



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



November 2021

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

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Class of 2021
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Class of 2022
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Class of 2023
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Sunday Schedule

November 7 - Jimmy Chapman, communion, congregational meeting, session meeting

November 14 - Lessons and Hymns

November 21 - Jane Els

November 28 - Tricia Clark; First Sunday of Advent

Also in November - We look forward to two traditions returning. Watch for specific dates and details for the following two events:

1. We are planning to have a long-awaited family lunch after worship.
2. We will be decorating the sanctuary for Advent during the week of November 21.

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.

November 2021 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, November 7

Semicontinuous

Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17

Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24–28

Mark 12:38–44

Complementary

1 Kings 17:8–16

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24–28

Mark 12:38–44

Sunday, November 14

Semicontinuous

1 Samuel 1:4–20

1 Samuel 2:1–10

Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25

Mark 13:1–8

Complementary

Daniel 12:1–3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11–14 (15–18) 19–25

Mark 13:1–8

Christ the King (or Reign of Christ)—November 21

Semicontinuous

2 Samuel 23:1–7

Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18)

Revelation 1:4b–8

John 18:33–37

Complementary

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b–8

John 18:33–37

[Begin Year C]

First Sunday of Advent—November 28

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalm 25:1–10

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 21:25–36

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:

October 3—12

October 10—12

October 17—13

October 24—13

Seeing is Believing

By Sandy Corder



Our senses

I've encountered another topic in my studies that I never really pondered in relation to my spirituality - my senses. Before now, I've rarely given a lot of thought to the fact that my sight, taste, smell, touch and hearing hugely impact my spirituality on a daily basis. When I delved into them through the teaching of Ayurveda, though, I found that they are THE thing I needed to pay attention to the most.

The senses are very important in Ayurveda. So, there is a lot of advice about them in the ancient writings about how we are to use them and how they actually work. As with all Ayurveda theories, the senses are seen in a holistic light - there are physical, mental, and spiritual aspects considered when studying them. This is pretty different when compared to the western way I was reared to think. In the western mode, I thought of my senses in their more physical sense and didn't really ponder the other aspects too much.

The sages of the past, though, explained that the senses are actually the bridge between our internal self and the outside world. Think about it.... how DO you experience things? You hear them, see them, smell them, feel them or taste them, right? There are no other avenues of intake... one of these things must be activated before we experience anything.

Since I've never really thought about them as influencing me spiritually, it stands to reason that the concept of right ways and wrong ways of using them never entered my mind either. With a little observation of my habits, I have now come to understand that I over use, under use, or misuse my senses quite frequently.

Want to 'see' for yourself?

There are tons of ways to explore how much your senses impact you. One way is to simply take one sense, like sight, and make an intention to pay attention to our eyes and what we are exposing our brain to through the use of this sense organ.



Just for one day, observe how much you are impacted by what your eyes absorb throughout the day:

- How long do you work/watch TV/ look at your phone without giving your eyes a break?
- Do you notice anything that made your eyes hurt? Bright colors? Screen images? Sunlight? Flashes?
- Were you disturbed by anything you saw today? Videos? News items?
- Were emotions like sadness, anger, protective urges, or impulses to buy triggered today?
- Did you take time to look at or read something that truly made you happy?
- Did you notice if you were more impacted by a particular media - photos, videos, art, words?

Once you know just how much things you see are impacting you, you can make tiny adjustments like switching media, resting your eyes by varying your gaze, and even rearranging tasks to give your eyes a little break. The goal is to lessen your exposure to things that will lead you away from your spiritual life.

'See' anything you want to change?

In our world, we are inundated with media DESIGNED to lead us into a feeling and most of those feelings are tempting. We are constantly shown images that build discontent with our current situation or influence our decisions. To keep ourselves tied to God, though, we must remember that these images are man made. Clearing our mind of them can be pretty simple once you are aware.



In relation to the sense of sight, here are some simple things you can do:

- **Seek God in nature.** Take a walk or simply sit outside and take in the wonder of the great outdoors.
- **Seek God in his Word.** Instead of binge watching another episode of the Price is Right, crack open your Bible and read the Word.
- **Seek God through introspection.** Take a little time to meditate or pray with your eyes closed. Looking inward while limiting your input can help restore you.

