

# FEBRUARY 2026

## 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

February is when we celebrate Valentines Day. A time of love. In this article I want to draw your attention to the importance of love. Not just we love someone or they love us but the deepest spiritual component of all life is love. Let these scriptures teach you the fulness of the depth and eternal importance of love.

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## Words from Pastor Charley continued...

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### 1 Corinthians: The Way of Love

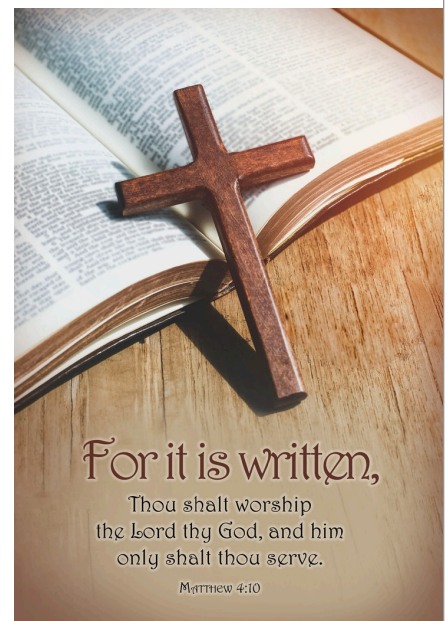
**13** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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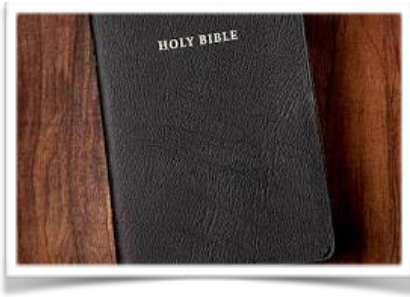
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## **1 John 4: God Is Love**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

We see the eternal importance of love and how love is essential in our walk with God. It is also essential in moving us to change as we serve God the Father, in Jesus Christ the Son, through the Holy Spirit. Living in God's love daily should move us to be kind, gracious, uplifting, supportive even in the harshest of times. So the next time you find yourself not being happy, being angry or upset, even being negative when you could be understanding and loving, please come back to these scriptures and stand on them in your faith in God, who is love. The journey you take will become sweeter and the devil cannot fill you with bitterness. Thus you remain a Light for God.

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



## Volunteers & Ushers:

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### February Sermon

#### Titles:

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**February 1:**  
What is Justice?

**February 8:**  
The Light

**February 15:**  
K.I.S.S

**February 22:**  
The Cost of Freedom

### February Lectionary Readings:

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**February 1:**  
Micah 6:6-8,  
1 Corinthians 1:18-21,  
Matthew 5:15-17

**February 8:**  
Isaiah 58:6-10,  
1 Corinthians 2:9-12,  
Matthew 5:18-20

**February 15:**  
Psalm 99:1-3, 2 Peter 1:16-18,  
Matthew 17:1-3

**February 22:**  
Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 5:14-17,  
Matthew 5:4-9,



#### Lay Reader:

**2/01: Melissa Guynes**  
**2/08: Ronnie Mullen**  
**2/15: Dave Mayer**  
**2/22: Diane Matthes**

#### Light Bearer:

**2/01: Violet Loader**  
**2/08: Alaya Ruiz**  
**2/15: Pharaoh Williams**  
**2/22: Peggy Loader**

#### Ushers:

**2/01: \*George Loader**  
**+Dave Mayer**

**2/08: \*Priscilla Obermeyer**  
**+Carolyn Barclay**  
**Jim Bounds**  
**Carol Petersen**

**2/15: \* + Doreen Bounds**  
**Mia Mullen**

**2/22: \* + Aaron Ansari**  
**Rayne O'Brien**

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

#### Communion Prep:

**2/08: Donna Baskin & Carolyn Barclay**

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



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

## From the Music Stand...

I don't know about you, but January *flew* by. Now we are all thinking about the upcoming February events: Super Bowl, winter conventions and of course, Valentines!

If you remember back, getting valentines ready for the schoolmates for yourself or our grandkids. This was supposed to be a very special time to share with your school friends, hoping to get one from "the one" or to give. I remember picking out the most special ones for those close to my heart and hoping to get a good one in return.

Here is something interesting about the origin of this day: legend has it that Saint Valentine was a 3rd century priest who was executed by Emperor Claudius II in Rome. He was martyred possibly for performing secret Christian weddings and/or healing the sick. Pope Gelasius I established St. Valentine's Day in the 5th century to commemorate the saint and replace the pagan festival of Lupercalia (mid-February), a fertility celebration with rituals involving pairing men and women.

In thinking about love, with all it's cupids and candy, the romance, the gift giving... we sometimes forget about what real love is. Oh now we do understand the physical and such, but the "heart" of the matter is so much greater. I went back to listen to "The Greatest Love of All" by Whitney Houston. In reading the lyrics, we hear the chorus say:

*"Because the greatest love of all  
I found the greatest love of all  
The greatest love of all  
Learning to love yourself*

*Is happening to me  
Inside of me  
Is easy to achieve  
It is the greatest love of all"*

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This is saying that “loving yourself” is the greatest love. I have to beg to differ, as we know for ourselves that the greatest love comes from our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. A love so great, he lived as mortal man and died a horrendous death, rose from the dead so we can have eternal life. There are so many contemporary worship songs that express and create audible pictures and examples of God’s love to and for us. The love that Jesus demonstrated for us when he spoke and lived with his disciples shows how we are to love and care for others.

