

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414

Return Services Requested

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414
(979) 245-8327

<https://baycitytexasfirstpresbyterian-church.com>
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Pastor – Rev. Charley Shurtz
Church Secretary – Karin Hill
Choir Director/Accompanist – Donna Baskin
Nursery - Carol Petersen and Karen Trobl
Custodian - Angelica Alfaro
Ministers - The Members of First
Presbyterian Church



THE PRESBYTERIAN PROCLAIMER

August 2022

A Word From Our Pastor.....

In the Land of the Morning Calm, where the mist in the month of July seldom lifted before 10:00 AM, the young man strained to walk down a trail that led to a small village that had one tiny stop. The store only had one cooler and a very small selection of “ice cream” cones. They were very small, only 3 flavors, and only a couple of bites. There were a few sodas, but they had odd tastes to them. These would be his reward for making it down the hill. A cold, live spring was the reward for making it back. The 15-minute walk for everyone else was at least 30 minutes for him, and often more, depending on the heat, humidity, and the pain in his leg and chest. As the weeks turned into months, his strength grew and eventually he was able to go down the trail and back up without stopping, albeit slowly. This allowed him to try going up the trail from the humble, thatched, charcoal-cooking stove place he was staying in next to a Buddhist temple. He found it curious the way the monks lived, ate, and prayed. However, once he could go up the trail, he crossed a trickle of water, which they all drank from, to a small flat area where the water flowed from a spring on the mountainside. Here he could sit, all alone, speak with God, pray, and spend hours in silence. Most of the people there could not speak with him as they did not know his language, nor did he know much of theirs. They could communicate things like hunger, our pain, but nothing that could be considered a sustainable conversation. There in that place, he learned to appreciate time alone with God. Time to meditate on the Word which was Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior. No Bible in hand, just those things he had studied and the presence of the Living God.

It should not take a near death experience for us to seek God. Yet, all too often, we enjoy the nice things we have without gratitude. We take our abilities and our freedom for granted; we only see God when a problem arises that we perceive to be too big for us. Take the time now to draw close to God. Know the loving presence of the Christ through the Holy Spirit, so that you do not have to go through a near death experience in your life for God to get your attention. Don't be like the young man of 25, don't be like I was, for I was indeed that young man. Call upon the Lord when He is near and build a firm foundation, a beautiful relationship with God now. Then, when the storms come, you know the rock to stand upon. May the Lord bless you; may the Lord keep you; may the Lord shine His face upon you. Amen

Committee Chairpersons for 2022

Building & Grounds - Doug Huebner
Christian Education - Karin Hill
Congregational Care – Debbie Dennard
Finance/Stewardship – Greg
Westmoreland
Nominating - Greg Westmoreland
and Doug Huebner
Outreach & Mission - Carol Petersen
Personnel - Jim Coe
Worship – Donna Baskin

August 2022 – Lectionary Readings

Please Join Us in Prayer For.....

Jami Ruth Ahysen (Greg Westmoreland's sister), Hattie Andel (Marie Hestand's sister), Bradley Allan (bone cancer surgery), Peggy Badders, Donna Baskin, Charlie & Hubert Boeker, Ann Bond, Sharon Bumgardner, Family of Nick Cantu, Chip Cordes, Dorothy Cunningham (needs healing from COVID), Bonnie Davis, Flo Dreher, Ray Elizondo, Laura Evans (Karen Trobl's sister), First Presbyterian Church Bay City & Growth, Robb Gentry, Adel Ghais & Family, Giovanni (Natalie Mullen's nephew), Jason James, Dr. Bob Kelly, Nancy Knapik, Ruth Leissner & Family, Sarah Leverett, Mark Longoria, Allison McGrath (Air Force, deployment to South Korea), Ed Miller, Felipe Montalvo, Lisa Morales, Natalie Mullen, Martha Osina, Aryn Pena (Army, deployment to Middle East), Zelda Regalado & Family, Kerry Roberson, Nancy Ryman, Kirby Savage & Family, Rev. Frank Seaman, Ray Sexton, Pastor Charley, Britney & Zac Shurtz, Mark Svatek, Karen & Joey Trobl, Family of Arnold Vargas, Family of Ethel Williams, Katie Wendtland.

