

2024

FIRST THOUGHTS

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



A Word With Pastor Chris

BAY CITY, TX

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FMC STAFF

Rev. Christopher McNeill	Pastor
Brandi Dorsett	Administrative Secretary
Susan Parish	Praise Team Leader
Gena Herrera	Chancel Choir Director
Rebecca Sansing	Praise Ringers Director
Mike Byrn	Pianist/Organist
Cecially Breazeale	Sunshine & Rainbows Director
Lynsey Curtner	Director of Family Ministries
Mandi Ressman	Youth Ministry Assistant/ Um Army Coordinator

Contact FMC at any time, 24 hours a day, to let the church office know of hospitalizations, births, deaths, illnesses, or other concerns.



Just Believe

Jeremiah 31:3 – ‘I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.’

A friend of mine, Rev. Carolyn Moore, recently shared God’s three options in creating us.

-God could have made us perfect, i.e. not able to sin. But if He did that He’d be making a world of Himself because only God is perfect. Since God is not only perfect but loving, He wanted people to love and who would love Him.

-God could have created us captive or under His control and unable to sin. However, someone who is not able to make free choices is not able to love. God wanted people to love and who would freely return that love.

-God chose to make us free because humans can only choose to love if they are free to do so. God wants a relationship with people whose hearts are also seeking Him. This is why fear and love do not go together. This is also why fear of punishment is about the state of our hearts, not God’s heart. 1 John 4:18 says, ‘There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.’

God wants us to be made perfect in love, but is it possible given our brokenness? John Wesley thought so. He said ‘moving on to perfection’ means that we do not choose to act unlovingly on purpose. Will we make mistakes? Of course, but do we actively choose love as best we can? What a great goal to have! Why did God create you? To love you and be loved by you. Let that sink in as we continue our journey through Lent into Easter. St. Augustine once said, ‘God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.’ What would the world look like if we truly believed that?

Stay loving, my friends.

Pastor Chris

Electronic Giving



Scan this code or go to fumcbaycity.com to give

Giving Made Easy
Donate to Our Church With Your Phone!

Support ministries anytime and anywhere from the palm of your hand. Here are the simple steps to begin giving:

- Download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
- Search for our Church
- Select your fund & amount
- Enter payment method
- Choose to cover processing fees
- Complete your donation

We thank you for your support!



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April Newsletter Deadline : Mar. 25th



Altar Flowers

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Please enter in the comment section what you would like to say for the...

[signupgenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EAEAD2AAAFBC07-46957423-altar#/)

Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesday's @ 10AM
in the Parlor
'Death and Resurrection of the Messiah'



Volunteers wanted.
Sign-ups for the Prayer Room is at the Welcome Center.
Contact George Durett for more information.

PRAYER ROOM

Date	Worship	Offering
2/4	71	4352.75
2/11	187	4132.10
2/18	72	2549.00
2/25	77	2613.00

Attendance and Offering for the month of February

*Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed*

Blessing Box Donations

We will start collecting items to distribute to all of the blessing boxes around town. We will also create an information card to let our community know that we are praying for them.

All donations will be collected in a box located in the Northex.

Nonperishable Foods

- canned foods
- box meals
- granola bars

Hygiene Items

- toothpaste/toothbrush
- soap
- shampoo
- feminine products
- baby items (wipes/diapers)



HAPPY PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

POTLUCK LUNCHEON

FOLLOWED BY AN EASTER EGG HUNT

We are in need of candy donations for our egg hunt. Plastic eggs are not needed this year.

Please drop off donations at the Church office by March 15.



Sunday



SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS ACADEMY LOVES BEING ABLE TO SOW INTO THE LIVES OF SO MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN. THIS YEAR ALONE WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH THE LIVES OF 83 CHILDREN ALONG WITH THEIR FAMILIES. WE CURRENTLY HOUSE 15 STAFF MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT MANY DIFFERENT CHURCHES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTY. WE ARE THANKFUL TO BE HOUSED WITHIN FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BAY CITY AND KNOW THAT THE CHURCH TAKES A VITAL ROLE IN SOWING INTO THE COMMUNITY AS WELL.

ONE OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS BEING HOUSED WITHIN THE WALLS OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH IS OUR OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER WEEKLY IN THE CHAPEL. WE LOVE GETTING TO IMMERSE OUR STUDENTS IN WORSHIP OF GOD AND HEAR A WEEKLY MESSAGE BROUGHT TO US BY THE PASTOR.

SUNSHINE AND RAINBOWS ACADEMY WILL BE OPENING UP OUR REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR FOR OUR CURRENT STUDENTS AND CHURCH MEMBERS IN MARCH. BE WATCHING FOR THE DATE AS IT GETS CLOSER AND DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL YOUR STUDENTS AT THIS TIME.





