

# APRIL 2026

## The Presbyterian Proclaimer

### 2026 Committee Chairpersons:

Building & Grounds:  
George Loader ('28)

Christian Education/  
Personnel: Ben Flores ('26)

Congregational Care:  
Carol Petersen ('26)

Finance:  
Linda Brown ('27)

Outreach & Mission:  
Carolyn Barclay ('27)

Worship:  
Aaron Ansari ('28)

Session Clerk:  
Ronnie Mullen ('28)

Treasurer:  
James Bounds

### First Presbyterian Church

2216 Avenue H

Bay City, TX. 77414

(979) 245-8327

[fpcbc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcbc@sbcglobal.net)

### Office Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

8:30am-4:00pm



## A Word from Pastor Charley

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

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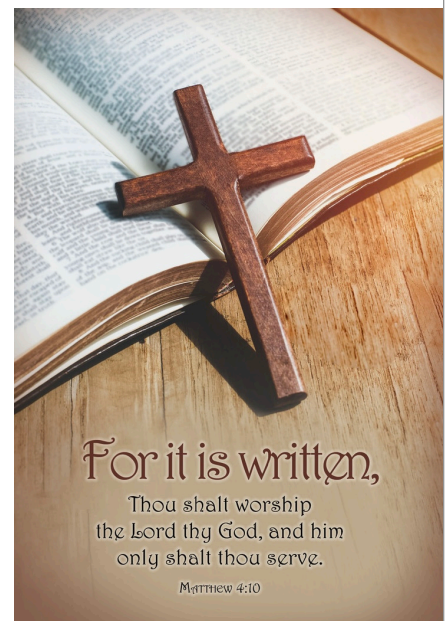
## Words from Pastor Charley continued...

These words from Isaiah 53-57, written nearly 3 thousand years ago, describe the partial suffering of Jesus the Christ. The payment of human sin. Jesus made that balance scale whole with his body on a cross, beaten, and torn, mercilessly condemned on the criminals cross to die. A foretelling of Love so divine, that it would encompass us if we but allow ourselves to be enveloped by that Grace. The Garden, The Fall, The Virgin Birth, The Punishment Price, The Resurrection, and leaving only The Return.

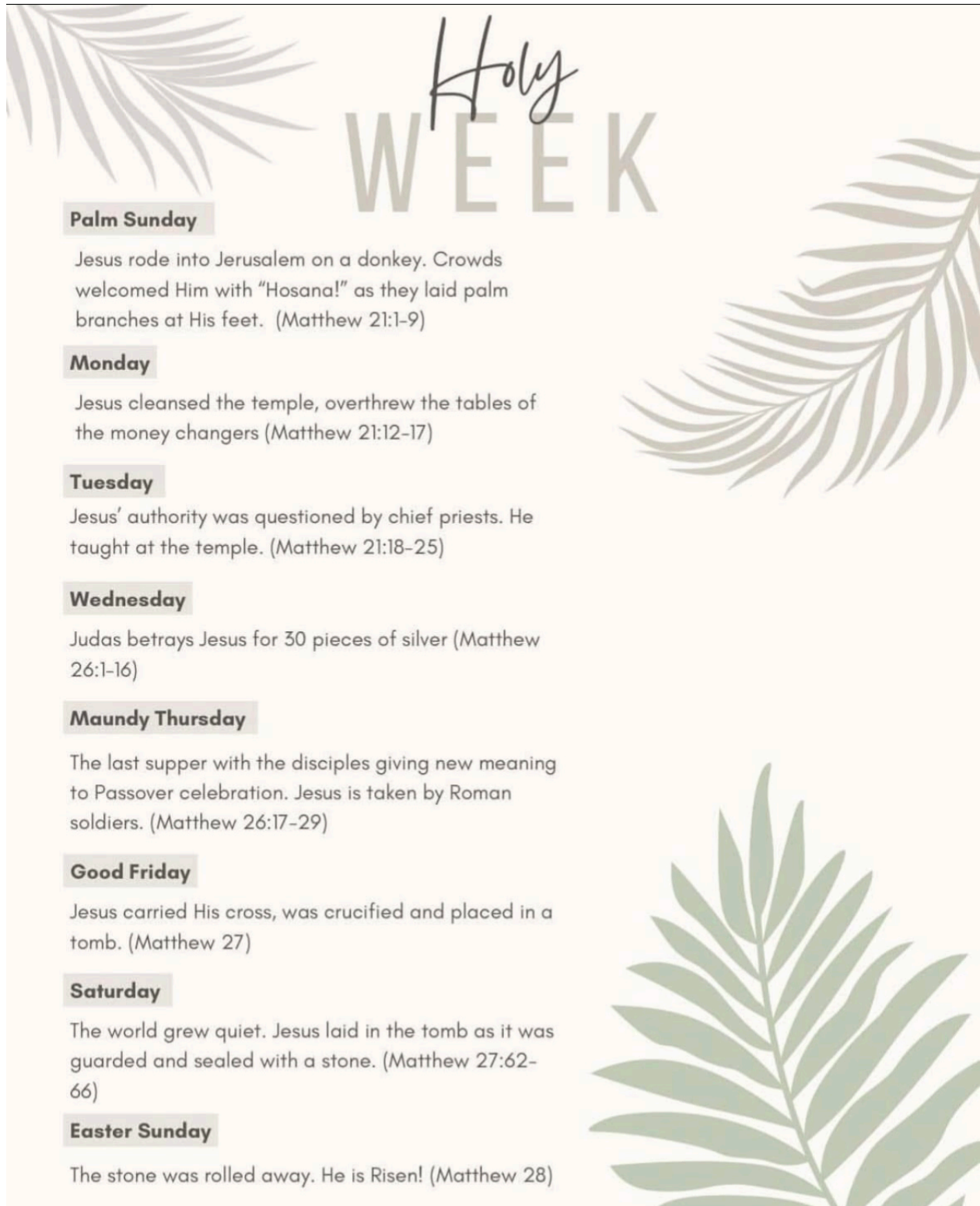
We live in a World of turmoil, strife, hate, war, poverty, hunger, and injustice. The Lord shall return. May we live in love, mercy, grace, and justice till our race is run and we find our peace with our God. And this commandment is what he gave to all who would believe and follow. Serve God with all you have and to love one another.

