



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



May 2019

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

**Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

**Session members:**

Class of 2019

John Clark and Molly Lennon

Class of 2020

Jane Els and Dan Wilson

Class of 2021

Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman

Treasurer

Jerry Poe

**Contact us:**

Tina Hammer, Secretary

**PO Box 493**

301 S. Walnut St.

Winnsboro, TX 75404

Office: 903-342-3011

Fax: 903-342-3011

Pastor: 979-733-6938

Email: [firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)

[revdrjerry@peoplescom.net](mailto:revdrjerry@peoplescom.net)

Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

**FPC Website:**

[www.easttexasgrace.org](http://www.easttexasgrace.org)

**Cross and Crown articles:**

[firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)

### **PASTOR'S PAGE: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER**

May is here and with it the end of spring and the beginning of summer, at least here in Texas. May usually brings warmer weather and sometimes even hot weather. We seem to have a much longer summer than other places in the US, with our summer sometimes lasting from May to October. We who have lived in Texas most all our lives should be accustomed to it but each year I am never ready for the onslaught of hot weather. I personally prefer the cooler temperatures and even do not mind the cold.

May also is the marker for many endings and new beginnings. Graduation ceremonies come for high school and college graduates, a time of closure from all the efforts that have made graduation possible, an ending from that chapter in life. At the same time, new beginnings are on the horizon for these young people as they seek and begin new jobs or go on to higher education elsewhere. Such moments are filled with both melancholy and joy, longing for the past but looking forward to the future.

We celebrate mothers in May on Mother's Day, this year on May 12. Women who have been mothers to others through natural childbirth, adoption, or just caring for others in a motherly fashion are honored on this special day. Our celebration comes with the realization that we will not always have our mothers with us, as my wife and I discovered last fall and winter. This will be our first Mother's Day not to have our mothers present on earth for us to call or send a gift to. We will all think about our mothers on this special day and, whether present in life or not, give thanks to God for the people who mothered us throughout our lives.

May is the beginning of the vacation season also. Memorial Day weekend May 24-27 with Memorial Day being on that Monday, May 27. People have planned for time away to travel or rest in some place that will speak to their spirits as they enjoy the beauty of nature and the value of being with others to enjoy a special experience. We ask God's traveling mercies for all who may be traveling this summer. We ask God to also

lead us to God's house during the summer to worship and fellowship and work for God's Kingdom.

May is a time of transition. May God grant you God's love and peace and joy as you enjoy the blessings God gives in the summer. May God bring calm to your spirits and joy in your soul that you can share with others who may need to be close to you.

**Pastor Jerry and Doris say Thanks:**

Thank you to the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church for the love gift given to us on Easter Sunday. We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness to remember us with a monetary gift. We have enjoyed knowing you for a year now and we look forward to many days together as we all serve God and neighbor in mission and ministry in the world around us.



## **Noisy Offering** **To be announced**

### SERMON TOPICS FOR MAY:

- May 5      Third Sunday of Easter  
Pastor on Vacation  
Special Speaker
- May 12     Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day  
John 10:22-30  
"Part of the Flock"
- May 19     Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Revelation 21:1-6  
"New Heaven and Earth"
- May 26     Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5  
"The Lamb is the Light"

### **Attendance:**

**March 31—24**

**April 7—25**

**April 14—32**

**April 21—47**

### **May birthdays and anniversaries:**

**(Please notify the office if I do not have your birthday)**

**3    Louis Bond**

**8    Bob Kelm**

**17   Debra Gaines**

**20   Armel Crocker**

**26   Baber's Anniversary**



Our last Presbyterian Women's Bible study for the 2018-2019 year is upon us. In lesson nine of God's Promise: I am with You, the focus is that "Jesus extends the promise of presence to his followers, whom he sends into the world." Scripture for this lesson comes from Matthew 18:15-20; 28:16-20. This has been an exceptional study driving home the fact that God IS with us always! Even though it is the last lesson, it's not too late to join us at 10 a.m. in the Russell Annex (office) on Monday, May 6.

PW is planning a luncheon for not only the women who have been able to attend the monthly study but also for ALL women of our church and guests. Be on the lookout for more information as we finalize plans.



# Jane's Journey

Easter is still fresh in our minds. While our inclination might be to think, "whew, that's over. Now I can rest." To the contrary, we have just begun.

