



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



October 2021

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

Class of 2021

Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman

Class of 2022

Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver

Class of 2023

Ronny Knight and Alice McGregor

Treasurer

Ronny Knight

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Session Highlights

The Session met on September 12 for their regular stated meeting.

These starred bullets are of particular interest to the congregation.

★ After hearing recommendations from the search committee (Sandy, Dan, and Tricia,) the Session voted to approve the committee's completed Temporary Leadership Form to be returned to Grace Presbytery and to seek a full time Stated Supply pastor. It was felt by all in attendance that in order for our church to get back into full swing, we need a full time pastor. This is a yearly contracted position just as we have been doing since 2018. It is the hope that the church should grow and be able to commit once again to a called position at some point in the not too distant future.

★ Communion for October, November, and December will be held on the *first* Sunday of those months. This is a change in what we have been doing the past several months.

★ A congregational meeting immediately following worship has been called for Nov. 7 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the class of 2024.

★ In the congregational meeting on September 12, John Clark, Dan Wilson, and Tricia Clark were elected to serve on the nominating committee along with Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman who were appointed as Session representatives.

In other business, the Session acted on the following:

- Discussed the letter/email from NetHealth concerning COVID measures. Agreed to continue to operate as we have been (encouraging distancing and masks when moving around.)
- Authorized Slade (finance committee) to send out pledge letters by end of September. [The Treasurer and finance committee wish to allow plenty of time to work on the budget for 2022. Having an idea of pledged income is important in this process.]
- Voted to move funds from sale of manse to the TPF.
- Agreed that it is time to get together again for family lunches. At this point, it will be a "Bring-Your-Own-Bag" affair. This will begin in November, so look for more information to come.
- The InReach/OutReach committee expressed thanks to all who assisted in the luncheon for the family of Ed Russell.
- Scheduled a budget workshop for Saturday, October 16.
- Scheduled the next Stated Session meeting for November 7.

As always, the business of the Session is open to all. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask a session member or the clerk.

A congregational meeting immediately following worship has been called for Nov. 7 to hear the report of the Nomination Committee and to elect officers for the class of 2024.

October 2021 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, October 3
Semicontinuous
Job 1:1; 2:1–10
Psalm 26
Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12
Mark 10:2–16

Complementary
Genesis 2:18–24
Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12
Mark 10:2–16

Sunday, October 10
Semicontinuous
Job 23:1–9; 16–17
Psalm 22:1–15
Hebrews 4:12–16
Mark 10:17–31

Complementary
Amos 5:6–7, 10–15
Psalm 90:12–17
Hebrews 4:12–16
Mark 10:17–31

Sunday, October 17
Semicontinuous
Job 38:1–7 (34–41)
Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c
Hebrews 5:1–10
Mark 10:35–45

Complementary
Isaiah 53:4–12
Psalm 91:9–16
Hebrews 5:1–10
Mark 10:35–45

Sunday, October 24
Semicontinuous
Job 42:1–6, 10–17
Psalm 34:1–8 (19–22)
Hebrews 7:23–28
Mark 10:46–52

Complementary
Jeremiah 31:7–9
Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23–28
Mark 10:46–52

Sunday, October 31
Semicontinuous
Ruth 1:1–18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11–14
Mark 12:28–34

Complementary
Deuteronomy 6:1–9
Psalm 119:1–8
Hebrews 9:11–14
Mark 12:28–34

October birthdays & anniversaries:

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

**1 Olivia Holloman
13 Beaven Els
21 Debbi Elmer
21 Hannah Horstman**

Attendance:

**August 29—15
September 5—13
September 12—13
September 19—18
September 26—16**



Jane's Journey

My grandparents lived in a house very similar to the kind of house Tricia and John Clark have. It was a white frame house with a wrap-around porch that faced the street. Whenever I would spend a weekend with them I was always fascinated to watch their evenings unfold when the weather was nice. They would sit outside after dinner in rocking chairs and watch people walk down the street. They called out to each person passing in front of their house; they knew each one by name and most details of their lives. By the mid-1950's, my parents had provided them with window air conditioners and a television set but they preferred to spend their evenings outside watching the town walk past. This was the social media of their day.