May the peace of God, in Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Charley Shurtz, Pastor, FPC  
[clawrence923@icloud.com](mailto:clawrence923@icloud.com)



# Holy Week: March 29–April 4



**Holy WEEK**

**Palm Sunday**

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Crowds welcomed Him with “Hosana!” as they laid palm branches at His feet. (Matthew 21:1-9)

**Monday**

Jesus cleansed the temple, overthrew the tables of the money changers (Matthew 21:12-17)

**Tuesday**

Jesus’ authority was questioned by chief priests. He taught at the temple. (Matthew 21:18-25)

**Wednesday**

Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:1-16)

**Maundy Thursday**

The last supper with the disciples giving new meaning to Passover celebration. Jesus is taken by Roman soldiers. (Matthew 26:17-29)

**Good Friday**

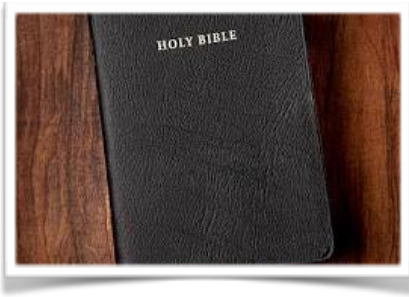
Jesus carried His cross, was crucified and placed in a tomb. (Matthew 27)

**Saturday**

The world grew quiet. Jesus laid in the tomb as it was guarded and sealed with a stone. (Matthew 27:62-66)

**Easter Sunday**

The stone was rolled away. He is Risen! (Matthew 28)



## Volunteers & Ushers:

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### April Sermon Titles:

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**April 5: Easter Sunday**  
No Longer Slaves

**April 12:**  
What He Has Given

**April 19:**  
How to be Purified

**April 26:**  
The Doorkeeper

### April Lectionary Readings:

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**April 5: Easter Sunday**  
Romans 6:3-6, Matthew 28:2-7

**April 12:**  
1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-20

**April 19:**  
Psalm 116:1-3, Acts 2:34-36,  
1 Peter 1:22-25

**April 26:**  
1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-3

### Lay Reader:

**4/05: Aaron Ansari**  
**4/12: Ben Flores**  
**4/19: Rayne O'Brien**  
**4/26: Dave Mayer**

### Light Bearer:

**4/05: Alaya Williams**  
**4/12: Nadia Flores**  
**4/19: Violet Loader**  
**4/26: Melissa Guynes**

### Ushers:

**4/05: \*George Loader**  
**+Sandy Boyer**  
**Ben Flores**  
**Priscilla Obermeyer**

**4/12: \*Aaron Ansari**  
**+Jim Bounds**  
**Carol Petersen**

**4/19: \*\*Dave Mayer**  
**Will Guynes**  
**Carolyn Barclay**

**4/26: \*\*Melissa Guynes**  
**Peggy Loader**  
**Rayne O'Brien**

**\*Lead Usher**  
**+Scripture Reader**

### Communion Prep:

**4/05: Don & Sandy Boyer**

**Greeters, Ushers and Session members can answer any questions you may have or point you in the direction of who can help.**



# COMMUNITY *Lenten Luncheons*

**Lenten Luncheon Date & Guest Speaker: 12:00pm**

Our final luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 1 with Evangelist Nigel Christianson from New Zealand bringing to us “Messiah in the Passover.”

