



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



August 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

I remember reading in literature and history many years ago about sailors who sailed on ships with sails for wind power. They depended upon the wind to push the ship in the direction it should go. Usually there was plenty of wind blowing over the ocean currents, but sometimes they entered an area called "The Doldrums" where there was very little wind and ships would sit still for days or even weeks because of the lack of wind power. Today, scientists have defined that area as "a belt around the earth extending approximately five degrees north and south of the equator." (NOAA) The prevailing trade winds of the Northern Hemisphere blow to the southwest and collide with the Southern Hemisphere's driving northeast trade winds resulting in the air circulating upward rather than across the ocean. That is why the area could stop ships from sailing for long periods of time.

To me, personally, August has always represented The Doldrums. It is a month that is hot and dry and little air comes through to cool us down or bring us rain. It is an in-between time also. No holidays fall in August and nothing happens to give us reason to celebrate or diversions to discover, unless we make them ourselves. My father's birthday was August 17 and that gave our family something to celebrate in the hot summer time. Other than that, it was a waiting time it seemed. School's beginning was ahead and it seemed the real summer activities were behind.

Most of 2020 may have seemed like The Doldrums to us this year. We began our "lockdown" in March and now we live in a way that we do not always like to live. We must conform to behaviors that we may find a bit confining, such as not going anywhere in public unless we have our mask to wear. It is really a small thing to ask but some are resentful and even refuse to do it.

It reminds me of the story in the Bible of Naaman, the general of the army of a tribe at odds with Israel but in a time of peace, who had the dread disease leprosy. He had captured a girl from Israel whom he had as a servant and she suggested that he go to see the prophet Elisha and that he could heal him of his leprosy. So, he made the journey and took a large stack of gifts to give Elisha so as to persuade him to heal him. He also took a letter from his king asking the king of Israel to help him. The king sent him to Elisha and Elisha told him to go "wash in the Jordan seven times and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." (II Kings 5:10)

Naaman was insulted by what Elisha asked him to do. The Jordan was not then or even today the cleanest of rivers. It was a dirty muddy color and compared to the rivers back in Naaman's home country, it seemed a distasteful thing to be asked to do. Naaman became angry and told his servants that he thought Elisha would come out and wave his hand and do some magic on his behalf. His servants told him, "...if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" (II Kings 5:13 b,c) So,

Naaman listened to the wise counsel of his servants and washed in the Jordan and came out with skin “restored like the flesh of a young boy.” (14 c)

Today, wearing a mask is like that. It is not a hard thing to do. It is very easy to put a mask on and wear it for the short time we are in a grocery store or the doctor’s office or even on an airplane ride that may be a bit longer. How much more would we do to avoid being ill if we could? Would we give a large sum of money if it guaranteed us not to be ill? Would we perform a great ritual if it do that? So, all we are being asked to do is to simply cover our faces when we are around others and stay a safe distance from them. It seems like small things to do to have good health.

We are doing those things at our church as we resume in person services too. We are using masks and hand sanitizer. We are sitting 6 feet apart from others. We are not using hymnals or sitting on pew cushions. We are leaving without shaking hands with each other. We are doing things that were not part of our routine not too long ago but we are doing them to stay safe. And, one day when a vaccine is found, and it will be, we can return to those things we find meaningful that we once did. All things in good time. For now, though, stay safe and well. Do the small things and know that we are all in this together and we are all in the hands of our friend and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SERMON TITLES FOR AUGUST:

- Aug 2 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 32: 22-31
 “Holy Wrestling”
- Aug 9 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 14: 22-33
 “Calming the Storm”
- Aug 16 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 15:21-28
 “Unlikely Faith”
- Aug 23 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 16:13-20
 “Who is Jesus?”
- Aug 30 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 16:21-28
 “Taking Up the Cross”

August birthdays & anniversaries:

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

1—John Clark

3—Brad DeWees

3—H P Hosey

6—Rick Drennan

10—Peggy Rounseville

31—Ed Russell

Attendance:

July 5 & 12

Worship VIA

Facebook “Live”

July 19—12

July 26—15



Jane's Journey

This month's "journey" is to pack up & move everything from the house in Garland.
Stay tuned for next month.