I watched a Facebook post from Joe Clifford, the former pastor at FPC Dallas who is now at a church in South Carolina. This is one of the beautiful things about social media today: geography does not provide as much of a barrier as it used to. I can also watch Holly Clark-Porter preach anytime I want to. Joe posted a sermon on the story of Elijah running from Jezebel in I Kings 19 when he hears the "still small voice." He was making a point on the value of silence. Within Joe's video sermon he mentions yet another video I have watched more than once called "Into Great Silence." It's a 2-hour documentary made in 2005 of a monastery in the French Alps. This monastery is centered on vows of silence and the brothers spend their days without speaking. Available on Amazon Prime, I recommend it to anyone as a relaxing and educational yet also spiritual viewing experience. I have watched it more than once myself.

Yes, it is possible to sit around and watch a bunch of guys going about their day in silence. And there is great value in silence. Most people who know me find the idea of me saying this laughable. But I do love silence. It is a battle I have to fight to get myself still long enough to really embrace it.

We are still the same people who sat on our front porches in the 1950's. But the crowd passing by our porch has grown. It now includes basically everybody on earth. We have access to a lot of good stuff out there and some awful stuff and it's up to us to filter it out. A lot has changed from the fifties. Except for one thing: Jesus hasn't changed a bit.

Our responsibility is to look at the current world, sometimes using the current technology, but through the eyes of Jesus. Look with compassion. Look with justice and a sense of righteousness. And look with love. Always look with love.

Invitation to Commissioning Service

You are invited to a commissioning service for Jane Els and Armel Crocker at First Presbyterian Church, Paris, Texas, on October 3 at 3:00 p.m. Grace Presbytery will commission Armel to the service of the Paris and Deport churches and Jane to Paris, Deport, and Winnsboro churches. This means that they may now serve Holy Communion for their respective churches as well as continuing to fill the pulpit as needed. Your presence in support of Jane and Armel would be greatly appreciated.

Preaching Schedule

October 3 - Jimmy Chapman, World Communion Sunday. Communion to be celebrated

October 10 - Jane Els

October 17 - Scripture and Hymns; moment for mission presented by a Gideon representative

October 24 - Jane Els

October 31 - Tricia Clark



Making changes to your daily routine can be so subtle it is easy to discount them, but the little things we do each day to accommodate our environment really add up. With our body less stressed on a basic level, we have more energy to meet the challenges our social lives throw us in the fall from football season to holidays to travel, we tend to stretch ourselves here in the south when the heat finally slacks off enough to get out and actually enjoy the outdoors again.

One easy change to make as fall starts to cool off our environment is to begin moving from cooling summer foods to warming fall ones. This can be as simple as heating up your milk in the morning before adding it to your cereal, opting for a warm lunch rather than a salad, and adding warming spices like cinnamon or black pepper to meals to gently layer on the warmth.

Here is a recipe for Muesli that can be modified to anyone's tastes or needs:

Morning Muesli - Make it Your Way

1/3 cup old fashioned oats
1/3 cup whole milk
1 tsp golden raisins
1 tsp nuts blanched slivered almonds
1/2 tsp brown sugar
1/2 tsp flax seeds
1 pinch spice mix

Gently warm the milk on the stove over low heat while you mix the dry ingredients in a bowl. The milk doesn't need to boil, just be warmed through. Pour milk over the oats mix and let sit to desired texture.

Make it yours!

Oats - make this gluten free with gluten free oats

Milk - cow, goat, coconut, almond, or any other "milk" works

Fruit - unsweetened raisins, cranberries, apricots, or tropical

Nuts - blanched slivered almonds, chopped pecans, walnuts

Sweetener - stevia, monk fruit, honey or even strawberry jam

Seeds - flax, chia, hemp or a combo

Spice mix - cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, cardamom are all fantastic alone or together

Texture - eat it immediately, or let it sit about a few minutes to be more like oatmeal

Bonus Tip - I like to make up a batch at a time and place in little mason jars to make a premade serving to make it easy for mornings. The milk can be carried in a thermos prewarmed when I have somewhere to be - easy peasy.

Elizabeth Drennan celebrated her 99th birthday, Saturday September 18



Ruth Shelton 5/30/1933—9/12/2021

Ruth was a long-time member of our church. She was with her daughter, Susan Chavez, during her last days. A service was held at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, TX, where she and Larry Pendergrass had been attending.

October 2021

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Oct 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Kateryn Drennan	27 Cross & Crown	28 Molly Lennon	29	30	1 Olivia Holoman	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples	12	13 Beaven Eis	14	15	16 Budget workshop
17	18	19	20	21 Daddy Eimer Hannah Horstman	22	23
24	25 Cross & Crown	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween	1 First Day of	2 Election Day Patricia Fields	3	4	5	6 Daniel Wilson