Messages From Our Missions Chairman



BICYCLES for OUR VETS

If you are homeless then the chance you have daunting transportation issues is significantly compounded! Such is the case for most of the former military service men and women who are temporary residents at a comprehensive care homeless shelter for marginalized vets. This special facility is known as The Warriors Refuge (thewarriorrefuge.us) and is located in nearby West Columbia.

Therefore, a unique mission has begun to collect gently used bicycles that are functional or are readily and affordably repairable. It is a collaborative effort to get donated bikes, repair them if necessary and then gift them to vets housed, counseled and cared for in this neighboring town. It involves interest groups in Bay City and Lake Jackson. This opportunity now includes FMC.

The objective is to deliver serviceable adult-size bicycles to the veterans at the Refuge. This is a much appreciated form of basic transportation which they can utilize while at the shelter as well as take with them once they are prepared to live on their own.

Do you have, or know of, unused men's and/or women's bicycles that may be languishing in storage and, thus, could benefit those who put it all on the line for us to live free? If so, contact me at your earliest convenience and I will facilitate the process of getting these donated two-wheelers to deserving veterans at The WR.

Thank you for your compassionate response to the transportation needs of the patriots who have proudly served our nation and willingly sacrificed so much!

W.R. 'Willie' Younger
FMC Missions Chairman
979-240-4872

Welcome & Worship Center!

Welcoming new members and visitors with information and guidance for our church's programs and activities here at FMC is very important to us.

If you would like to volunteer to man our new welcome center, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Narthex.

ADULT MINISTRIES

We believe that true Christian community is about more than attending a Sunday gathering. We love worshipping together, but it is important to us that you are known outside of just Sundays.

We believe sustained life-change happens best in small groups.

We have groups for every age and stage of life. We want you to have a relational home with a group of people who follow Jesus together, whether that is through a class, a small group, or a Bible study.

Programming

FRIENDSHIP CLASS: Sundays 9AM (in the Parlor)

GOOD NEWS CLASS: Sundays 9AM

FAMILY OF FAITH: Tuesdays 5:30PM-6:30PM

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays 10AM (seasonal)

MISSIONS

We will mobilize people and resources both in our city and aboard to glorify God, share the gospel, and help those in need.

There is so much that God has put on our hearts to pursue, and we believe we have been given everything we need to accomplish all of it.

Ongoing Opportunities

FOOD VOUCHER MINISTRY
Every 3rd Thursday 8:30AM-10AM

HARVEST HOUSE FOOD PANTRY

PRISON MINISTRY

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY
10:00 AM
FAMILY WORSHIP
IN THE
SANCTUARY

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING SUNDAY?

MUSIC



The Music Ministry of First Methodist Church is mission-minded, striving to take the gospel of Jesus into our community and the world. Worship is our response of love to the God who first loved us. If you or your children love to use your talents to make a joyful noise to the Lord, consider joining one our choirs.

Weekly Programming

PRAISE TEAM : Mondays 6:15PM and Sundays 9AM
(Singers, Band, Tech Team)

CHANCEL CHOIR : Mondays 7PM
(childcare available if requested one week in advance)

PRAISE RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR : August - May
Wednesdays 5:30PM



Children and Youth ministries focuses on laying a Biblical foundation, planting seeds of faith, and digging deep into God's word. We believe that faith formation happens both in the church and in the home, and want to come alongside parents to equip and empower them to be leaders in their child's spiritual journey!

Children and Youth Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Sundays 10AM
(except 1st Sundays) 4yr old's through 5th graders welcomed

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CLASSES: Every 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sunday @5PM. Ages 6th-12th Grade @ 5-6:30PM. We will meet in Wesley Hall for dinner, but pick up will be from the Youth Bldg.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH



Reminder



CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH
WILL NOT MEET MARCH 10TH &
MARCH 17TH DUE TO SPRING BREAK

LET'S SPRING INTO
Children's Church

MARCH 3 - WHY EASTER EGGS?
MARCH 10 - SPRING BREAK - NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH
MARCH 17 - SPRING BREAK - NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH
MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 31- EASTER BONNET PARADE

AGE 4 - 5TH GRADERS WELCOME

Church Nursery

IS OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
FOR NEWBORNS - 3 YR OLDS

Mandi Ressler - Nursery Coordinator



IT'S ALWAYS A PARTY IN CHILDREN'S CHURCH

AGES 4 - 5TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON THE
2ND, 3RD, 4TH, & 5TH SUNDAYS EACH MONTH
IN WESLEY HALL @ 10AM

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO STAY WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THE SANCTUARY ON 1ST SUNDAYS TO
CELEBRATE COMMUNION TOGETHER

CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH CONT.



