



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



November 2020

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

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

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Sunday Worship Schedule

November 1 - All Saints Day - Ron Holloman in the pulpit (Daylight Savings ends!)

November 8 - Jimmy Chapman in the pulpit, communion, congregational meeting following worship, and Session meeting

November 15 - *Lessons and Hymns: A Celebration of Liturgical Seasons, no sermon November 22 - Christ the King Sunday, Jane Els in the pulpit

November 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent, Jane Els in the pulpit

***This Lessons and Hymns service will be a special celebration of the liturgical seasons that we missed while the sanctuary doors were closed during the state stay at home order. While we continued with online worship via Facebook live, we were not able to celebrate these special days in person, and many folks have expressed sorrow at not being able to celebrate the season and sing together the wonderful hymns for those days. So on November 15, we will hear the scriptures and sing the songs of the seasons from Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. Then, the following Sunday we will celebrate Christ the King before moving into Advent on November 29!**

Notice of congregational meeting

A congregational meeting has been called for November 8 following worship. There are two items on the agenda.

1. To hear and vote on a motion from the Session to amend the By-laws article XII Elders. The following amendment is proposed with changes in bold and highlighted: The congregation shall elect 6 elders divided into three classes **of two**, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the October meeting for a three-year term. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An elder having served a total of six years shall be ineligible of reelection to the session for a period of at least one year. **[ADD] If active membership decreases to the point where there are not 6 elders willing/able to serve, that number may be reduced to no lower than 4.**
2. For the purpose of hearing elder and trustee nomination recommendations from the Nominating Committee and for electing elders and a trustee to serve for the class of 2023. Nominations will be recommended from the committee; in addition, nominations from the floor will be heard. If you plan to make a nomination, please make sure in advance of the meeting that the person is willing to serve and understands the duties he/she will be accepting. Current Session members, Jane Els and Dan Wilson, and Trustee Molly Lennon will roll off this year. Officers who will continue to serve are on Session, Sandy Corder, Kelly Holloman (2021); Patricia Fields, Slade Weaver (2022); and as Trustees, Don Kettleson (2021), and Chris Holloman (2022).

November 2020 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, October 4 (Proper 22)

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b–14

Matthew 21:33–46

Sunday, October 11 (Proper 23)

Exodus 32:1–14

Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

Philippians 4:1–9

Matthew 22:1–14

Sunday, October 18 (Proper 24)

Exodus 33:12–23

Psalm 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Matthew 22:15–22

Sunday, October 25 (Proper 25)

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17

1 Thessalonians 2:1–8

Matthew 22:34–46

November birthdays & anniversaries:

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

2 Patricia Fields

6 Dan Wilson

10 Rhonda Thomas

22 Nyla Kettleon

26 Jane Els

Attendance:

September 27–13

October 4–17

October 11–14

October 18–14

October 25–14



Jane's Journey

A funny thing happened on the way to the sermon for Reformation Sunday. The Holy Spirit walked in. Shannon Monk played guitar last Sunday since Tricia and John were out of town. Reformation is always a great excuse to try new and different things! The lectionary readings were Jesus' instruction to Love our neighbor as ourselves in Matthew 22:39 and also the Leviticus 19:18 law saying the same exact thing. Clearly God wants us to love our neighbor. Since we originally planned to worship outdoors (and I always envision a little campfire when I think of being outside) I asked Shannon to play Kumbaya for the Benediction.

But when I Googled the lyrics to Kumbaya I discovered the story behind the song was totally different from what I had long believed. I always thought Kumbaya was an old African song sung about village where everyone was crying about a child who had died. Wrong.

First, you should understand how the music recording industry got started. To find records they would take a recording device (back then it was a wax cylinder) up into the backwoods hills of Appalachia or the Georgia coast and get people to sing for them. This is how they discovered talent and songs. This is how the Carter Family and songs like Wildwood Flower were discovered. The Smithsonian Institution website has one such recording: the original recording from 1926 of a man named Henry Wylie singing "Come By Here". Henry Wylie was one of the Gullah people.....His accent was so thick people thought he was singing in a foreign language--"Kumbaya" instead of "Come By Here." He was calling out to God to come witness the oppressive Jim Crow laws in the American South, laws specifically written to legalize segregation in the South. Here in the U.S., where it was illegal for a black person to eat in a restaurant with white people.

