



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



March 2020

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

**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](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**

March has begun...and so has Lent. Ash Wednesday was February 26 and now we are on the journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. Each Sunday in worship we will go with Jesus as he travels toward Jerusalem. Jesus knows that what lies ahead for him there will not be good. But, as the scripture says, he sets his face toward Jerusalem. That means, he will go there, even though he has misgivings. He knows that the religious authorities do not like his message of love and grace for all. They want a person to obey the rules and anyone who does not will be punished, as it directed in the Law of Moses (or the Torah, the First Five Books of the Old Testament). Jesus teaches about God's mercy and grace and how much God loves them as God's children. The religious leaders begin to conspire about how to destroy Jesus before he changes their religious system into something that will take away the power they love to have.

So, we join Jesus weekly as we journey with him, along with the Disciples, who have many concerns about what Jesus does, just as his enemies do. We go with Jesus to Samaria one week and listen in on his conversation with the woman at the well. We learn a lot about her life but also about how Jesus says he can provide water to her that will never run out. We go with Jesus to the Pool of Siloam and find a blind man who Jesus heals so that he can see. We hear the conversation between Jesus and the religious leaders who do not like Jesus healing on the Sabbath Day. We finally go with Jesus to Bethany where he finds his good friends Mary and Martha mourning the death of their brother Lazarus. We see Jesus begin to weep because of the love he had for his friend even though he soon raises him back to life.

Each week in worship we will hear these familiar old stories as we examine them once again. I hope you will join us in worship on Sundays as we think and hear and read, and sing together, and journey with Jesus in our spirits.

We will also have the opportunity to be together in March each Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm as we are part of Lenten Study called "The Passion Play: Living the Story of Christ's Last Days". A DVD component is part of the study to take us to Germany to be part of the Passion Play held in the village of Oberammergau once each decade. We will talk about why this village produces this play each decade and what their experience may mean to our own lives. Join us weekly at 6 pm on Tuesdays or come early at 5:30 and enjoy homemade soup and bread beforehand.

Lent is time of renewal and rededication. Make your church attendance a priority in your life for the Lenten Season and you will find Easter to be better than you ever thought it could be once Lent is over.

# Noisy Offering

## Iglesia Maranatha in the town of Salama, Guatemala



### SERMON TITLES FOR MARCH:

- |        |                                                                     |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 1  | First Sunday in Lent<br>Matthew 4: 1-11<br>“The Journey Begins”     |
| Mar 8  | Second Sunday in Lent<br>Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17<br>“Beyond Ourselves” |
| Mar 15 | Third Sunday in Lent<br>John 4: 1-42<br>“Living Water”              |
| Mar 22 | Fourth Sunday in Lent<br>John 9: 1-41<br>“Light and Darkness”       |
| Mar 29 | Fifth Sunday in Lent<br>John 11: 1-45<br>“Resurrection and Life”    |

### March birthdays & anniversaries:

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

**8 Judy DeWees  
15 Annie Dunn  
23 Jacob Wilson**

### Attendance:

**February 2—28  
February 9—39  
February 16—29  
February 23—32**

### CHICKEN Spaghetti



The **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** will be selling containers of **frozen** Chicken Spaghetti to raise money for their local and international mission projects. Each container serves 2-3 generous portions and sells for \$10.

Pre-order forms can be deposited in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mailed to: FPC - PW, P O Box 493, Winnsboro, TX 75494. Deadline for pre-orders will be Tuesday, March 31. You may either pre-pay for your order or pay when you pick up your dinners. **Please make checks payable to “Presbyterian Women.”**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Containers \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 ea. Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# Jane's Journey

Our bird is back. She has been building her nest here for years. I'm not sure what kind of bird it is or if it's even the same bird. But it's the same kind of nest and the same kind of bird. We have journeyed this process together with her or one of her sisters at least ten years – long enough that I can predict each phase of the growth of the baby birds right up to the last one: when they get too big and too messy and, thankfully, fly off a couple of days later after wearing out their welcome. Kind of like high school seniors.

But it has started me thinking about spring. It's time to plant the garden. And to plan for a Lenten practice. A few times I gave things up for Lent and it had a profound effect on me. The years I gave up things like certain foods (chocolate, desserts) made me appreciate them more. Some years instead of discarding things I picked up practices like adding prayers to my life: one year I determined to laugh more and throughout the Lenten season, strange though it might sound, I deliberately laughed more and put more thought into my laughter: why I was doing it and how it made me feel when I did it. One of the reasons for a Lenten practice is to draw into yourself, to ponder life and its many sides. Most times we concentrate on the somber side of Lent; that year I examined the joyful side of life.