You can do this same set of exercises with all five of your sense - first observing, then changing some small things that you discover are hindering your spirituality. Perhaps you'll be surprised by how much impact these fundamentally physical senses have on our mind and emotions.



Jane's Journey

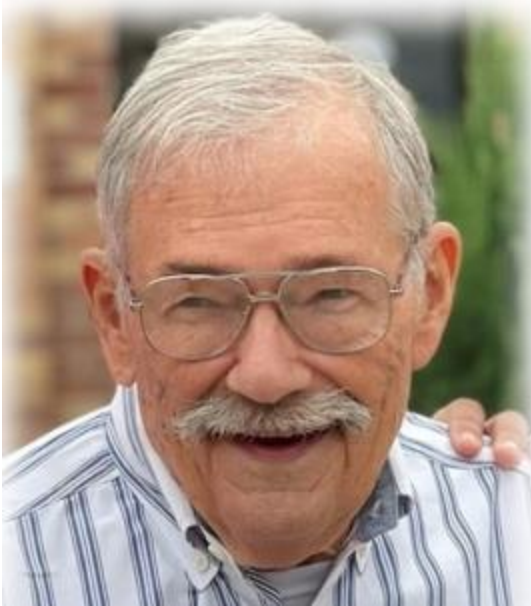
I love autumn and especially the month of November and the weather change. But I also have wonderful memories of November because that's when Beaven and I got married. I have so many great memories from our wedding. For the next couple of weeks, you might see the familiar scripture from Ruth pop up in worship: specifically, *whither thou goes, I will go. Your people will be my people and your God, my God.* I remember asking for this scripture at our wedding as I was welcomed into the Els family and Beaven was welcomed into mine. As part of our pre-marital counseling the pastor invited us to plan for how we would incorporate God into our new life together. We were aware that even as we planned for creating a new family of our own we each brought traditions of our own with us. The funny thing about this was that

Beaven and I grew up in almost the same neighborhoods and came from just about the same culture. There was very little differences in our backgrounds.

I have since learned there is even more to glean from the book of Ruth than just the catchy verse used in weddings. One of the major concepts of Judaism and Christianity is found in Ruth: ***Kinsman Redeemer.*** Under Kinsman Redeemer a male relative has the responsibility to help a weaker relative who is in need. And Ruth was in dire need: she was without any safe means of providing for herself. Boaz was a relative of Ruth's deceased husband. Under the religious laws of that time he had an obligation to save Ruth. And, in doing so, Boaz "connected the dots" of the family genealogy that stretched all the way from Ruth to David to Jesus.

When we get to Jesus we see the Kinsman Redeemer concept once again. This time all of humanity are the weaker relatives who are in dire need. We are incapable of saving ourselves from responsibility for our own sins. Only Christ can do this on our behalf. He is that relative we need in the way that Boaz was for Ruth. If sin is anything that separates us from God and God's intention for us, a specific action, or a way of living or thinking, then Christ closed that gap with his death and resurrection. I can picture this in my mind using the iconic fresco of God and Adam on the Sistine Chapel ceiling where God has stretched out his hand to Adam and there is a gap between their outstretched hands. Jesus steps into that gap to connect us together. The redeeming Christ, who is fully human and fully divine, holds out both arms to the Creator God and to humanity and connects us to each other.

Jesus, as our closest male relative, is our Kinsman Redeemer, who saved us just as Boaz saved Ruth.



Robert Irvin Kelm

May 8, 1941_October 12, 2021

Obituary

On the morning of October 12, 2021, Robert (Bob) Irvin Kelm passed away at his home in Winnsboro, Texas. Bob was born in Minonk, Illinois on May 8, 1941, and his family relocated to Mineral Wells, Texas, in 1945. He graduated from Mineral Wells High School in 1959 and then enrolled at UTA Arlington, wherein he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business.

Bob's business career was focused on the field of Human Resources. When asked what he did for a living, his response was, "I hire and fire people!" ... and he was very good at his job.

