



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



February 2020

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

Session members:

Class of 2020

Jane Els and Dan Wilson

Class of 2021

Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman

Class of 2022

Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver

Treasurer

Ronny Knight

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

revdrjerry@peoplescom.net

Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

FPC Website:

www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles:

firstpres@peoplescom.net

PASTOR'S PAGE: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER

Whew! Is it already February? Gosh, I thought January had just begun a few days ago and now it is time to start a new month. As I get older, I remember a bumper sticker I saw a number of years ago that said, "When you get over the hill, you pick up speed." I guess that is the way life works. We begin as children and time seems to creep along. We cannot wait for the next special day. Birthdays, holidays, vacations are things we live for. Then, as we begin to age, we get involved in life and time seems to fly by. Work and life responsibilities seem to keep us busy and it seems we have little time for other things. The days seem to rush by and then the years do too. Well, we are glad to have another month to work and worship and celebrate the good things of life.

February worship begins on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2. I hope you can be with us as we examine Jesus' words that we call "The Beatitudes" as descriptors of the way of life of Christians, and all who wish to be part of the "Kingdom of Heaven." We will continue in the Sermon on the Mount, of which the Beatitudes are a part, for the next week when we think about how salty we are and how much light we show around us as we live daily. Then, we will switch gears slightly so that St. Paul can speak to us from his letter to the Corinthians as we think about how we all work together for good in God's Kingdom.

Lent begins on February 26 this year with Ash Wednesday Worship which will be held at 6:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. We will receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our repentance and begin the annual 40 Day Lenten Season that will lead us to Easter. This year, I will preach from Matthew 6 about "Prayer and Fasting" as we think about how we will live out Lent daily in our lives. Will we give up a food or practice or other thing important to us? Will we add something such as prayer or fasting or devotions as signs of our sincerity? Join us for this annual special day that begins Lent as we worship together.

There will be a special article in this newsletter regarding it, but we will also have a Lenten Study this year weekly on Tuesday evenings with a time of food preceding it. We will meet for food at 5:30 and begin our study at 6:00 pm and be dismissed by 7:00 pm. All are invited and are urged to attend and invite others to also join us.

The holiday most associated with February, of course, is Valentine's Day, which falls on a Friday this year. Love is at the center of the celebration so tell someone that you love them this year and let our lives live out the love that we have for one another in all we do.

I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.

Noisy Offering

**Iglesia Maranatha in the town of Salama,
Guatemala**



SERMON TITLES FOR FEBRUARY:

- Feb 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Matthew 5: 1-12
“Blessed Are You”
- Feb 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Matthew 5: 13-20
“Salt and Light”
- Feb 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
I Corinthians 3: 1-9
“Working Together”
- Feb 23 Transfiguration Sunday
Matthew 17: 1-9
“A Visible Change”
- Feb 26 Ash Wednesday
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
“Prayer and Fasting”

February birthdays & anniversaries:

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

22 LaVerne Baber

Attendance:

December 29—22

January 5—31

January 12—32

January 19—31

January 26—24

LENTEN STUDY TO BEGIN MARCH 3

Lent begins on February 26 this year with Ash Wednesday Service. Then, the next Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30 pm we will begin a six week Lenten Study to be held in our fellowship hall weekly on Tuesdays as we share a light meal at 5:30 and then begin our study promptly at 6:00 pm. The study will last only an hour so you will be dismissed by 7:00 pm weekly. I hope you will consider joining us.

Some of you may know that I am leading a group in September to go to Germany to see the Passion Play at the small village of Oberammergau. It is held there each ten years so once each decade the village welcomes over one million people over a six month period to see the last week of the life of Christ depicted on the stage with thousands of local citizens and animals participating. This play has been seen by millions of people over the years it has been presented and Cokesbury Resources has produced a study book for Lent based on the story of the Passion Play and how it came about and what it means. We will be using this book as our resource for our Lenten Study. It is called, “The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ’s Last Days”, written by Rev. Rob Fuquay. You can order a copy of this book from Cokesbury.com or from Amazon.com if you wish to have one so you can read the chapters in advance of our meetings.