All those who have suffered and been impacted by COVID.

Our local homeless community.

Spencer Hill, Army, deployment to South Korea.

Our military, veterans, and law enforcement.

Uvalde community and all those affected by the tragedy.

Ukraine/Russian War and all those affected.

People of Afghanistan, Haiti, and our border crisis.

August 7 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 OR Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22;

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 14 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; OR Jeremiah 23:23-29 AND Psalm 82;

Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 21 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6 OR Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8;

Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 28 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Psalm 81:1, 10-16 OR Proverbs 25:6-7 and Psalm 112;

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

DIAPER DISCIPLES' DATES

August 13 & August 27

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 1: Norma Mullen

August 5: Donna Baskin

August 6: Carol Ann Huitt

August 7: Brittany Regalado

August 14: Marie Hestand

August 15: Pharaoh Williams

August 18: Robin Schwartz

August 24: Oscar Regalado

August 28: Nancy Knapik

August 30: Sonja Varnell

August 31: Jug Rhymes

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 4: Crayden and Debbie Dennard

August 12: Charles and Linda Townsend

August 25: Steve and Donna Sliva

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

August 7: Linda Brown

August 14: Ronnie Mullen

August 21: Marc or Karin Hill

August 28: Linda Brown

AUGUST USHERS

August 7: Ronnie Mullen, Teresa West, Priscilla Obermeyer, Linda Brown

August 14: Nancy Knapik, Greg Westmoreland, Crayden and Debbie Dennard

August 21: James and Doreen Bounds, Will and Melissa Guynes

August 28: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg Westmoreland

AUGUST COMMUNION PREPARERS

August 7: Doreen Bounds and Melissa Guynes

AUGUST COMMUNION SERVERS

August 7: James Bounds, Linda Brown, Will Guynes, Greg Westmoreland

AUGUST KITCHEN CREW

Doreen Bounds, Priscilla Obermeyer and Jody Romine

BACK TO SCHOOL GAME NIGHT IN ROBBINS HALL!

When? Friday, August 19th

Time? 6:00 PM

Let's gather and celebrate the beginning of another great school year! Bring your favorite games, snacks, and drinks to share.

Did You Know?

Did you know our church is a member of a Co-Op? Did you know those benefits also extend to you as a congregational member?

Although congregational members are not tax-exempt like the church, we do have taxable savings numbers for both Office Depot and Sherwin-Williams.

If you would like more information, please call Karin in the church office at 245-8327.

As many of you know, Spencer Hill has been deployed to South Korea for nine months. If you would like to drop him a note, I know he would love to hear from you! His mailing address is:

Spencer Hill

16BEB Unit 15916 Box 4

APO AP 96224

From the Music Stand.....

What does the word "contemporary" mean? According to Mr. Webster, it means "living or occurring at the same time; belonging to or occurring in the present." Having said this, here comes a little music history I want to share as I started thinking of what is, and has been, considered contemporary Christian music.

My little mama was for many years the adult, female soloist at the church I attended growing up. She sang the songs of George Beverly Shea ("How Great Thou Art") in the 50's and these, and many others, were featured during the Billy Graham Crusades. At the time, they were considered "contemporary."

During the 60's, contemporary Christian artists were very scattered due to the psychedelic style of music that was being sung by the younger Christians. The church leaders were focused on getting the "unsaved youth" in the doors of the church house and the music was consigned to the coffee bars or "Koinonia" houses. This was known as "The Jesus Movement" for the target group were young hippies who were being brought to Christ.

That brings us to the 1970's where youth musicals became very popular. They were written by the likes of Kurt Kaiser (*Oh How He Loves You and Me, Pass it On*), Burl Red (*In Remembrance of Me*), and Andre Crouch (*Soon and Very Soon, The Blood will Never Lose its Power*). The Gaither Vocal Band songs ("The King is Coming") became an ingrained part of the church repertoire. The 70's brought a plethora of music by artists that crossed over from the secular arena such as Aretha Franklin ("What a Friend We Have in Jesus"), The Blackwood Brothers ("Fill My Cup, Lord"), Porter Wagoner ("Heaven's Just a Prayer Away"), and you know that Elvis ("Crying in the Chapel") himself got on the bandwagon.