**Holy Week: March 29-April 4**

**Maundy Thursday, March 26, 2026**

**Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026**

# Easter Sunday!

**Up from the grave He arose! Jesus Christ is risen indeed!**

**He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'**

**Luke 24:6-7NIV**

**The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6NIV**

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 1 Peter 1:3NIV**



## Important Dates:

**Sunday School:** Every Sunday @ 9:15am Youth & Adults

**Choir Rehearsal:** Every Sunday @ 9:45-10:15

**Worship:** Every Sunday @ 10:30am

**Children's Church:** Every Sunday during worship

**Bible Study/Prayer Meeting:** Every Tuesday 10:30-11:30am

**Foundation Academy:** Every Thursday @ 10:00am

**Sunrise Service @ Methodist Church Chapel:** April 5 @ 7:00am

**Pancake Breakfast:** April 5 @ 8:15am

**Easter Egg Hunt:** April 5 following the morning Church service

**Second Sunday Lunch:** April 12 @ 11:30am

**Set Up for Rummage Sale:** Sunday, April 12 following lunch

**Outreach & Missions Meeting:** Wednesday, April 15 @ 1:30

**Rummage Sale:** Saturday, April 18 @ 9:00am-3:00pm

**Wednesday Night Supper:** Wednesday, April 22 @ 6:00pm



## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Our Bible study is held in the conference room of the office every Tuesday morning from 10:30-11:30am and is open to anyone that would like to attend. We are currently studying the book of Psalm. You do not need to call ahead of time to reserve a spot, just come on over to the office and join us!!!

## **Upcoming Events in April:**

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 2, tune into our First Presbyterian Church Facebook page to watch a special presentation prepared for us by Pastor Charley Shurtz.

### **Pancake Breakfast**

Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have a pancake breakfast following the 7:00am Sunrise Service at the Methodist Church chapel. Breakfast includes; pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, coffee and juice. Serving begins at 8:15am.

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Easter Sunday, April 5th, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following our morning church service. Easter Egg Hunt is for 12 years old and younger.

### **Second Sunday Lunch**

Join us for our second Sunday lunch on Sunday, April 12 at 11:30am. Bring food and eat until you can't eat anymore! After lunch, we will need to begin setting up for the rummage sale. Volunteers are needed to help set up rectangle tables.

### **Rummage Sale Setup**

We will begin setting up for the rummage sale on Sunday, April 12 after Second Sunday lunch. We will need to finish setting up on Monday. Carolyn Barclay will be here on Monday, April 13th at 8:00am to continue setting up. Sandy Boyer will also be here on Friday, April 17th at 9:00am to finish setting up, if needed.

### **Rummage Sale**

Saturday, April 18th from 9:00am-3:00pm. Please be here no later than 8:00am to finish setting up before the doors open. Also, please be available to help clean up when finished and get Robbins Hall back in order. See Carolyn Barclay, Sandy Boyer or Donna Baskin if you have any questions.



Music! It's not what I do,  
it's who I am.

## From the Music Stand...

Easter is upon us. Remembrances of childhood, our own and our children, come to the forefront of our minds. As a little girl of 6, my first Easter of memory was after my sisters and I came to live with my adoptive parents. Knowing it was Sunday, Mama had bathed us all, curled our hair on Saturday and we had to keep it in good condition during the day for church the next day. One of my sisters got to have a ponytail with foam curlers but not me. My hair was in pin curls that was twisted around Mama's pointy red fingernails. We had to look our best for Sundays, especially on Easter in our new white patent shoes, lacy socks and spring colored dresses.

Before we could get dressed on Easter morning, we had to pass the formal dining table to get to the kitchen for breakfast. Every year, Mama would fuss about the mess someone had made in the middle of the table. A HUGE arrangement of Easter grass was on the table, with chocolate Easter bunnies, candy and baskets of eggs. Took me a while to figure out my Mama and big sister Virginia had stayed up after we were sent to bed to create the 'mess'. I continued the Easter 'mess' with my children.

While all of this is fun, we do remember the real reason we celebrate Easter. The resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While the crucifixion of our Lord is bloody and horrible, His resurrection is the reason we are able to celebrate.

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The fact that he endured the shameful treatment: scourging, the crown of thorns, carrying his heavy cross on a bloodied and bleeding back and then being hung on the same cross between two thieves... is a very clear depiction of just how deep his love for us truly was. To be loved so much that he died for me and you, even before we were ever created is humbling. Also the fact that he conquered death and rose again to life in the three days as he had said he would... WOW!! Amazing is our God, Lord and Savior. The song, "Because He Lives" by the Gaither's is exactly what my heart feels when thinking of Easter.