There is also a video component that goes with the study that we will use that will show photos from Germany and Oberammergau as the author speaks to us and asks us questions regarding the study book. You will enjoy seeing some of the videos of Germany and the mountainous scenery as well as from the past presentations of the Passion Play.

I urge you to join us and to invite others to come also. All are welcome to be part of this study. You do not have to buy a book in order to come. All are welcome to come and participate at the level of your comfort.

We will have soup and bread prepared weekly. If you would like to help provide some of the food for the study, please contact Jane Els or Sandy Corder who are coordinating the food.

I hope that I will see you at this study as we enjoy learning about the Passion Play of Oberammergau and what the Passion of Christ may mean to each of our lives.



Jane's Journey

Armel and I had so much fun taking classes at Austin Seminary that even though we finished our required courses for a Certificate in Ministry and stay busy enough preaching in Paris and Depart once a month we found a class online this semester that we wanted to take. When we asked if we could still take the class in Old Testament they agreed to let us audit it (which is even better since we don't have to turn in any homework!)

I looked at the story of Cain and Abel with fresh eyes last week. I began to wonder if the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" really was a legitimate question to Cain. Maybe he wasn't arguing with God out of a guilty conscious. It now occurs to me that this was the first generation of humanity. With Cain and Abel there were no ground rules. Cain really didn't know. Not that Adam was a bad father but he probably never told him how to be a big brother. Adam didn't have a brother or a sister. Neither did Eve. Big brothers had not been invented before Cain. He was the first one. Maybe Cain honestly didn't know if he was supposed to take care of his brother.

Then I let a little time go by and went back to re-read the story and thought to myself, "No, he had to know. God told him sin might be lurking at the door. Cain knew what he had done was wrong." There are always different ways to look at the same story.

We've been exploring questions like this one in our adult Sunday School class. And we have a new meeting place now. We've moved into the room behind the kitchen. The room has fresh décor and a great arrangement for conversation. We're on the book of Deuteronomy now, going through the bible—and finding the book more fascinating than we dreamed it would be.

The beauty of being Presbyterian is that we feel free to question things. Our denomination doesn't require us to have too many strident answers, just freedom to question. In fact, the motto of my favorite Presbyterian college, Austin College, in Sherman, Texas, is "God gave us brains and expects us to use them."

In other Proud to be Presbyterian moments Beaven and I went to Camp Gilmont's annual meeting as this church's representatives last Sunday afternoon. One of the highlights of the meeting was a video presentation of the past year's activities that Sean Drennan created. He has assumed greater responsibilities at the camp recently and is doing a great job.

We had a visitor in worship Sunday but I didn't catch his name. And for the second week in a row we had new members join the church. My daughter, Emily Els and granddaughter, Sarah Carrell transferred their membership from the First Presbyterian Church in Garland. Sarah is already planning to be the adult sponsor for Olivia and LilyMae for their first KidQuake at Gilmont in the spring. I love the poetry of this: their grandfather is the pastor who baptized Sarah. God is good. All the time.

NOTICE

The congregation met Sunday, January 26 to hear annual reports. If you missed the meeting, you can see those reports on our website under the members tab. Printed copies are also available in the church foyer.

February 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, February 2
Micah 6:1–8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18–31
Matthew 5:1–12

Sunday, February 9
Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]
Psalm 112:1–9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]
Matthew 5:13–20

Sunday, February 16
Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach 15:15–20
Psalm 119:1–8
1 Corinthians 3:1–9
Matthew 5:21–37

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 23
Exodus 24:12–18
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16–21
Matthew 17:1–9

Ash Wednesday—February 26
Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12
Psalm 51:1–17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is always a joy in the life of a congregation to welcome new members into our fellowship. This January we were delighted to have three new members join us on two Sundays.

Alice McGregor has been visiting us for many months and she transferred her membership from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston to our congregation. Alice had been a long time member there before moving to Winnsboro and is excited to be part of this congregation.

