

Good day to you all:

It is good to start this new journey with you and we are excited to be a part of the FPC family.

I am a backwoods, born on the river, kid from Missouri. Left home to see the world by joining the Army during the Vietnam War. Maybe not the smartest of things I have done, but it brought me a perspective of the world I might never have had. I suffered an injury while in the service and this alone taught me perseverance. My wife and I have four sons and four grandsons with our first granddaughter being our youngest to arrive.

Once I was healthy enough, I became a registered respiratory therapist and worked in that field for a number of years. With the Holy Spirit leading me to ministry I went to seminary and continued pastoring while working in respiratory therapy. Once I graduated from my Master of Divinity program, I left respiratory therapy and begin work as a hospice chaplain. My wife, JayE, is also a hospice chaplain.

We spent the last 12 years in our former presbytery and began looking for God's leading in other areas once our youngest son was finishing college.

We are very pleased to be coming to Bay City, Texas and to work with First Presbyterian. May the peace of Christ be with you all and may God bless our church to be a beacon of the Eternal Light that is the Christ. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Pastor Charley and JayE Shurtz

