

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>
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Pastor – Rev. Charley Shurtz
Church Secretary – Ashley Eagan
Choir Director/Accompanist – Donna Baskin
Nursery - Carol Petersen and Karen Trobl
Custodian - Angelica Alfaro
Ministers - The Members of First
Presbyterian Church



THE PRESBYTERIAN PROCLAIMER

August 2023

A Word From Our Pastor...

It is amazing how things can move so quickly, especially time. Over two years have passed since Jaye and I moved to Bay City. Our time here has been eventful. Sure, we had some struggles, with health issues, car accidents, and personalities; these things come and go. But let us not dwell on the past, but rather, look to the future. Currently we are averaging about 45 people a week, our overall age average has decreased; and this is a grand thing. We are well-respected within the community, despite some of our mistakes and best efforts, "This is First Presbyterian Church" and we will only strengthen that statement the longer we look forward to a more dynamic, younger, passionate approach to the continued rebuilding of God's Church here at FPC. As it says in Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.". We are in a wonderfully precarious position. We can pull back and fall into our past, holding on to what was, or we can focus on the things that are God-led, God-inspired, and are springing up all around us. Let us not stay in the desert, where we were dry and dusty, but instead run to God's high and lofty place to worship God, as God would have us do. Which destiny will we earn? More desert, or fresh water that spurs us on to growth and things unimagined? The choice is ours to make. Will we be quiet and let life go by, or will we let God lead us into a more promising, healthy, and Christ-centered family of God? We determine what the destiny of FPC will be by our actions in faith, and by letting go of "self" to let God form us into the place of worship God wants. Caleb, in the Old Testament, was 85 when he finally received his reward. A beautiful place called Hebron, that no one wanted because Giants lived there. Caleb took position of this place, and overcame the giants at 85; not because he was great, but because he greatly served and followed God. Let us move forward in the promises of God, and make a new, refreshing place where we honor the past, while having let go of the past as a chain (good or bad); and move on with our God to a fullness in accepting, and acting, upon God's promises. Amen.

Charley Shurtz, Pastor, FPC

charlance923@icloud.com

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.....

Chris Hinman (Clyde Workman's friend- massive heart attack), Peggy Badders, Randy Goslin (cancer), Alecia James (arm repair surgery), John Wells' Family, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham, Ashley Eagan, Steve Evans, Melody Kacal, First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Session, Adel Ghais & Family, Marie Hestand, Jason James, Sandra Kimball, Ruth Leissner's Family, 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, Percilla Thompson, Karen Trobl, Katy Wendtland's Family, 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

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
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August 2023 – Lectionary Readings

August 6 – The Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35 AND 2 Peter 1:13-21
Luke 9:28-36 AND Psalm 99:5-9

August 13 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, AND Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33. Psalm 85:8-13; 1 Kings 19:9-18

August 20 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 AND Psalm 13; OR Isaiah 56:1, 6-8-13 AND Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 AND Psalm 124, OR Isaiah 51:1-6 AND Psalm 138

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!



August'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:	August 13 at 11:30 AM
Worship Committee:	No meeting this month
Afternoon Women's Circle:	No meeting this month
Outreach & Mission Committee:	Monday, August 21 at 11:45 AM
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, August 15 at 11:30 AM
Congregational Care Committee:	Wednesday, August 16 at 9:30
Church Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, August 16
Session:	Sunday, August 27 at 11:30
Wednesday Night Supper/Game Night:	August 23 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, August 12 and 26 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

August 12

August 26

AUGUST SERMON TITLES

August 6: "Change"

August 27: Awake, awake!"

August 13: "Killing your brother"

August 20: "What is a hypocrite?"

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1: Norma Mullen

August 5: Donna Baskin

August 6: Carol Ann Huitt

August 7: Brittany Regalado

August 9: James Mullen

August 14: Marie Hestand

Violet Loader

August 15: Pharaoh Williams

Sue Zan Mayer

August 18: Robin Haring Schwartz

August 24: Oscar Regalado

August 28: Nancy Knapik

August 30: Ben Flores

Sonja Hestand Varnell

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 4: Crayden & Debbie Dennard

August 12: Charles & Linda Townsend

August 25: Steve & Donna Sliva

AUGUST LAY LEADERS

August 6: Natalie Mullen

August 13: Ben Flores

August 20: Will Guynes

August 27: Charles Townsend

AUGUST LIGHT BEARERS

August 6: Veda Regalado

August 13: Nadia Flores

August 20: Liam Van Druten

August 27: Violet Loader

AUGUST KITCHEN CREW

Doreen Bounds, Priscilla Obermeyer, Jody Romine, Melissa Guynes

AUGUST USHERS

August 6: **Linda Brown**, Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Will Guynes

August 13: William Lilley, Bella Van Druten, Crayden Dennard, George Loader

August 20: Melissa Guynes, Jim Bounds, Doreen Bounds, Natalie Mullen

August 27: Doug Heubner, Greg Westmoreland, Marc Hill, Brittany Regalado

AUGUST COMMUNION PREPARERS

August 6: Marie Hestand, Teresa West

AUGUST COMMUNION SERVERS

August 6: **Linda Brown**, Ronnie Mullen, Priscilla Obermeyer, Will Guynes

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 mean 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.



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

School Supply Drive!

It's that time of year again, Back to School! The women of the church are currently collecting school supplies and late summer is when school supplies are at the lowest price of the year. Most campuses get an influx of supplies at the beginning of the school year, so we distribute our school supplies in January when many children are running low on necessary items. Make a difference in the lives of the children in our community. Donate some school supplies today!