyer

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 12: William and Melissa Guynes

JULY SERMON TITLES

July 2: "Here I Am"

July 23: "The Mind"

July 9: "The Lord is..."

July 30: "Righteous vs. Weeds"

July 16: "My Feet"

JULY LAY LEADERS

July 2: Sandy Boyer

July 9: Brittany Regalado

July 16: Ben Flores

July 23: Marc or Karin Hill

July 30: Doreen Bounds

JULY LIGHT BEARERS

July 2: Jared Boyer

July 9: Veda Regalado

July 16: Nadia Flores

July 23: Violet Loader

July 30: Nadia Flores

JULY KITCHEN CREW

Linda Brown, Marie Hestand, Teresa West, Debbie Dennard

JULY USHERS

July 2: **Jim Bounds**, Linda Brown, Nancy Knapik, Teresa West

July 9: **Ronnie Mullen**, Liam Van Druten, Bella Van Druten, Natalie Mullen

July 16: **Will Guynes**, Dave Mayer, Charlie Boeker, George Loader

July 23: **Greg Westmoreland**, Doreen Bounds, Zeinab Ghais, William Lilley

July 30: **Linda Brown**, Isla Regalado, Melissa Guynes, Karen Tilley

JULY COMMUNION PREPARERS

July 2: Don & Sandy Boyer

JULY COMMUNION SERVERS

July 2: **Jim Bounds**, Linda Brown, Nancy Knapik, Greg Westmoreland

From the Music Stand.....

We are going to explore the difference between praise and worship.

The words "praise" and "worship" are regularly used in church. Praise and worship time is a special time during a church service when everyone stands up and sings songs to glorify God.

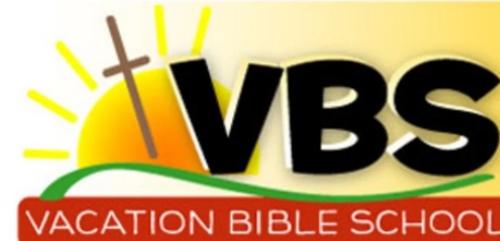
Here is what you need to know about the two terms. First, let's define them.

According to the dictionary, worship is defined as "the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity." Christian worship can be defined as the feeling of reverence and adoration for God. The Greek word most often translated as worship in the New Testament is "proskuneo," which means to "fall or bow down before." It was used in homage to men and beings of a superior rank. The Hebrew word for worship in the Bible is "Shachah" which means "to bow low or to prostrate oneself."

Praise, according to the dictionary, is defined as "the expression of one's gratitude and respect towards a deity, especially in a song." Therefore, Christian praise can be defined as the expression of gratitude and respect towards God, especially in a song. Three Hebrew words in the Bible that are translated as praise are "yadah" (praise, give thanks or confess), "zamar" (sing praise), and "halal," which is a root word for hallelujah, (praise, honor, or commend).

What, then, is the difference between praise and worship? Most people see worship as the slow and melodious songs that often require the closing of eyes and lifting of hands in reverence to God ("Rock of Ages"), whereas praise is considered the singing of fast songs and dancing to God ("Our God is an Awesome God").

However, these two words mean more than just songs or singing, and they are two different things. Worship is completely different from praise, but praise can be a part of worship. As a Christian, if you understand the difference between the two, you will have a better understanding of honoring God.



Our family-style VBS program, "Uplifting Others," will be offered July 11-13 (Tuesday-Thursday) from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will gather nightly in Robbins Hall at 6:00 PM for a fellowship dinner to kick off each evening. Registration forms are available in the narthex and the church office. Mark your calendars and join us!



Wednesday Night Suppers in July and August will also be Game Nights. Bring your favorite game(s) along with your covered dish on **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.