



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



May 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

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

Here we are again, just as we were at the beginning of April, staying at home, staying indoors much of the time, staying safe. What a strange, odd time in which we live. The stores and restaurants that we enjoy going to are closed or working on a smaller scale. The grocery store has limited supplies of things we normally find in abundance. We wait in lines six feet from others to gain entrance into grocery stores or hardware stores or other places that enforce the rule to stay distant from others. Our schools are closed and teachers teach online and students do their assignments and send them in to their teachers electronically. Our lives have been "put on hold" in many ways as we attempt to protect ourselves from an unseen enemy, one that we did not know existed until this year began.

Our churches are also holding worship differently. We decided in early March not to have worship for two Sundays so as to assess what this threat may be like. Then, our Governor ordered us all to stay home for a month, not to go to church or school or out at all unless we just had to. And most of us have obeyed the order. We have been good citizens and tried to obey the rules put into place for the majority of the time.

Last week, the rules were loosened a bit. State Parks reopened, elective surgeries could proceed, retail stores could offer merchandise "to go" so that customers could obtain them but not venture into stores. This Friday, the one month order expires and the Governor now says we can go to restaurants again, but only fill up a quarter of the space. We can go to theaters but only sit in a quarter of the seats. Will we be allowed in those places or will they be full when we want to go? Will we need reservations to eat at places as a rule rather than an exception? Will these precautions keep us safe or will it just delay the onslaught of further disease?

We do not know the future. No one knows the future except for God. We do know, however, that God holds the future and God holds us in God's hands so we are secure in the future because we are secure with God. There is an old Gospel hymn from early in the twentieth century that begins this way, "I don't know about tomorrow. I just live from day to day. I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn to gray. I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said. And today I'll walk beside him, for he knows what lies ahead."

Perhaps that verse speaks more to our time today even as it did when it was first written. We do not know what the future holds but we know if we put our faith and trust in God, that God will keep us and carry us through the times and challenges in which we live.

The chorus to that old hymns says, "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand." Times such as these are easier to bear when we have a foundation on which to stand and that foundation, for Christians, is Jesus Christ. Jesus is always with us and He will always help us to cope in every situation of life. We may not have everything we need when we go to the supermarket. We may not feel comfortable wearing a mask for our protection or seeing others wearing them around us. But we know that even as we endure and live and do what we can to protect ourselves that God will use all that is being done to help bring us through it all.

"All things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). This verse does not say that all things that happen are good. It says that all things that happen work for good for those who put their trust in God. We all know that bad things happen in life. We also know that the eventual

outcome may be better for us, even if we have had to suffer things in life we would have preferred to avoid. Trust in God helps us to know that the sunshine will conquer the clouds if we just continue to trust.

We will worship in our sanctuary again sometimes. We do not know when, but until then continue to stay in touch with our members and watch the online worship and stay well and safe. God is with us. Saint Julian of Norwich said it best, "All shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

## Noisy Offering

## Iglesia Maranatha in the town of Salama, Guatemala



### SERMON TITLES FOR MAY:

May 3	Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10: 1-10 "Following the Shepherd"
May 10	Fifth Sunday of Easter I Peter 2: 1-10 "God's Own People"
May 17	Sixth Sunday of Easter John 14: 15-21 "Advocate, Counselor, Teacher"
May 24	Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 1: 6-14 "Regrouping"
May 31	Pentecost Sunday Acts 1: 1-21 "Telling the World"

### May birthdays & 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 anniversary**

### Attendance:

**March 29—0**

**April 5—0**

**April 12—5**

**April 19—0**

**April 26—0**

Listed below are the addresses of some familiar Assisted Living residents, if you would like to send them a card.

Ed Russell  
%Trinity Mission  
502 E. Coke Rd, #19  
Winnsboro, TX, 75494

Elizabeth Drennan  
%Southern Wind  
618 Quitman St.  
Pittsburg, TX 75686

Linda Borders  
1004 E. Coke Rd., #456  
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Annie Dunn  
1004 E. Coke Rd., #210  
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Mary Ruth Darnell  
1004 E. Coke Rd., #443  
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Jo Ann Gerry  
1004 E. Coke Rd., #445  
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Carol Jacobs  
1004 E. Coke Rd., #304  
Winnsboro, TX 75494



# Jane's Journey

Something is happening. Everything is so upside down nowadays. For one thing, I forgot what month it was the other day. Not just what day—no, I forgot whether it was March or April. And now, it's almost May. Everything is topsy-turvy.