Emily Els and Sarah Carrell both transferred their memberships from First Presbyterian Church of Garland where they had been long time members. Emily is the daughter of Jane and Beaven Els and Sarah is their granddaughter. We are glad for them to be part of this congregation also.

Please say hello and extend the right hand of fellowship to these new members if you were not present on the Sundays when they joined our congregation.

If you are not a member of First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro and would like to become one either through transfer of your membership from another part of the Christian family or through profession of your faith in Jesus Christ, see Pastor Jerry or speak to a Session member to begin the process. We would love to welcome you into our fellowship of Christians.



Session Highlights

Your current Session members, their class, and committees are Jane Els (2020) and Sandy Corder (2021), InReach/OutReach; Kelly Holloman (2021) and Patricia Fields (2022), Worship/Education; Dan Wilson (2020), Building/Grounds; and Slade Weaver (2022) Admin/Finance. Here are some of the highlights of the January 12 stated meeting.

- Welcomed Alice McGregor as a new member transferring from Memorial Drive Presbyterian, Houston.
- Voted to replace the flooring in the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- Heard plans that are being made to freshen up the appearance of the Reid fellowship hall making it more attractive to members and visitors.
- Made some changes to the church's Manual of Operations. Two of those were 1) an addition defining procedure for email voting by Session members on actions that need no discussion or had already been discussed (following Grace Presbytery guidelines) and 2) splitting up the ADMIN/FINANCE/BLDG committee into 2 separate committees: Admin/Finance and Building/Grounds.
- Plans for a Lenten series are being made by Pastor Jerry. There will be a modest meal along with a study. (More information will be forthcoming.)
- Identified Jane and Beaven Els as members to attend the January 26 meeting of Camp Gilmont's Annual Meeting. Any other members of our church are also welcomed to attend that meeting.

Several tasks that must be done yearly were taken care of.

- Appointed Ronny Knight as Treasurer.
- Appointed Tricia Clark as Clerk of Session.
- Appointed Jane Els and Armel Crocker as Commissioned Elders to attend Presbytery meetings.
- Approved Communion dates: 1st Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and Christmas Eve.
- Approved special worship services other than on Sundays: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve.
- Approved mission giving: Shared Mission Commitment (through Grace Presbytery), One Great Hour of Sharing, Joy Gift, Noisy Offering.

The Session's next Stated Meeting will be March 8.



Pastor Jerry with Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver on their Ordination Sunday

Presbyterian Women

February is the month of LOVE, and Tricia Clark plans to show us some love by hosting a Devotional Brunch for our upcoming PW meeting.

Please join us at:

The Clark's home, 210 West Myrtle Street, Winnsboro, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4th.

As always, all the women of our church (along with friends and neighbors) are welcomed to our meetings. If you plan to bring a guest this time, please let Tricia know.

Fellowship Lunch Recipe

This month at the fellowship lunch, the first recipe I overheard requested was Jerry Carpenter's Ricotta Lemon Cake recipe. (Yes I eavesdrop, but only for a good reason!) Rev J was kind enough to share the recipe he used from the website Cooking Classy:

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 cups (188g) all-purpose flour (scoop and level to measure)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (113g) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 1/2 Tbsp. lemon zest
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups (356g) whole milk ricotta cheese

Topping

- 1 lb. fresh strawberries, diced or sliced
- 3 1/2 Tbsp. (42g) granulated sugar, divided
- 1 cup (235ml) heavy cream

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 9-inch spring form pan, line bottom with a round of parchment paper and butter parchment.
2. In a medium mixing bowl whisk together flour, baking powder and salt, set aside.
3. In the bowl of an electric stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment cream together sugar, butter and lemon zest until pale and fluffy.
4. Mix in eggs one at a time (mixture will appear lumpy), blend in vanilla.
5. Add in half of the flour mixture and mix just until combined, add ricotta and mix just until combined.
6. Add in last half of the flour mixture and mix just until combined. Gently fold batter to ensure ingredients are evenly incorporated.
7. Pour batter into prepared spring form pan and spread into an even layer. Bake in preheated oven until cake is set (a toothpick can come out moist but no batter), about 45 - 50 minutes.
8. Let cake cool 10 minutes then run a knife around edge to loosen any edges that may have stuck slightly, remove spring form ring and continue to let cool.
9. Once cool, slice and serve with macerated strawberries and whipped cream.