I again implore you to check out the lyrics of the songs you listen to and sing. I know it sometimes messes up what we think we like to hear, but scope out the actual words, especially if you can’t understand the words and create new lyrics in your head. Love songs can mean something totally different when you understand the lyrics.

Your Sister in Christ,  
**Donna Baskin**

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



# 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

**Annual Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, February 8

**Second Sunday Lunch:** February 8 @ 11:30am

**Worship Meeting:** Sunday, February 1 @ 11:30

**Lenten Lunches Begin:** Wednesday, February 18 @ 12:00

**Staff Conference:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (office closed)

**Outreach & Missions Meeting:** Wednesday, February 18 @ 1:30

**Wednesday Night Supper:** No Wednesday Night Supper



## **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!!!

## **Gospel Singing**

On January 18, we were a part of the Gospel Sing program. A love offering was taken for the performers, as this is their ministry.

## **Upcoming Events in February:**

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our annual congregational meeting will be on **Sunday, February 8, 2026.**

### **Wear Blue!**

**Sunday, February 22, 2026 is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Day. Wear blue, of any shade, on this day.**

### **Office Closed:**

**Tuesday, February 24 for a staff conference in Houston.**

### **Second Sunday Lunch**

Join us for our second Sunday lunch on Sunday, February 8 at 11:30am. Bring food and eat until you can't eat anymore! We will celebrate LOVE!

### **Organist**

Mrs. Carol Suggs will continue playing the organ on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

# Monthly Meetings Dates for 2026

~Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 8~

**Session Meetings:** following the morning service

Sunday, March 1

Sunday, May 3

Sunday, July 5

Sunday, September 6

Sunday, November 1

**Worship Meetings:** following the morning service

Sunday, February 1

Sunday, April 5 (subject to change due to Easter)

Sunday, June 7

Sunday, August 2

Sunday, October 4

Sunday, December 6

**Outreach & Missions Meetings:** @ 1:30pm

Wednesday, February 18

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, April 15

Wednesday, May 20

Wednesday, June 17

Wednesday, July 15

Wednesday, August 19

Wednesday, September 16

Wednesday, October 21

Wednesday, November 18

Wednesday, December 16

Outreach & Missions is currently hosting a “hygiene drive” for 5 area Junior High Schools. Toiletry items will be given to the school nurse and she will have the items available to the students as needed.

Wal-Mart and H-E-B both carry various travel sized toiletry items as well as 10-20 piece toiletry travel kits. They also carry Oral care travel kits.

Items needed for **boys and girls** are:

Underwear

Socks

Sanitary Napkins

Deodorant

Body Wash/Soap

Shampoo & Conditioner

Toothbrush/Paste

Dental Floss

Mouthwash

Razors/Shaving Cream

Hairbrushes/Combs

Ponytail holders

Hand Sanitizer/Sanitizing Wipes



# COMMUNITY

## *Lenten Luncheons*

### **Lenten Luncheon Dates & Guest Speakers: 12:00pm**

Wednesday, February 18: Pastor Charley Shurtz @ First Presbyterian Church, Bay City, TX.

Wednesday, February 25: Teaching Elder Leslie Hartman, Palacios, TX.

Wednesday, March 4: Benjamin Flores, Bay City Councilman, Bay City, TX.

Wednesday, March 11: Scott Patten, Crucible Ministries, Bay City, TX.

Wednesday, March 18: Pastor John Williams @ St. Paul's Methodist Church, Bay City, TX.

Wednesday, March 25: Pastor Lane Pardue @ Calvary Baptist Church, Bay City, TX.

Wednesday, April 1: Evangelist Nigel Christianson, New Zealand: Christ in the Passover



Houston  
Hospice

## 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.**



## **Happy Birthday to:**

February 14: Martha Osina

February 16: William Lilley

February 19: Chandler Hill

February 27: Rayne O'Brien

## 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!



## **Pastor's Food Shelves in Memory of Charles Jinks**

I sent an email a couple of weeks ago informing you about certain shelves in Pastor Charley's office designated for food donations. This food is handed out to people that come by in search of food. Many are homeless and typically come in on a weekly basis asking for food. Sometimes they ask for personal hygiene products and other things, but mostly they ask for food.

Mr. Charles Jinks, would bring food every other week to stock Pastor Charley's food shelves. He would bring canned goods, dry goods, cereal, ready to eat tunafish and chicken, packages of dry milk, fresh fruits and veggies and such. Today, we learned that Mr. Jinks was found deceased in his home. Please keep his family in your prayers.

As of publication of this newsletter, we have had some food donations brought in by a young man that attends our Bible study. Parishioners from his church gathered food items to bring to help fill the shelves.

If you would like to give food in order to continue providing food to those that come asking, it would be greatly appreciated.

Reminder! Most of the people that come asking for food are homeless so cooking something is not always an option for them and some may not have a can opener. Should you decide to bring food to help keep this going, my suggestion is the pull tab cans (no can opener needed) and items that can be eaten without having to be cooked. Of course HEB and Walmart bags are also needed.

Thankful for your continued support.

# **Rummage Sale!**

**When: Saturday, April 18th**

**Time: 1:00-4:00pm**

**Place: Robbins Hall**

**Tables will need to be set up after Second Sunday lunch on Sunday, April 12th.**

**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.**