In the midst of our seclusion, our new way of being "Together Separately", we have discovered a new way of being together and it is electronically. I have enjoyed the luxury of being able to enjoy not just one in-person worship service but sometimes five services on a Sunday joining communities from Michigan to France to Winnsboro in hearing the word and worshipping God together—separately through Facebook, Zoom, YouTube and other recorded videos. I can now join with you all in bible study on Tuesday morning through Zoom right

here in my living room. I watched a presentation from Grace Presbytery on the theology of having communion electronically. (And, yes, it is OK under the right conditions.)

Now, nobody in this congregation misses a good hug more than I do or will be happier to worship in person when it is safe to resume. But in the meantime, while it is sensible to keep our distance, we are learning so MANY things!

Phyllis Tickle wrote a book called *The Great Emergence* in 2008. Her theory was that every 500 years the church goes through a radical transformation. She points out that in 451 the Chalcedon Council established the first solid doctrines of Christianity. This was followed by the Great Schism in 1054 when the church split into the Western and Eastern Orthodox. In 1517 we had the Protestant Reformation thanks to Martin Luther. Here the book leaves us at the present day waiting to see what new thing God is leading us to.

This past week I have wondered if this pandemic is leading us to see how we might worship and teach Christ in ways we had never dream before. Sunday morning, I sat at my laptop and watched an educator teach the Walk to Emmaus story using a video that showed a walking path, a puzzle being put together, bread being broken, and the puzzle being finished while she explained to the children how Jesus had walked all the way to Emmaus to help Cleopas understand who he was and help him to piece the puzzle together. It was a simple video she had recorded in the hallway of the church and using simple objects. But it made it easier for the children to understand the story.

The Age of Electronics is here. It will not replace hugs. Or phone calls or letters or greeting cards. It will not replace worship in our sanctuary. It only means that God keeps giving us more and more tools to help us understand our relationship to each other and God's Self. God has been doing this for the last 2,000 years and continues to do it today.

To God be the Glory.



## **Music Notes**

**Sadly, the music that the Ringers and Singers were preparing for Lent and Easter was put on hold. BUT you can look forward to hearing these pieces when we return to worshipping in our sanctuary! Choir participants will be contacted as to when we will start rehearsals again.**

## May 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

### Fourth Sunday of Easter—May 3

Acts 2:42–47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19–25  
John 10:1–10

### Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 10

Acts 7:55–60  
Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16  
1 Peter 2:2–10  
John 14:1–14

### Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 17

Acts 17:22–31  
Psalm 66:8–20  
1 Peter 3:13–22  
John 14:15–21

### Ascension of the Lord—May 21

Acts 1:1–11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15–23  
Luke 24:44–53

### Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 24

Acts 1:6–14  
Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35  
1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11  
John 17:1–11

### Day of Pentecost—May 31

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30  
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21  
John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39



Upcoming PW Meetings/Devotionals

Apr 7: Chicken Spaghetti Cook-In **POSTPONED**

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!

### Session News

As reported earlier in the year, the Session added a procedure for electronic decision-making to our Manual of Operations. The Session has “met” through a couple of email votes concerning pressing matters.

- Pastor Jerry Carpenter’s contract must be renewed yearly. It runs from May 1 - April 30. The Session voted unanimously to renew his contract for the upcoming year.
- The Session also voted that due to the continued spread of COVID 19, we should suspend gathering in the church for worship and/or study until we and medical and/or government officials deem it safe to gather.

The Session has postponed the May 3 Stated Meeting for later in the month in hopes that they will be able to meet face-to-face. If actual get-together isn’t deemed wise, they will meet through Zoom before the end of the month.



**Online Bible Study during Covid-19 Stay at Home**

During the Covid-19 "Stay-at-Home days, Pastor Jerry will lead an online Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. He will be using the Zoom App to host the meeting. If you do not have Zoom on the device you want to use, you can download it from the App Store on your device and then set up your account. He will send you an email on Monday, and you can be set to join the group on Tuesdays. The Zoom App allows participants to see and hear each other. Participants can make comments or ask questions.

**Ed Russell at Trinity Mission  
on parade day  
April 25**







**To the Glory of God**

*Virtual Easter Lillies donated by & in memory of:*

Patricia Fields	Mr. & Mrs. Fields (parents)
Don & Nyla Kettleson	Loved ones
Jerry & Becky Poe	Mary Poe
Bob Simmons	Jim & Jo Simmons
Hurschel & Rhonda Thomas	Our parents

*and in honor of:*

Jerry & Becky Poe	Joanne Gerry
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# May 2020 (events subject to change)

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

May 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

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