July 19th outdoor service had 12 attendees!

August 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, August 2 (Proper 13)

Genesis 32:22–31

Psalms 17:1–7, 15

Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:13–21

Sunday, August 9 (Proper 14)

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Psalms 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b

Romans 10:5–15

Matthew 14:22–33

Sunday, August 16 (Proper 15)

Genesis 45:1–15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

Sunday, August 23 (Proper 16)

Exodus 1:8–2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1–8

Matthew 16:13–20

Sunday, August 30 (Proper 17)

Exodus 3:1–15

Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b

Romans 12:9–21

Matthew 16:21–28



Upcoming PW Meetings/Devotionals

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 Highlights

Your Session met on June 28 for a called meeting and on July 19 for their regular Stated Meeting. These are the highlights of those meetings.

On June 28, the Session voted to return to in-person worship beginning July 26. At that meeting several ideas were put into place in order to facilitate worship for not only in-person but also online worship. A TV which can be closed up in a cabinet will be installed in the sanctuary. This will allow the congregation to see hymn lyrics since we aren't able to use hymn books at this time. Along with new technology, it will also allow remote participation by those who aren't able to return to the sanctuary just yet. The session members are excited about the new opportunities for outreach that this technology can bring.

On July 26, the Session met via Zoom.

- Pastor Jerry Carpenter reported having held an outdoor service by the gazebo on the church grounds on July 19. He also has continued holding services via Facebook live during the pandemic. Communion was held in our homes via Facebook live.
- Clerk, Tricia Clark reported having sent a letter to the congregation at the request of the Session outlining the procedure for returning to in-person worship.
- Slade Weaver, Admin/Finance reported that tithing is currently down. He also is working on upgrading internet services in the office and installing necessary equipment to accommodate online worship.
- Dan Wilson, Bldg/Grounds, reported hiring a new person to clean the church building. He and other members have picked up tree limbs and trimmed shrubbery. He outfitted the Narthex with face masks and hand sanitizer and has contracted someone to build the cabinet for the TV being installed in the sanctuary.
- Sandy Corder and Jane Els, InReach/OutReach reported that the Shepherd's Staff has been active in keeping in touch during this pandemic. They have also been working on facilitating online and in-person worship in order to reach as many of our church members and friends as possible.
- Kelly Holloman and Patricia Fields, Worship, in order to meet state recommendations, worked on making the sanctuary ready for in-person worship by removing hymnals, Bibles, and pew cushions. State mandated signs were posted. They received a donation to purchase prepackaged communion cups/wafers for use through the Covid pandemic.
- Treasurer Ronny Knight reported as of June 30 total income of \$34,010.00 and total expenses of \$39,974.14. The total amount invested with the Texas Presbyterian Foundation as of 7/15/2020 is \$71,950.38. This is divided up in four funds with 60% of that in the General Fund. This reflects a gain of \$3,169.39 for the year. He has totaled up our pledged income for the first six months and will be getting the individual reports out later. We are only slightly under budget in this area.
- A job description for Bookkeeper was approved to be added to the Manual of Operations.
- Congregational meeting dates were set for September 13 to elect a Nomination Committee and for October 25 to hear the Nomination Committee report and to elect 2 elders and one trustee for the class of 2023. (Dan Wilson, Jane Els - session members and Molly Lennon, trustee are rolling off.)

August 2020

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays In United States

Aug 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 11am - Worshipping	27	28	29	30	31 Nathan Clark	1 John Clark
2 Communion 11am - Worshipping	3 Brad Dewees H. P. Rosey	4	5	6 Rick Drennan	7	8
9	10 Peggy Rounseville	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Cross & Crown	25	26	27	28	29
30 Noisy Offering	31 Ed Russell	1	2 Doris Carpenter	3 Ann. Kettison	4	5