Easter gives us a chance to reset our souls; to begin again; this time maybe I can get it right. Maybe this time I will understand what it is Jesus wants me to do.

And, of all the things Jesus said and did, he was very clear on his last night with his disciples. "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." John 13: 34 (He also said it again in John 15:12 in case they hadn't heard him the first time.)

Earlier that same night he had also told his disciples that they should wash each other's feet as he had done for them.

For a few years now I have been searching for the modern-day equivalent of this ancient ritual. Back in ancient days the roads were unpaved, travel was by foot. A traveler visiting a house would arrive with dirty and tired feet. It was an accepted ritual for the master of the house to have a servant wash the feet of a visitor. This was an intimate and humble task but also an ordinary everyday task.

Today this would make people uncomfortable. I watched Facebook the week before Easter as various pastors tried suggesting it. The answers all came back that it would make people uncomfortable. So folks set upon trying to find the modern day equivalent of fulfilling Jesus' commandment to humble ourselves and perform a needed task for weary travelers.

Someone sent me a link to the First United Methodist Church in Denton, Texas. They have a ministry to provide new shoes to the migrants who have walked so far to reach the US border. Politics aside, these are weary travelers with tired and dusty feet. Jesus is asking us to humble ourselves before them and take care of their feet. The Denton church isn't asking us to wash naked feet. However, they are giving us a chance to help people with tired feet and worn out shoes.

Jesus' command to wash feet doesn't always have to be about feet, though. I think he would be OK with nursing home visits or buying school supplies for kids. If we humble ourselves in love I think that fits the bill.

All Jesus said was "Love one another." We get to decide how to do that.

**Pastor Jerry will be out of town for two weeks. In his absence our Certificate in Ministry students will preach:**

**April 28: Arnel Crocker**

**May 5: Jane Els**

General Fund Summary - Jan - Mar 2019			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$14,798.45	\$15,312.47	\$514.02
Expense	\$ 15,525.38	\$21,475.36	\$5,949.98
Net	(\$726.93)		

Note: Bank balance 3/31/2019 was \$46,948.62. Restricted funds totaled \$11,521.83, while unrestricted funds totaled \$35,426.79. Uncleared checks total \$2,548.33, leaving \$32,878.46 available for normal bills.)

### May 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

#### Third Sunday of Easter—May 5

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter—May 12

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 19

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 26

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

#### Ascension of the Lord—May 30

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

**Mother's Day is May 12**

## From the Session:

The Session is now meeting every other month and did not have a stated meeting in April. Look for May's meeting news in the next newsletter. May's stated meeting will be on the 19th since their regular date is Mother's Day.

Olivia and LilyMae Holloman had an Easter Egg Hunt for pieces of the Easter story. Sarah Carrell helps teach Sunday school when she is in town.



## Music Notes

*The church musicians have had a busy Lent and Easter season. The Singers will not meet during May, but the Ringers will continue to practice through May to bring special music for May and June. Ringers meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings.*

### **ATTENTION: NEW PRAYER REQUESTS MONTHLY**

In order to keep our prayer requests current, our prayer list will start fresh at the beginning of each month. To keep your prayer request in the bulletin, write it on the back of an offering envelope, the attendance sheet or a piece of paper (please make sure your name is on it) or contact the church office, [firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net) or 903-342-3011. We do not need the reason, unless it is death or an accomplishment, which go under a different heading. Also, please give relationship to you so others know who they are praying for. And **PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.**

As our prayers are answered, we give God thanks. For those with continued needs, we continue to pray.



# May 2019

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

May 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 2pm - Bible study	30	1	2	3 Louis Bond	4 12pm - Al-Anon
5 Cinco de Mayo	6 PW 10AM 2pm - Bible study	7	8 Bob Keim	9	10	11 12pm - Al-Anon
12 Communion Mother's Day	13 2pm - Bible study	14 Session reports	15	16	17 Debra Gaines	18 12pm - Al-Anon
19 Family Lunch Session	20 Armel Crocker C & C articles due 2pm - Bible study	21	22	23	24	25 12pm - Al-Anon
26 Annv. Baber	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28	29	30 Ascension of the Ruth Shelton	31	1 12pm - Al-Anon