



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



July 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

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**FPC Website:**

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

**Cross and Crown articles:**

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

What does it mean to be the Church? Can we be the Church without actually meeting in one place and seeing each other regularly? That perhaps is the question we have all been asking during the past few months as we have been forced to be apart for our own good. We miss being together. We miss seeing each other, talking to each other, hugging each other, and catching up on the news we have missed since the last time we were together. We miss singing the songs we have known for so long and trying out new ones. We miss hearing God's Word read and listening to a reflection on it. We miss being together for lunches and fellowship. We miss what has been familiar to us for so long. That is how we have learned what it means to be the Church from our ancestors and what we have been accustomed to experiencing regularly.

Does that mean that we cannot be the Church differently if we are put into a position so that we must be different? We can still be the Church and not do anything that I have just written. We can be apart and still exist as the Church. We may not like doing it. We may get tired of doing it. We may even resent doing it. But, we sometimes do things that are necessary just for our own good. Our parents taught us that.

Those of us who want to be healthy do things that we must do because it helps us to stay healthy. We exercise, sometimes even if we think we are too tired or busy to do so. We eat in a healthy manner even though we can remember foods that we once loved that seem to attract our attention now and then (such as bacon or chicken fried steak or ice cream). We live in a healthy way because know in the long run that it will be better for us if we stay true to what we believe is best.

That is what we have been doing for the past few months. We have been staying home a lot. We have been wearing our masks and using hand sanitizer religiously. We have been standing 6 feet away from people when we talk to them. We have been following the rules that we were told to follow for our own good and for the good of others who may be riskier than we are. So, we are getting tired of it all. We want life to be back to the way it was before someone first told us that there is a virus named Covid-19. We just want it all to go away and let us live as we did before this all

began.

As your pastor, I have been doing ministry much differently than I ever envisioned I would do it. I prepare the bulletin each week and write sermon notes for people to read if they wish. I hold Bible Study online via Zoom for those who wish to participate. I call our members now and then and check on them. I send letters and cards to our shut-ins and others in our church family who may need encouragement. I pray for you all and ask God to intervene in our lives to bring about a resolution to this crisis. I conduct our worship service each Sunday at 11 a.m. online on Facebook Live for whoever would watch. That is not the way I did ministry for 28 years before coming to Tyler and to FPC Winnsboro as your pastor. I always enjoyed seeing people face to face and hearing them talk to me. That is not something we can risk at this moment.

So, what does it mean to be the Church in 2020 as we deal with one crisis after the next in society? What does it mean to be faithful to our church and to one another? It means to continue doing what you are doing and not give up hope. It means to pray for one another and to call and check up on each other (thanks to our shepherds who are doing this faithfully). It means to read

your Bible and have your own devotions as you can and watch our service and other services you may enjoy to get your spiritual enrichment. It means to trust that God still has the world in control and God will make a way where there seems to be no way. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

SERMON TITLES FOR JULY:

- July 5            Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30  
"Enter Into Rest"
  
- July 12           Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23  
"Planting the Seeds"
  
- July 19           Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43  
"Weeds in the Garden"
  
- July 26           Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
"The Kingdom of Heaven"

**July birthdays & anniversaries:**

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

- 12—Bond Anniversary**
- 12—LilyMae Holloman**
- 23—Clark anniversary**
- 24—Bob Simmons**
- 31—Nathan Clark**

**Attendance:**

**All of June—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

Beaven and I took a vacation one time that was one of those "once in a lifetime" things and it was a whole package that included a train trip and a bus then finally a cruise to Alaska. On the first leg of the trip there was an obnoxious woman with a loud voice that drove everyone crazy. And I knew the woman was part of the package—meaning she would be with us every step of the vacation—everywhere we went. And she was. She spent the train ride reading from a book of moose jokes-out loud. On the bus ride she told stories of her family. On the tour of the abandoned gold mine she was there. We couldn't escape her. And we never got use to her loud and corny jokes. Then there was the boring couple assigned to sit at our table on the cruise. They were perfectly nice people just not quite as stimulating as I had hoped to be spending my evenings with. Otherwise, our dream vacation was everything we wanted it to be.

At the end of the trip on Sunday I noticed they had a worship service available in one of the large theatres on board. I went expecting a sparsely attended group. After all, weren't cruises full of pleasure-seeking heathens? I was astonished to find the room filled to capacity. When we stood for the first hymn it was a familiar one and I basked in the warmth of the tune and could feel myself relax. Then I began to notice the gentle motion of the sea under my feet. We were in a 15-story floating hotel filled with 5,000 people yet we were bobbing around like a cork, all equally vulnerable. And the thought came to me, corny though it sounds: "We're all in the same boat together." I thought of all the people who had been irritating me—the loud woman telling corny jokes and the couple I thought was boring. We were all in the same boat together.

And I could feel a slight creak as my values jerked back into alignment.

It was this thought that came back to my mind when the session voted to delay in-person worship. That, and I Corinthians 10:23.... "All things are lawful but not all things are beneficial. All things are lawful but not all things build up."

I have an African friend named Divine Kuja. I asked him in passing once, "How are you today?" And his answer stopped me in my tracks: "I am fine if you are." He explained the African term "Ubuntu." It means that my welfare is tied to yours so directly that unless you are in good shape I can't be. My well-being depends on yours.

Under the Ubuntu concept I can't worship happily until we all can worship together in full confidence.

We are all in the same boat together. Different ages, different health conditions. Same boat. Ubuntu.



## 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.

## July 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, July 5

Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67  
Psalm 45:10–17  
Romans 7:15–25a  
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Sunday, July 12


Genesis 25:19–34  
Psalm 119:105–112  
Romans 8:1–11  
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Sunday, July 19

Genesis 28:10–19a  
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24  
Romans 8:12–25  
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Sunday, July 26

Genesis 29:15–28  
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or Psalm 128  
Romans 8:26–39  
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52



**Presbyterian Women**  
*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

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!



# July 2020

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

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Jul 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 11am - Worshipping	29	30	1 Pastor is on vacation	2	3 Independence Day	4 Independence Day
5 Pastor is on vacation Communion 11am - Worshipping	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Annv Bond LillyMae Holloman 11am - Worshipping	13	14	15 Tax Day	16	17	18
19 11am - Worshipping	20	21	22	23 Annv. Clark	24 Bob Simmons	25
26 11am - Worshipping	27	28	29	30	31 Nathan Clark	1 John Clark