



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



June 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

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

June, the beginning of summer, hot dogs, swimming, going to the beach or the mountains, family reunions, ice cream, lazy days.....all part of our summer memories but will they be part of this summer as we continue to deal with this world health crisis? Some may be for sure. We can always eat our favorite summertime foods. We can enjoy lazy days around our homes (as many of us have been doing for a while) and we may even be able to take some road trips and getaway for a part of the summer.

Big gatherings such as reunions or large meetings or festivals do not seem to be a part of this summer. Those gatherings are still discouraged so as not to enhance the spread of the virus. Even our church worship is on hold for now. Our church Session met by Zoom on May 17 and decided to not return to worship in the sanctuary for a while. The concern is for people to be able to gather with proper sanitation being done weekly so as to allow all to handle hymnals and Bibles and protect everyone while at worship and afterwards. The Session members will meet again by Zoom on June 14 to see what the situation is like at that point. We will decide if we have reached the place where we can safely meet once more.

Summer may offer us an opportunity to do some things in a more intimate way than before. We can still have outings but our plans may include only a few people rather than a larger number. We can still see our friends and relatives but we may need to think about the setting and how we can prevent transmission of the disease if it happens to be present since we do not know if it is present or not.

Fighting an invisible enemy is difficult. When we do not know where it is, then we do not always know how to deal with it. Doris and I love mysteries and watch them when we can on television. For a while, PBS

was broadcasting a new updated version of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries. Sherlock had an adversary that was cunning and evil, of course. He was always trying to find a way to rid the world of Sherlock but Sherlock was always one step ahead of him. In one episode, this evil man hid himself and would only send a beam of light now and then to make himself revealed so that Sherlock and Watson could try to detect where he was. They never did find him but they had several close calls as he cajoled them and harassed them before he left for parts unknown.

The virus we are dealing with is a bit like that. It shows itself now and then through the people who have been inflicted with it and the news of some who have died because of it. We can never know exactly where it is but we know if we do certain things it will help us to not have it as our own problem. We use hand sanitizer, wear masks in public places, and try to stay a distance from people we do not know and hope that these measures

will reduce our chance of having to deal with this health issue. We do not know anything else to do, short of receiving a vaccine if one becomes available but we must do what we can do.

So, we are the Church even in the face of dread disease. This is not the end of the Church and its ministry. It is just a hiatus. We continue to worship online and to stay in touch and to plan for the future. One day.....it will all end and life as usual will return. We must just continue to be diligent and to support one another all we can until the all clear signal is given.

SERMON TITLES FOR JUNE:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 7 | Trinity Sunday
Matthew 28: 16-20
“Commissioned to Serve” |
| June 14 | Second Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 9: 35-10:8
“A Great Harvest” |
| June 21 | Third Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 10: 24-39
“Faith in Difficult Times” |
| June 28 | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 10:40-42
“Extending the Welcome” |

June birthdays & anniversaries:

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

- 6 Jack Baber**
- 11 Sean Drennan**
- 20 Della White**
- 26 Charlie England**
- 27 Holly Clark-Porter**

Attendance:

All of May—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

Several years ago I was introduced to a new way of praying while walking a labyrinth. A little while after that a movie came out by that name. I never saw the movie but apparently it gives the impression that a labyrinth deliberately gets you lost but, in fact, a prayer lab doesn't do that. There's only one path into the center and one path out. It usually takes about 30 minutes to walk a labyrinth—but the beauty is that it's really an individual thing. You can take as long as you like. It's just you and God out there walking while you pray. For someone who has trouble with their mind wandering this is a great way to pray. You just follow the path. Your mind is free to wander or pray but you don't have to think about where to put your feet. I fell in love with this form of prayer.

I have had some of my most spiritual moments walking a labyrinth. And sometimes nothing happens. But I keep going back because it is always a relaxing time even when God doesn't speak thunderbolts of wisdom.

My favorite pattern to walk is the 11-circuit pattern so called because it's based on the pattern laid out on the floor of an 13th century cathedral in Chartres, France. So you can see it is not new age and it's not pagan.

I am here today to announce that as of today our church now has a Community Prayer Walk that we can offer to the whole town. We have painted an 11-circuit classic Chartres Labyrinth in the grass in the field next to the playground and the gazebo. It's something a person can do out in the open and alone—a perfect activity in this tense time of social distance and isolation.

Just park your car in our parking lot and you should spot the opening to the circle as you approach the orange pattern from the parking lot with the playground on your right. Thank you to Patricia Fields and Emily Els for all their help in the several tries it took to keep this accomplished.



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.

June 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Trinity Sunday—June 7
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11–13
Matthew 28:16–20

Sunday, June 21
Genesis 21:8–21
Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17
Romans 6:1b–11
Matthew 10:24–39

Sunday, June 14
Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
Romans 5:1–8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9–23)

Sunday, June 28
Genesis 22:1–14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12–23
Matthew 10:40–42



Upcoming PW Meetings/Devotionals

Jun 6: Annual Saturday Luncheon **POSTPONED**

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!

Big changes at the Reid Building!

Just before the Corona Virus interrupted our Sunday worship, the session had approved a project to replace the floor in the Reid Building since the carpet was difficult to keep clean and was stained from use.

Dan Wilson has been in charge of the project. He and Beaven gathered flooring samples from all over and everyone who wanted to could look them over and share their opinions. General consensus was for a medium brown, easy to clean, durable surface that will be warm and inviting to anyone who enters the building.