*God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died To buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there To prove my Savior lives!*

*Chorus  
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow!  
Because He lives, All fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!*

*Verse 2  
How sweet to hold A newborn baby,  
And feel the pride And joy he brings;  
But greater still The calm assurance:  
This child can face Uncertain days because He Lives!*

*Verse 3  
And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final War with pain;  
And then, as death Gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory And I'll know He lives!*

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This hymn was written in 1971 amidst the turmoil of the Vietnam War and personal concerns with the birth of the Gaither's third child. The hymn gained popularity and won the honor of "Gospel Song of the Year" in 1974. I was a first-time mother at the time this song gained notoriety and sang it proudly at my home church. The chorus reminds us that "Because He Lives" we are able to face anything without fear and with the knowledge that our future is in His capable and loving hands.

Another remembrance of Easter in my growing up church was when Brother Bill Wheelles, with a beautiful, smooth, bass voice, would sing, "Up From the Grave He Arose". His big booming bass voice would joyously sing this from the pulpit.

I challenge you, this month, to find the things that His resurrection and living again have allowed you to face without fear. Also to think how your life would be without Jesus. This prospect is hard for me to fathom for I am so grateful to have Christ in my life.

Your Sister in Christ,  
**Donna Baskin**

**Make a joyful noise unto  
the Lord.**



# **Rummage Sale!**

**When: Saturday, April 18th**

**Time: 9:00-3:00pm**

**Place: Robbins Hall**

**Tables will need to be set up after Second Sunday lunch on Sunday, April 12th. Volunteers are needed to help set up rectangle tables.**

**If you have any questions or would like to sign up to help, please contact Carolyn Barclay.**

**Items can be brought to the church beginning on Thursday, February 19th. Stop by the office.**

**Proceeds from the rummage sale are going towards the Disaster Fund.**



**Happy Birthday:**

**April 4:** Melissa Guynes

**April 6:** Meredith Adams

Evelyn Perry

**April 8:** Mia Mullen

**April 9:** Tommy Osina

**April 11:** Joan Hagaman

**April 17:** Natalie Mullen Kovar

**April 23:** Lurinda Barnwell

**Happy Anniversary:**

**April 16:** Cliff & Norma Mullen

## RightNow Media Reminder

### Scan the QR code Below

Scan the QR code attached. When scanned with a phone camera, it will open your church's registration page for easy sign-up.

### Text Code

Text BCFPC to 49775 to receive the link invite directly on your phone.

### Download the App

Download the RightNow Media app from your mobile device's App Store for easy access anytime, anywhere.

RightNow Media is a Christian based media outlet. They offer Bible studies, church leadership videos, parenting videos, "how to cope" videos that can help with a variety of everyday issues we face. There is also a children's series that can be watched and discussed as a family.

This is a gift from our Church available to you for the next year. Sign up today and explore the thousands of tools available to you. Please give feedback to Ben Flores or Donna Baskin, we would love to hear from you!





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# Seasons of Hope

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## Bereavement Support Group

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### Grief Support Groups

Grief support groups offer a safe environment where you can share your story and express your feelings openly. By establishing connections with others in an understanding, non-judgmental setting, you can reduce feelings of isolation, confront emotions, learn new coping skills, explore your grief and begin to heal.

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#### On Going Grief Support Groups at Houston Hospice-El Campo

**Dates:** 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month

**Time:** 5:30-7:00pm

**Location:** First Presbyterian Church  
2216 Ave. H  
Bay City, TX. 77414

AND

**Dates:** 2nd and 4th Monday of each month

**Time:** 1:00-2:30pm

**Location:** Houston Hospice-El Campo  
1102 N. Mechanic St.  
El Campo, TX. 77437

**\*There is no need to register. Call (979) 578-0314 for more information.**

## **Building & Grounds Updates:**

**Mr. George Loader, has been hard at work getting things in order. We have had a few minor water leaks downstairs that have been repaired.**

**We had a water filtration system installed so we no longer have to spend money on bottled water. This will save us around \$250.00+ a year. This system has hot, cold and room temperature water available.**

**The ice machine has been descaled, cleaned and sanitized and is so far working beautifully.**

**A few trees have been trimmed and one near the playground has been removed completely because it was becoming a safety hazard.**

**Outdoor locks have been changed as the first step in revamping our security system and making the building more secure.**

**The roof has been water tested. Several long standing deficiencies in the roof have been found and the necessary repairs will be made in a timely manner.**

**Due to an overabundance of our dumpster being used by a wide variety of Matagorda County community members, a lock has been placed on the dumpster to further prevent this from happening.**

## **Building & Grounds Updates Continued:**

**We have a new exterminator in order to enhance our pest control prevention.**

**New mulch has been placed in the playground area. Thanks to Foundations Academy the Homeschool group that uses the building and playground on Thursdays.**

**Security lights outside are in working order again.**

**Other items in process:**

**The light that shines upon the cross on the building.**

**The marquee sign**

**Seat replacement for the playground swing.**