Confirmation

Begins April 7, 2024

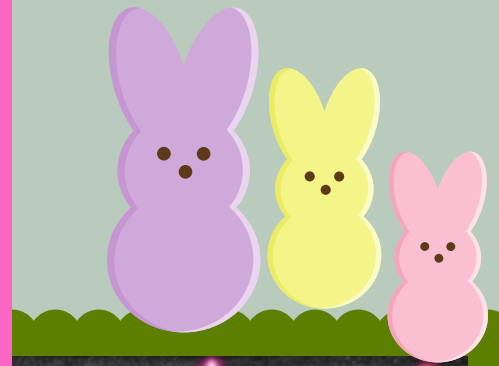
Contact Lynsey Curtner to register
(979) 240-4006

HAPPY
Easter

Thank You

to the
Good News Class
for the delicious
Burgers & Tots
you prepared for the
Youth on 2/18!

We appreciate you!



February Fun in
Children's Church

Luke caught the Love Pox!

Brooke is showing just how big God's love is!

Loretta & Amelia are covered in Love Pox!

Object Lesson on how God's Love spreads!

God's Love is BIG, Connor!

Love Pox is contagious, Hudson!

ALL 6TH - 12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!

YOUTH NEWS

JOIN US 5PM - 6:30PM

FOR DINNER, GAMES, BIBLE STUDY, & FELLOWSHIP!

MAR 3 GOD'S PLAN TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT - ROMANS 5: 12-21

MAR 8 MOVIE NIGHT IN THE YOUTH ROOM 5:30PM - 8PM

MAR 10 & 17 SPRING BREAK - NO YOUTH

MAR 24 GOD THE FATHER, LOVING & PERFECT - MATTHEW 7:7-11

MAR 31 EASTER SUNDAY - NO YOUTH

MARCH 2024



SCOUT

News



SCOUT NEWS FOR MARCH 2024

An Arrow of Light Presentation and Crossover Ceremony was held at the Birding and Nature Center for the Cubs who had earned the Arrow of Light (Highest Award in Cub Scouting) by Troop 45. After receiving their Arrow of Light Awards, the Cub Scouts (three boys and two girls) crossed over a bridge and were welcomed into their applicable Scout Troop.



CUB PACK 4545

The Pack traveled to Bellville where some Cubs forged a knife at Phenix Knives and then all Cubs attending the event went to Newman's Castle for a tour and to spend the night. The annual Blue and Gold picnic will happen in a few days. This celebrates the birthday of Cub Scouting. Cub Scouting began in 1930.

The annual cake auction is the major fund raiser for the Pack. It is open to the public. It will be on Friday, March 15 at the VFW building on Highway 60 North at 6 PM. So come look at the beautiful cakes. Buy a cake!

TROOP 45 for BOYS

SUNDAY MAY 5, 2024 IS BAR-B-QUE

This is the only fundraiser for Troop 45

Tickets available after March 6 from any Troop 45 member

Wednesday March 28th in Wesley Hall Troop 45 at 7:30 PM

Troop 45 will have the Spring Court of Honor. The Scouts will receive badges and ranks they have earned for the last six months. The families are invited. We bring food to eat.

TROOP 145 for GIRLS

The Scouts are planning a Bake Sale for a Saturday in late March or April at TRACTOR SUPPLY (Near Wal Mart) more details later.

Thursday April 11th in the Youth Building at 7:30 PM Troop 145 will have the Spring Court of Honor. The Scouts will receive badges and ranks they have earned for the last six months. The families are invited. We bring food to eat.

HAVE FUN



PACK 4545 NEWMANS CASTLE 2024



PACK 4545 PHENIX KNIVES 2024



SCOUTING CROSSOVER 2024





EASTER LILY -ORDER FORM

If you would like to place an Easter lily in the sanctuary in honor of or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it by the church office. The price is \$15.00 each. Deadline for ordering is **March 25th by noon.** Proceeds from the sale of lilies will go to the Altar Guild.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Total enclosed: _____ check no. _____ cash _____

Number ordered: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY



MCALLISTER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Attention High School Seniors:

If you are a member of FMC Bay City, you may qualify for a McAllister Memorial Student Fund Scholarship to help with your first year of college.

Attention College Students:

If you are a present or past member of FMC Bay City, a full-time student and will have completed 24 college hours by the end of this semester, you may qualify for a McAllister Memorial Student Fund Scholarship to help with your next year of college.

Applications are available in the church office.

