

MARCH 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

What a difference a few weeks make. Spring has sprung, daylight savings has jumped forward, and it seems no more freezing temps. Time never stops. It keeps going, though we often feel it almost stops, or is going too fast, time, as we know it, has its same marked movement.

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Words from Pastor Charley continued...

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Time rolls at its own pace never changing, unyielding, constant, a force that changes everything except God. With time the universe changes, the seasons change, life is born, matures, and dies while that cycle continues.

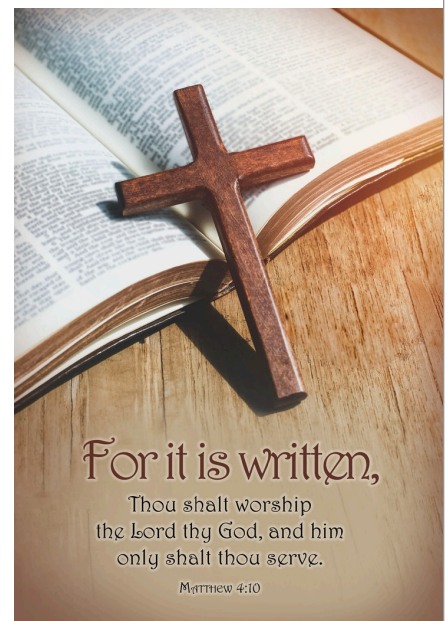
We see in God's Word, Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8: *To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to get and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away, a time to rend and a time to sew, a time to keep silence and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace, a time for everything.*

In Colossians 4:5 it says *walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best of your time.* And again in James 4:14: *Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

Psalm 90:12 *So teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom.*

Ephesians 5:15-17: *look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

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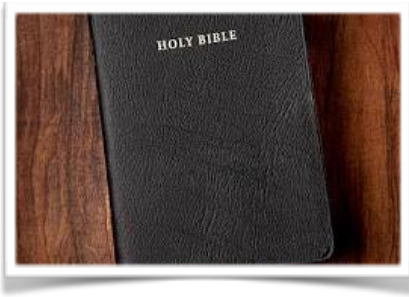
A constant theme in this is to be wise in the use of time and be in God's will. To be in God's will is to let God transform your life. That is well and good but to be transformed by God is to let God control your life.

Proverbs 3: 5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Isn't it time that we rededicated our will to be under God's will? It is time during Lent to refocus on God changing us instead of us changing God. It is time to do things for God, according to God's leading and not our own. Time to walk with God as a child and not the leader. Time to submit to the Holy Spirit to guide us rather than us trying to get others to submit to us. There is heaven to gain, and sin to shun, while we yet have time. One day, soon, as life is not long, that time for us will be no more. So now is the acceptable time to draw near to our Creator. I pray you take the time each day to seek and speak with our God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. May this Easter Season be a rebirth in your time with our Lord.

Charley Shurtz, Pastor, FPC

clawrence923@icloud.com



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Volunteers & Ushers:

March Sermon Titles:

March 1:
Jehovah Shaman

March 8:
Jehovah Jireh

March 15:
Jehovah Nissi

March 22:
Jehovah Shalom

March 29:
Humanity of Jesus

March Lectionary Readings:

March 1:
Genesis 12:1-4, Romans 4:13-17,
John 3:15-17

March 8:
Exodus 17:2-6, Romans 5:2-6,
John 4:10-15

March 15:
1 Samuel 16:10-13,
Ephesians 5:8-14,
John 9:24-28

March 22:
Ezekiel 37:10-14, Romans 8:6-11,
John 11:33-40

March 29:
Matthew 26:26-38

Lay Reader:

3/01: Rayne O'Brien
3/08: Aaron Ansari
3/15: Ronnie Mullen
3/22: Linda Brown
3/29: Diane Matthes

Light Bearer:

3/01: Melissa Guynes
3/08: Violet Loader
3/15: Raine Williams
3/22: Violet Loader
3/29: Pharaoh Williams

Ushers:

3/01: *Carolyn Barclay
+Aaron Ansari
Will Guynes
Carol Petersen

3/08: *Jim Bounds
+George Loader
Ronnie Mullen

3/15: * + Doreen Bounds
Carolyn Barclay

3/22: * + Peggy Loader
Priscilla Obermeyer
Rayne O'Brien

3/29: * + Ronnie Mullen
Mia Mullen
Carol Petersen

***Lead Usher**
+Scripture Reader

Communion Prep:

3/01: Doreen Bounds & Melissa Guynes

Greeters, Ushers and Session members can answer any questions you may have or point you in the



COMMUNITY *Lenten Luncheons*

Lenten Luncheon Dates & Guest Speakers: 12:00pm

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

Holy Week: March 29–April 4

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026



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

Session Meeting: Sunday, March 1

Second Sunday Lunch: March 8 @ 11:30am

Outreach & Missions Meeting: Wednesday, March 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!!!

Staff Conference

Music Director Donna Baskin, Administrative Assistant April Hohman, Pastor Charley, George Loader with Building & Grounds and Treasurer James Bounds attended a Texas Ministry Conference in Houston on Tuesday, February 24th. This conference was made available to us by our church COOP. We each attended a variety of sessions throughout the day to provide us with educational opportunities to better equip us for the roles we play within the church. Information was brought home that we will be able to implement into the daily operations of the church.