Macerated Strawberries

1. In a medium mixing bowl toss strawberries with 2 Tbsp. of the sugar. Cover and let rest in refrigerator while cake is baking and cooling.
2. In a separate medium mixing bowl using an electric hand mixer whip heavy cream until soft peaks form.
3. Add 1 1/2 Tbsp. sugar and whip until stiff peaks form. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.
4. Recipe source: Cooking Classy

Moral Disciplines

As a yoga instructor, I have been repeatedly surprised by how much the study of another practice echoes the teachings of the Bible and how much yoga has strengthened my connection to Christianity's teachings.

One area that has helped in particular is my observances of the five moral disciplines. Called yamas, these simple seeming concepts become deeper the more you look into them. Exploring them in a Christian context makes them even more meaningful to me. These moral disciplines are non-violence, truthfulness, non-stealing, chastity, and non-attachment. I'll do my best to convey some of the ideas behind them:

Non-violence – This moral discipline goes deeper than physical violence like assault. It encompasses mental and emotional damage to ourselves and to others. Even imposing your will on someone could be considered harmful, so using guilt and other manipulative tactics has to be avoided. This takes the Christian commandment of "Thou Shalt Not Kill" to another level. It has been helpful in guiding me to be more mindful of how my words, deeds, and actions impact others.

Truthfulness – This moral discipline is about not just telling the truth in conversation. It includes really seeing and admitting the truth to yourself as well as others. We can justify lots of things on the surface, but when we really look at our motives, we sometimes see that we've deceived ourselves.

Non-stealing – Again, not just the physical act of stealing. This moral discipline addresses jealousy and how we give in to it by not giving credit, by having selfish ambitions, and many other small actions. Wanting things, wanting glory, and wanting respect that we see other attaining can be a hugely destructive force.

Chastity – This moral discipline addresses living in moderation and not allowing your mind to fantasize about having more or different things, experiences, etc. Having the discipline to live in our present lives simply without excess. Chastity or moderation in all things – food, drink, love, money and more are included in this yoga concept.

Non-attachment – Humans get attached easily. When we become attached to political views, our personal identities, our houses and possessions, our loved ones – we lose our attachment to God. The more we are attached, the more we worry and the less we simply trust.

While all these ideas are in the Bible, I wasn't taught in my Christian studies to delve more deeply into them. Through my yoga studies, I've been able to really dive into them deeper after studying and putting them into practice in a physical sense. Looking at the IDEAS behind the commandments and not simply the words has been refreshing and given me a completely different outlook.

Sandy Corder

A Music Note of Thanks from Tricia



I want to thank everyone who helped to make music happen on Christmas Eve so that I could spend Christmas with my family in El Paso. Finding a substitute organist/pianist proved to be impossible, so the Chime Choir, Patricia Fields and Sandy Corder on flutes, Charlie England on the trumpet, and Slade Weave operating the Bluetooth with recorded accompaniment all contributed beautifully to bring music to the service. Thank you, also, to the congregation for being willing to do music a bit outside of the box!

February 2020

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Feb 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Congregation Naisy Offering Susan Drennan	27 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	28	29	30	31	1 12pm - Al-Anon
2 Communion	3 2pm - Bible study	4 10am - P W at Tricla	5	6	7	8 12pm - Al-Anon
9	10 2pm - Bible study	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 12pm - Al-Anon
16 Family Lunch	17 Presidents' Day 2pm - Bible study	18	19	20	21	22 LaVerne Baber 12pm - Al-Anon
23 Naisy Offering	24 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29 12pm - Al-Anon