Once I knew this history of the song I went back to the Leviticus scripture and realized there was a lot more to the lectionary that day than just being a good neighbor. If you re-read the scripture you will see that God cares about justice and the poor. When the Gullah people calls on God to "Come By Here", God hears them. The invitation to "Come" and be with someone invites presence. God always accepts that invitation. And, if we want to be good neighbors, we will, too.

When I was younger, I had a very difficult time understanding some things in the Bible. The Psalms, especially, didn't really make sense. I also struggled with some of the descriptions and statements in the Old Testament. As I read them, they seemed odd to me... sometimes mystical, sometimes just plain weird. It didn't matter which translation I used, it just didn't make much sense.

Then I began to study other Eastern arts and sciences. My studies cleared up a fundamental issue and opened my mind to the parts of the Bible I was having trouble understanding. I now understand WHY I was having so much trouble with the text. It wasn't my intelligence...it was my western viewpoint.

You see, the western way of looking at the world – cultivated in the Mediterranean and based on logic - is completely different than the way the world is seen by eastern cultures. While both get to the same goal, the meaning of life, they have completely different approaches. Let's take a look at how something simple is described in western and eastern viewpoints.

A pencil:

Western Description

A pencil is a multi-sided object of about 10 inches, usually made of wood, with a graphite core and topped with a rubber substance. When sharpened it is used as a tool to record language on paper.

Eastern Description

A pencil is a means to bring the ideas, thoughts, words, and images from the mind into reality.

OR

It is a bridge linking the mind of one person to another.

You can see how different the viewpoints can be and how “woo-woo” the Eastern way of looking at things appears when you are expecting the specifics you always valued.

At its origin, the Bible was written in an Eastern world with an Eastern mindset. As you read the Bible, you may start to feel a little lost or that you “just don't get it”. Just remember that when you feel a bit of discomfort as you read - it may just be that you are craving a western view.

Many authors try to bridge the gap between the two without corrupting the teaching. But, there are things that just have to be stated as originally conveyed because there simply is no way to communicate them without losing their meaning. Overlaying our world view on the Bible, can lead to misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

If this is something you struggle with, I urge you to investigate deeper into the way the Eastern cultures look at the world. It is also very helpful to look at the regional history at time of the Bible's original writing.

Submitted by Sandy Corder- Happy Studies

The following are highlights of the October 4 Session meeting.

- Ronny Knight presented the Session with budget printouts so that they can get started on setting the 2021 budget.
- A Manse committee has been formed (Slade Weaver, Dan Wilson, Ronny Knight, and John Clark.) They are beginning research as to how to proceed with the possible sale of the manse.
- The worship committee is working on filling the pulpit. Currently, the plan is to have pulpit supply for all but one Sunday each month. One Sunday each month will be a "Songs & Stories" service created around the lectionary passages for that Sunday. They are working to incorporate more virtual enhancements into future services such as musical interludes, virtual lay readers, and live stream sermons.
- The Inreach/Outreach committee reported several items. 1) The Shepherd's Staff has been updated. 2) A "welcome" sign for the Reid building wall is forthcoming. 3) The labyrinth is being prepared and they are hoping to advertise somehow for the community to be aware of and use it. 4) The committee is pleased with the outreach created by the media addition to the sanctuary noting that the worship committee has initiated some good first steps and media use is being added to each week. The committee hopes to gain more virtual attendees and is considering adding virtual Sunday school, children's time, Bible studies and more with the new year.
- John Clark has been named moderator/treasurer of the Reid Committee.
- Due to the shrinking number of active church members, the Session made a motion to change the wording in the by-laws concerning filling positions on the Session. You may refer to the Notice of Congregational Meeting for that motion.

November 2020

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays In United States

Nov 2020 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight saving	2 Patricia Fields	3 Election Day	4	5	6 Daniel Wilson	7
8 Communion Congregation	9	10 Rhonda Thomas	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Nyia Kettison	23	24	25 Jane Eis Offices closed Thanksgiving Day	26 Black Friday Native American	27	28
29 1st Sunday	30	1	2	3	4	5