Baptism does not replace taking the "vows of membership"

Deadline is April 4th, 2024 by 4pm
Must be turned in to the church office

Girl's Time Out

Come Join Us!
April 5th ~ 12pm ~
Youth Building

Donna Younger will be sharing
about the Glory Guild and
Quilting

Bring a sack lunch

March

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday Date

Janet Douglas	1
Gunner Gibbens	1
Sally Rogers	2
Margie Griffith	3
Kathy Abels	6
Jessie Stone	7
Dick Walton	7
Lynsey Curtner	8
Diana Frankson	8
Bailey Daniel	9
Michael Hagg	9
Beverly Schulz	9
Ellen Merritt	11
Patti Frankson	13
Charlotte Miller	15
David Salidivar	15
Ira Rose	16
Michael Byrn	19
Gary Green	20
Erik Frankson	21
Rebecca Sansing	21
Chris Sutherland	22
Mike Coppock	23
John Stewart Hutson	23
Craig Estlinbaum	25
John Hutson	25
Steve Reis	26
Melissa Foster	27
Jessica Klepac	30
Amanda Slater	30

Anniversary Date

Frank & Pat Drenner	7
Jimmy & Judy Sansing	8
Joe & Nancy Hartley	9
Justin & Rachel Helmick	16
Danny & Diana Shindler	26
Troy & Mary Frances Hatchett	27
Robert & Patricia Klepac	29



"Let March set your dreams in motion; it's a month of unfolding possibilities."



WANT TO BE INCLUDED...?
 IF WE DON'T HAVE YOUR BIRTH DATE OR ANNIVERSARY ON FILE, WE'D LOVE TO INCLUDE YOU IN OUR CELEBRATORY WISHES!
 CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 245-4627 OR EMAIL:FUMCBC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Please Pray For:

Israel
 Louise Teutsch
 Mary Ellen Reynolds
 Simon Desoto
 Audry Griggs
 Michelle and Marcel Poirrier
 B.J. Reynal
 Deborah Machicek
 Steve Sliva
 Luis Camacho
 Russell Lidberg, Jr.
 Marilyn Lidberg
 George Adams
 Billy Bender
 John Wells

Judy Pennington
 Taylor Smith
 Diana Ruiz
 Collin Gann
 Kaye Claybourn
 Melissa Foster's dad
 Greg - Terry & Michelle's friend
 Sarah McDonald Mirelez
 John Greenway
 Eleanor May & Family
 Don Storey
 Ty Pressley and his family
 Donna Rice
 Ira Rose
 Sharon Richardson
 Tim Ridgeway
 Barry Fry

~Please provide updates for Prayer Concerns when you are aware of them~

“It is finished.”

John 19:30, ESV



*March 24th ~ Palm Sunday- 10am Worship in the Sanctuary
Potluck Luncheon followed by Easter egg hunt*

March 28th ~ Maundy Thursday- 6pm Worship in the Chapel

March 29th ~ Good Friday - 6pm Worship in the Chapel

*March 31st ~ Easter Sunday ~ Sunrise Worship - 7am in the Chapel
Breakfast to follow at The First Presbyterian Church
10am Worship in the Sanctuary*





HELLO March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATUDAY
					1 G.T.O 12pm- Youth Building	2
3 Communion 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship 5pm FMC Youth Group	4 6:15pm Praise Team	5 Pastor's Bible Study 10am- Parlor 5:30pm Faith & Family	6 5:30 pm Bells 7pm Choir 7:30pm Troop 45	7 6AM Reunion Meeting 7pm Troop 145	8 	9
10 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship 	11 6:15pm Praise Team	12 Pastor's Bible Study 10am- Parlor 5:30pm Faith & Family	13 5:30 pm Bells 7pm Choir 7:30pm Troop 45	14 6AM Reunion Meeting 7pm Troop 145	15 9am-12pm Glory Guild Youth Building	16
17 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship 	18 6:15pm Praise Team	19 Pastor's Bible Study 10am- Parlor 5:30pm Faith & Family	20 5:30 pm Bells 7pm Choir 7:30pm Troop 45	21 6AM Reunion Meeting 8:30am-10am Food Pantry 7pm Troop 145	22 	23
24 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship 5pm FMC Youth Group	25 Newsletter Deadline Easter Lily Deadline 6:15pm Praise Team	26 Pastor's Bible Study 10am- Parlor 5:30pm Faith & Family	27 5:30 pm Bells 7pm Choir 7:30pm Troop 45	28 6AM Reunion Meeting 6pm Worship in The Chapel 7pm Troop 145	29 6pm Worship in The Chapel 	30
31 10am Worship in person & Live stream worship 5pm FMC Youth Group	<div data-bbox="308 1753 1567 2037" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p style="text-align: center;">Easter Sunrise Service 7AM in The Chapel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Immediately following, there will be breakfast served at the First Presbyterian Church</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> </div>					