Upcoming Events in March:

Session Meeting

Sunday, March 8, 2026 following the morning service

Second Sunday Lunch

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

Seder Meal/Maundy Thursday

April 2 is our annual Seder Meal and it will be held in Robbins Hall at 6:00pm. This year's Seder meal is being held in conjunction with St. Paul's Methodist Church.



On Maundy Thursday, April 2 is our annual Seder Meal will be held in Robbins Hall at 6:00pm.

This year's Seder meal is being held in conjunction with St. Paul's Methodist Church.



Seasons of Hope

Bereavement Support Group

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.**



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)



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 sing-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!





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

From the Music Stand...

What is Prayer?

Do you have a hard time talking with your friends? Are you eager to share your thoughts and needs with someone who truly cares about what's happening in your life? Do you only talk to your friends when something negative is occurring or do you share about ordinary things? That closeness you share with a dear friend is fabulous. Having that closeness is even better when you are a child of God and have a personal relationship with Him. A very simple song that represents our basic prayers is the chorus "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying". A song that desires the Lord's presence to be with the singer.

Honestly, prayer is a conversation with God the Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. We approach Him with an attitude of reverence and adoration. Prayer is an action you take that is seeking a deliberate rapport with our God through worship. Synonyms of rapport are: friendship, solidarity and communication. We desire to have this relationship with our Lord.

When we pray, we are having a conversation with the one who loves and cares for you more than your parents, family or friends. For some of us, prayer is a knee-jerk reaction when we are hurting or in a scary position. We call out to God for help or relief during a particularly stressful time, and when that time is over, we tell God we're good and we will take back control because things have smoothed out.

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Praying out loud is an act of vocalizing our worship, distress or communal agreement. There is no specified way of praying aloud, but Jesus did warn, that praying aloud with the purpose of drawing attention to yourself is not to be done. In Luke 18, when Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, it was for those who thought highly of themselves and looked down on others. The Pharisee prayed so others could admire him and the good deeds he had done, while the tax collector was also witnessed praying yet with an attitude of penitence, "crying aloud and beating his chest, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner'." Matthew 6:5-7 advises against praying loudly with the purpose of being seen by others, recommending secret prayer, yet John 11:41-42 shows Jesus praying aloud to benefit those listening. In Psalm 77:1, Asaph wrote; "I cry out with my voice to God; with my voice to God, that he may hear me". And in Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet". "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord", "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God" and "Take my Life and Let it Be", these are not only prayers but songs that praise our Heavenly Father and are asking his guidance in the trials of our everyday existence. The emphasis in Scripture is often on the sincerity and intensity of the prayer, rather than just the physical actual volume.

Prayers that are simple can show the depth of your needs or desires and God understands in ways we cannot explain. Psalm 55:17 mentions praying aloud in the evening, morning, and at noon. In 1 Samuel 1:11-15, Hannah prays silently in her heart with only her lips moving, which God also hears and answers. While God hears the heart, Scripture highlights that using your voice to "cry out" is a recognized form of earnest communication with God. He understands our pain. A song that can fill this part of praying out loud is "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" and "Standing n the Need of Prayer".

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

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Luke 11:2: Jesus replies to the question, Lord teach us to pray and He instructs, "When you pray, say..." and Jesus gives what we now know as the Lord's Prayer. This is a breakdown of the Lord's Prayer"

Our Father, who art in heaven", a *greeting* that establishes a personal relationship with God as a loving Father rather than a distant taskmaster, while "in heaven" points to His sovereignty.

"Hallowed be thy name", a *prayer* that God's name is to be kept holy and honored above all else, acknowledging His sanctity.

"Thy kingdom come", this shows *consecration*, a desire for Christ's reign to expand in hearts and for the future, perfect kingdom to arrive.

"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven", a statement of submission, a commitment to align one's own will with God's, prioritizing His purpose over personal desires.

"Give us this day our daily bread" *Supplication* is a request for sustenance—physical needs and spiritual needs—acknowledging our total dependence on God for daily survival.

"And forgive us our debtors/transgressions as we forgive our debtors/transgressors" *intercession* is a request for God's mercy, acknowledging that receiving forgiveness is tied to forgiving others.

"And lead us not into temptation" this is *protection*, a plea for guidance away from situations that lead to sin, recognizing human weakness.

"But deliver us from evil (the evil one)" again, *protection*. A final plea for protection against the power of the devil and the harmful effects of sin. The traditional closing, "For thine is the kingdom and the power and **the glory forever. Amen.**", the *Doxology*, a closing affirmation showing confidence in God's ultimate authority.

I ask you to think about your conversations with the Lord. I ask you to think about how you pray. In the thinking, decide what your purpose is and how we are to appeal to our Father in regard to ourself and those for whom we are interceding.

Your Sister in Christ,
Donna Baskin

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.

Happy Birthday to:

**March 1: Ana Huynh
Virginia Rhymes**

March 7: Jim Matthes

**March 4: Denise Frazier,
Hayley Mullen
Sherman Mullen**

March 10: Carolyn Barclay

March 15: Jerry West