One of the biggest challenges Armel and I face in the small churches where we have been preaching is music. One church shares a pianist with the Episcopalian church down the road. She plays for them then races over to the Presbyterian church, arriving just in time for the last half of worship. If we're lucky we might get her for the second two of three hymns but not always. You can imagine our private glee last week when we heard that for the Lenten season the Episcopalians are decreasing their use of music so we will get the pianist earlier in the service—at least, until Easter.

A lot of churches eliminate songs with the word "hallelujah" in them during Lent. In the somber spirit they don't feel that word is appropriate. I'm not one to judge other folks' worship practices but I do know how good it feels to sing Hallelujah on Easter morning. And turn the lights up and celebrate.

## Where Do the Hallelujahs Go to Hide?

Where do the Hallelujahs go to hide during Lent?  
When they are banished from Sanctuaries  
And silenced from the songs  
When they are politely told  
that they are not appropriate until Easter morning  
"come back on Easter," we tell them

I think they hide in the playgrounds  
Where they whisper themselves to the children  
Periodically burping into a giggle here and there  
Quietly biding their time In the midst of play

Then on Easter morning they return  
Striding into the Sanctuary with bold steps  
Ripping down the black drapes  
Bringing the lights up, cueing the trumpets

Winking at the children for their shared secret  
And promises to attend their weddings

## March 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

First Sunday in Lent—March 1  
Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12–19  
Matthew 4:1–11

Third Sunday in Lent—March 15  
Exodus 17:1–7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1–11  
John 4:5–42

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 29  
Ezekiel 37:1–14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6–11  
John 11:1–45

Second Sunday in Lent—March 8  
Genesis 12:1–4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17  
John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 22  
1 Samuel 16:1–13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8–14  
John 9:1–41



**Lenten Study**  
w/ Soup Supper

First Presbyterian Church  
Reid Fellowship Hall  
302 S. Chestnut Street  
Winnsboro, TX 75494  
Weekly Mar 3 - Apr 7  
5:30 - 7:00 p. m.

### Music Notes



**The Ringers and Singers will begin practicing for special Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter music in March. Ringers meet at 9:00 a.m. and Singers at 9:45 both on Sundays in the sanctuary. For more information talk to Patricia Fields (Ringers) and Tricia Clark (Singers.) Anyone interested in making a joyful noise through music is welcome to join us.**



Upcoming PW Meetings/Devotionals

Apr 7: Chicken Spaghetti Cook-In

Jun 6: Annual Saturday Luncheon

Sep 8: Meet @Els house in Pickton

Nov 3: Alice McGregor presents her trip to Israel

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us!



*Presbyterian Women's brunch at the home of Tricia Clark, February 4*

### **Session Highlights**

The following was inadvertently left out of my report for the February newsletter:

During the January Session meeting, the Session approved the motion from the Reid Committee to approve Armel Crocker as Moderator and Becky Poe as Treasurer of that committee. Other committee members who will serve in 2020 on the committee are Carolyn Stewart, Rhonda Thomas, and Dan Wilson as Session representative.



## Lilies for Easter

Each plant is \$8.00. If you would like to order one (or more), please fill out the information below and place the sheet in the offering plate with your check made out to Presbyterian Church for the proper amount (please indicate "for lilies" on check).

**March 29, 2020 will be the last day we accept orders.**

---

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

---

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

Total # Plants Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# March 2020

First Presbyterian, **Contacts**, **Holidays in United States**

Mar 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

| Sun                                                        | Mon                                                  | Tue                                        | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 1<br>Communion<br>Practice                                 | 2<br>2pm - Bible study                               | 3<br>Super Tuesday<br>5:30pm - Lenten      | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7<br>12pm - AI-Anon  |
| 8<br>Daylight Saving<br>Judy DeWees<br>Practice<br>Session | 9<br>2pm - Bible study                               | 10<br>5:30pm - Lenten                      | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14<br>12pm - AI-Anon |
| 15<br>Ann Dunn<br>Family Lunch<br>Practice                 | 16<br>2pm - Bible study                              | 17<br>St. Patrick's Day<br>5:30pm - Lenten | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21<br>12pm - AI-Anon |
| 22<br>Practice                                             | 23<br>C & C due<br>Jacob Wilson<br>2pm - Bible study | 24<br>5:30pm - Lenten                      | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28<br>12pm - AI-Anon |
| 29<br>Last day order<br>Noisy Offering<br>Practice         | 30<br>2pm - Bible study                              | 31<br>Last day order<br>5:30pm - Lenten    | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4<br>12pm - AI-Anon  |