The young adult Christian music featured during the 80's in our churches were performed by the groups 2nd Chapter of Acts ("Humble Yourself") and Petra ("No Doubt"). Principal solo artists of this decade were Sandi Patty ("El Shaddai"), Dallas Holm ("Rise Again"), Twila Paris ("Prince of Peace"), Michael W. Smith ("The Throne") and Amy Grant ("My Father's Eyes"); they were the more popular artists during this time. Again, realize the taste of the young adult Christians were dictating the music listened to in the churches, on the radio, and in the stadium and arena venues.

This, my friends, is where I will leave you at this time. I will continue in the September issue. This has been a fun journey for me and I hope it brought back a few memories from your past church music. Keep singing praises to our Lord, for He wants to hear our uplifted voices.

Your Sister in Christ,

Donna Baskin

AUGUST'S IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday School for Youth and Adults:	Every Sunday at 9:15 AM
Worship:	Every Sunday at 10:30 AM
Children's Church:	Every Sunday at 10:45 AM
Prayer Group:	Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM
Bible Study:	Every Tuesday at 10:30 AM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal:	August 24 & 31 at 6:30 PM
PW Council:	No Meeting in August
Worship Committee:	No Meeting in August
Christian Education Committee:	Tuesday, August 9 at 3:00 PM
Afternoon Women's Circle:	No Meeting in August
Second Sunday Lunch:	August 14 following worship
Sunday Circle:	No Meeting in August
Outreach & Mission Committee:	No Meeting in August
Congregational Care Committee:	Tuesday, August 23 at 9:30 AM
Newsletter Deadline:	Wednesday, August 17
Game Night:	Friday, August 19 at 6:00 PM
Diaper Disciples:	Saturday, August 13 & 27 10:00 AM – Noon
Session Meeting:	Sunday, August 28 at 11:30 AM
Wednesday Night Supper:	August 24 at 6:00 PM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE!

Let us remind you that "You Are Loved!"

When? Tuesday, August 2nd – Thursday, August 4th

Time? 6:00 PM – 7:45 PM.

We will have a "family style" program like we did last year. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 followed by a Bible story, craft, and closed out with joyful singing and dancing to glorify our God.

Dinner Menu:

Tuesday: chili cheese dogs, chips, and cookies

Wednesday: pizza, fruit, and ice cream sandwiches

Thursday: brisket, beans, potato salad, and chocolate sheet cake

We will also be having a little healthy competition between the boys and girls to see who can raise more money for our mission project, our Diaper Disciples ministry!

Registration forms are available in the narthex and in the church office.

Don't miss out on the fun, make plans to join us!



In Loving Memory of
Ms. Ethel Williams
June 4, 1923—July 13, 2022

Our dear Ms. Ethel has been renewed to perfection! She was laid to rest on Sunday, July 17th at Hawley Cemetery near Blessing, Texas. The family chose an open air service; Ms. Ethel wanted everyone to be surrounded by the pretty nature of Hawley—“God’s special beauty here on Earth.” Without a doubt, our sweet Ms. Ethel’s “happy heart” is bursting with joy to be in our Savior’s presence!



Do you like to sing along to the radio? Do you like to sing in the shower? Well, there is a perfect place just for you! The choir has a seat reserved with your name on it. All are welcome!

Psalm 98:4 says, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.”

School Supply Drive!

It’s that time of year again, Back to School! The women of the church are currently collecting school supplies and late summer is when school supplies are at the lowest price of the year. Most campuses get an influx of supplies at the beginning of the school year, so we distribute our school supplies in January when many children are running low on necessary items. Make a difference in the lives of the children in our community. Donate some school supplies today!

OUR SESSION

Class of 2022:

Donna Baskin

Karin Hill

Doug Huebner

Class of 2023:

Jim Coe

Debbie Dennard

Carol Petersen

Class of 2024:

Greg Westmoreland