

JANUARY 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

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

8:30am-4:00pm



A Word from Pastor Charley

Hello 2026! Yes, the New Year is here. A new beginning as Winter fades, Spring advances and we move on in Christ. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If we are in Christ we are a new creation putting the old off." So as we start this new time in Christ let us be open to growing in all the things of God that we can possibly grow in.

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Words from Pastor Charley continued...

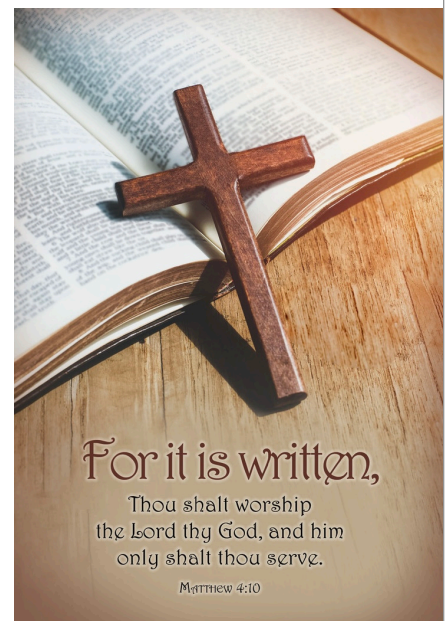
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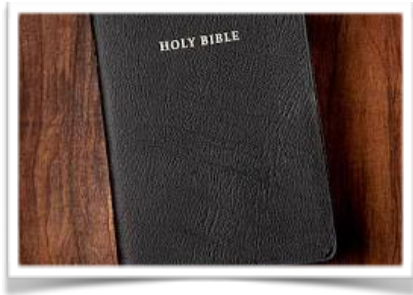
May we be like Isaiah 40:31, by hoping in the Lord so that we are renewed in strength, soaring like eagles, running toward Christ but not growing weary, walking, and working, for the Lord be not growing faint in faith or doing good. So let us be renewed in the spirit of our minds, Ephesians 4:23, and look forward to doing good things for our God, our church, and our community.

A new session, a new outlook, a new direction, with more folks joining the church, fresh and exciting possible all around. Let us remember the words of the prophet Jeremiah in chapter 29:11, For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Let us join together in those plans.

The Session, JayE, myself, and our staff are ready to burst into a New Year. Come and be there with us. In the Holy Spirit may we work unified in Christ for the Kingdom of God.

Charley Shurtz, Pastor, FPC
clawrence923@icloud.com





Volunteers & Ushers:

January Sermon Titles:

January 4:

How Exciting

January 11:

What is Acceptable?

January 18:

The Mud Hole

January 25:

Seeing the Light

January Lectionary Readings:

January 4:

Psalm 84:1-4, Ephesians 1:3-6,
Matthew 2:19-23

January 11:

Isaiah 42:4-9, Acts 10:34-40,
Matthew 3:13-17

January 18:

Psalm 40:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:4-9,
John 1:35-39

January 25:

Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-17,
1 Corinthians 1:26-31



Lay Reader:

1/04: Linda Brown

1/11: Aaron Ansari

1/18: Doreen Bounds

1/25: Will Guynes

Light Bearer:

1/04: Violet Loader

1/11: Pharaoh Williams

1/18: Carolyn Barclay

1/25: Melissa Guynes

Ushers:

**1/04: *Ronnie Mullen
Aaron Ansari
+Sandy Boyer
George Loader**

**1/11: *Doreen Bounds
+Melissa Guynes**

**1/18: *Denise Frazier
Priscilla Obermeyer
+Carolyn Barclay**

**1/25: *Carol Petersen
Peggy Loader
+Aaron Ansari**

***Lead Usher
+Scripture Reader**

Communion Prep:

1/04: 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.



From the Music Stand...

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

Well my friends, we survived 2025. Good or bad, it's over and done with. We all know that this year had many ups and downs, but God has been there with us all along the way.

In reading the other day, I came across this question and yes, it made me stop and think: "Can a miserable Christian sing?" Of course my answer is yes, you can always sing. Then I began to think, I have always sung in times of hurt and despair. It may not have been aloud where others could hear, but I sang inside to keep myself calm and not freaking out. To sing aloud when you are in the midst of trials is difficult admittedly, yet even in times of emotional torment, you can sing. You can sing the songs of your youth and faith as they are the ones that come to the forefront of our minds when distressed.