The stage built in the corner under the television was removed to give more options for furniture placement and the floor was laid throughout the main part of the building. Flooring was also laid in front of the alter in the sanctuary.

Jane is leading another team to add some pizzazz to the space with paint and vinyl decals. Tricia Clark and Patricia Fields helped her pick paint colors and she has begun to make a welcome center for sharing news and welcoming guests. The Reid Committee will also be putting in a Scholarship recipient tree that shows the many who have benefitted from Louise Reid's generosity.

Artwork from past and present members will be showcased and labeled to allow everyone to know who painted, sculpted, sewed, or donated artwork to the church.

If you have more ideas you think will look great and show new guests that we are a vibrant and warm community, please let us know.

Session Highlights

The Session postponed their scheduled May 3 meeting for a couple of weeks hoping to meet in person, but they ended up meeting through Zoom, an online video call, on May 17. All the members were present along with Pastor Jerry and Clerk Tricia. Here are the highlights, but please note that a more thorough letter about starting back to congregational worship is being penned to be sent to all members.

- Our church is alive and well! Even though we are not meeting face-to-face, Pastor Jerry has been broadcasting our Sunday service on Facebook live, posting bulletins on the website, holding Bible study via Zoom, sending emails, and staying in touch with members through phone calls. Tina is in the office during her regular hours, and all the Session committees are actively working to keep our church going.
- Dan Wilson, Building/Grounds, along with other church members, have been busy! They are keeping the grounds cared for and have done major work in the church building. We have new floors in the Reid building, narthex, and in front of the altar. All that stained carpet is gone, and it looks great! Thanks to Carpets Plus for installing the beautiful flooring. Also, the Reid committee asked for approval in creating a Scholarship Tree on the wall in the Reid building to show our scholarship recipients. This was enthusiastically approved by the Session.
- Sandy Corder and Jane Els, Inreach/Outreach, are working on a letter to send to the congregation to keep you informed as to what the plans are going forward with worship, etc. They reported that the Shepherd's Staff has been trying to stay connected with their sheep. They reminded us that the "sheep" can always call the "shepherd" if they need someone to touch base with. Noting the fact that not all churches have been able to hold worship, they are looking at ways to get the word out to area people that WE are still worshiping and that anyone can "join" us through Facebook. They have also followed through with sprucing up the Reid building to make it more welcoming.
- Kelly Holloman and Patricia Fields, Worship and Education, have been researching what needs to happen in order for us to get back to worshiping in our building. They have looked at not only government recommendations, but also at Grace Presbytery recommendations. These findings will be related to you in the letter being sent out.
- Slade Weaver, Admin/Finance, reported that he received information from Church Mutual, our insurance company, that money is available to support essential needs of the church. Having gotten approval from the Session, he will pursue that application. He also reported that tithes are down because of not meeting for regular worship although some folks are stopping by the office with theirs and/or mailing theirs in. We are grateful for continued support because much of our expenditures continue to be the same as always.
- Ronny Knight, Treasurer, reported that our income for the month of April was \$1,648 below our budget based on a \$6,600 per month annual budget. He also reported that we have completed our annual church audit done by Clara Ziegler. All looks good there. He emphasizes that the financial records are always available for review.

Try this if you feel a little off balance

Many folks are a little off balance due to the current pandemic situation. While we can't instantly fix the situation, we do have some tools to help us change our response to it. Our bodies are a fantastic and fascinating gift. With proper technique, we can speed ourselves up, calm our nerve, or focus ourselves simply by breathing.

The following breath technique focuses our attention and brings balance when we feel unsettled. It is easy to do, takes only a few minutes, and requires absolutely no equipment.

We are going to breathe through one nostril at a time in a slow, steady pace. There are just four steps to this simple process...let's get started:

Preparation

Sit in a chair or on the edge of the bed. Your back should be straight, but relaxed instead of rigid. Your left hand will rest in your lap. Your right hand will be opening and closing your nostrils. Hold it in front of the face, palm toward you.

Step One - Breathe in through the left

Plug the right nostril with your right thumb and breathe in deeply through the left nostril. (Make sure you allow your chest and belly to rise as you take a super deep breath.)

Step Two - Breathe out through the right

Open the right nostril and plug the left with your ring finger, then breathe out fully.

Step Three - Breathe in through the right

Immediately breathe in through the right nostril. Again, try to take in a really nice deep breath.

Step Four - Breathe out through the left

Open the left nostril while you plug the right with your thumb again and breathe out.

Simplified, it is:

In through the left
out through the right
back in through the right
out through the left

Start with 5 breaths and see if you can work up to 10 or 20. When completed, you should feel refreshed, relaxed, and able to concentrate.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

June 2020

(Worship online/contact Pastor for Bible study on Tuesdays)

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

Jun 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 11am - Worshiping	1	2	3	4	5	6 Jack Baber
7 Communion 11am - Worshiping	8	9	10	11 Sean Drennan	12	13
14 Session VIA Zoom 11am - Worshiping	15	16	17	18-19 Tina on vacation		20 Della White
21-23 Tina on vacation			24	25	26 Charlie England	27 Holly Clark-Porter
28 Noisy Offering 11am - Worshiping	29	30	1-2		3 Independence Day	4 Independence Day