Not that you are planning a time of distress, but I would like to plant the idea of songs of strength and comfort, guidance and peace that you may find easy to remember. The first song that comes to mind is Horatio Spafford's "It Is Well with My Soul". We all know the story of his family onboard a ship to England, where only his wife survived, while his daughters perished. He penned the poem when the ship he caught to retrieve his wife was at the spot where the other ship went down. The strength he called on from the Lord is evident in his words.

Another song is by Kelly Clarkson, "Stronger" at least the chorus part.

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger, stand a little longer, Doesn't mean I'm lonely when I'm alone, What doesn't kill you makes a fighter, Footsteps even lighter, Doesn't mean I'm over 'cause you're gone"

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Some would consider the chorus a cliché, but God gives us the strength to become stronger thru our trials. The only way this works is by letting go and leaving God in control. We have the tendency to want to take it back, which causes more headaches that we bring to ourselves than believing God can do this without our puny assistance, as if Our Lord isn't capable of taking care of our problems.

Back to the original question, can a miserable Christian sing? Well I guess we have to figure out why this Christian is miserable. According to the dictionary, miserable is a state of mind. Someone is extremely downcast, unhappy or depressed. Again, finding out why they are in this state of mind. Through my many years of living and teaching, this is, more times than not, caused by outside forces. When trying to "cheer them up" which is what we want to do, this can backfire terribly. If an individual wants to stay in this miserable state of mind, then different scenery or situation will not work. Getting that person to change their way of thinking is very difficult. Our best chance is by being patient and kind and allowing the music we share with them to adjust their thinking. The songs you listen to, of strength and calm, can possibly soothe their hearts and minds.

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

New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1, 2026 (office closed)

Session Meeting: Sunday, January 04 following morning service

Second Sunday Lunch: January 12 @ 11:30am

Worship Meeting: Tuesday, January 20 @ 1:30

Outreach & Missions Meeting: Wednesday, January 21 @ 1:30

Wednesday Night Supper: Wednesday, January 28, 2026



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 December 20, we were a part of the Christmas Gospel Sing program. The music was fabulous and the love offering brought in was over \$1300. We co-sponsored with St. Paul's Methodist and were able to add \$650 to our disaster relief monies.

Upcoming Events in January:

Office Closed:

**New Year's Eve: Wednesday, December 31, 2025-
Monday, January 5, 2026
Happy New Year!!!!!**

Session Meeting

The first session meeting of the new year will be on **Sunday, January 4, 2026** following the morning service. This will be our first meeting of the new year and with our new session members we just welcomed aboard.

Second Sunday Lunch

Join us for our second Sunday lunch on Sunday, January 11 at 11:30am. Bring food and eat until you can't eat anymore!

Organist

For those who are fans of our organ, beginning the 2nd Sunday of January, we have Mrs. Carol Suggs who will be here once a month to supply music on the organ. She is very excited to be a part of our services. Please welcome her when you see her.

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!





Holiday office hours and closures:

Closed:

New Year's Eve: Wednesday, December 31-Monday, January 5, 2026

**Normal business hours 8:30am-4:00pm will resume on
Tuesday, January 6, 2026.**

Happy New Year!!!!



First Presbyterian Church of Bay City

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Outreach & Mission: Carolyn Barclay (2027)

Worship: Aaron Ansari (2028)

Session Clerk: Ronnie Mullen (2028)

Treasurer: James Bounds

Foundation Board Members:

Donna Baskin

Crayden Dennard

Carol Ann Huitt

William Guynes

Many thanks to the outgoing session members for their time served on session.

Donna Baskin, Doug Huebner, and Marc Hill, thank you for all you have done!



Happy Birthday to:

January 9: Charlie Boeker

January 13: Doug Huebner

January 20: Liam van Druten

January 23: Cliff Mullen

Happy Anniversary to:

January 3:
Diane & Jim Matthes



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.

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.**

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta



Monthly Meetings Dates for 2026

~Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, February 8~

Session Meetings: following the morning service

Sunday, January 4

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, January 21

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