Bob married his wife Laquita in 1997 and his greatest love was family. Bob was a simple man and not much for words. But, he talked about his family. Their jobs, travels, rock concerts, college, football, baseball, basketball, sports, sports, sports... and more sports! Bob was a diehard Cowboys fan!

Later in life, Bob and Laquita joined First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro. He served as a Session member and looked forward to church every Sunday. He especially enjoyed mowing the lawn.

Bob was a prolific reader, usually working on 5 – 7 books at a time and he liked studying history, battles, and wars. He was a natural tour guide when visiting battlefields and especially enjoyed times spent at Gettysburg.

His favorite movies were The Big Chill, Band of Brothers, The Pacific, and Bohemian Rhapsody. His favorite bands were The Eagles, Queen, and Guns and Roses. His favorite foods were burgers, chicken fried steak, and lots of ice cream. Bob enjoyed gardening, reading, sports, bird hunting and training, camping, fishing, woodworking, carving duck decoys, building model planes and boats, and grilling.

Bob was best described as outgoing, strong, dependable, honorable, honest, steadfast.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Laquita; Shawn Kelm and wife Robin of Midlothian, Texas, daughter Tonya Durdin and husband Scott of Arlington, Texas, and daughter Michelle England of Winnsboro, Texas. He is also survived by his brother Larry Kelm and wife Kay of Cleburne, Texas; sister Kay Young of Cleburne, Texas; grandchildren Callahan, Dale, Foster, Christian, Raley and Charlie, great-grandchild, Kylo, and nephews, Dax and Ky, great-nephews/nieces Tag, Remi, Rivers, and Cooper. He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Lula Kelm, and granddaughter, Jayce Lee.

The Celebration of Life was held Saturday, October 16th at noon, at the First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro.



(It takes a village. And the church understands this. Grace Presbytery encouraged Armel and Jane to include people who were important to us in our faith journey as part of our commissioning service. These folks are pictured here: L to R: Rev Dr Perryn Rice is the pastor of Lake Highlands Presbyterian in Dallas and a friend of Armel. They serve on Grace Presbytery's Social Justice Task Force together. Perryn preached the sermon at the service. On the back row is the Rev Dr Elizabeth Callender who serves on the Grace Presbytery staff and has been a mentor to both Jane and Armel. Armel.... Rev Dr Julie Adkins, now serving a church in Milford, Texas gave the charge to the newly commissioned pastors and also presented Jane and Armel with stoles. The stoles had great sentimental meaning since they had been her late husband's. Standing next to Jane is Jimmy Chapman, a fellow commissioned pastor who preaches here at Winnsboro and also mentors us. Next to Jimmy are Mary Jackson, an elder at the First church in Paris and Ronny Knight who represented Winnsboro at the commissioning. And at the edge of the photo is Rev Dr Lisa Patterson, the moderator of Grace Presbytery.)

In 2017 Armel Crocker and Jane Els responded to God's call to enter into ministry and were accepted into the new Grace Presbytery Commissioned Pastor (CP) program. The Reid Foundation of First Presbyterian Church, Winnsboro, provided scholarship funds for their online courses and books.

Their training took 2 ½ years because Grace Presbytery CPs are required to receive training in: preaching and worship, administration of the sacraments, pastoral care (including funerals, hospital visitation, and managing conflict), finance, Bible, biblical interpretation, Reformed theology (what it means to be Reformed), practical polity, and mission.

Now with 9 college level courses completed/audited and more than 100 hours of additional "learning events" plus individual oral examinations, Armel and Jane were officially commissioned at Central Presbyterian Church-Paris on Sunday, October 3rd.

Congratulations Armel Crocker and Jane Els for choosing to use your faith, experience, talents and gifts in service to others.

November 2021

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays In United States

Nov 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Halloween	1 First Day of	2 Election Day Patricia Fields	3	4	5	6 Daniel Wilson
7 Communion Congregation Daylight saving Session	8	9	10 Rhonda Thomas	11 Veterans Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Cross & Crown Nyia Ketterson	22	23	24	25 Offices Closed Thanksgiving Day	26 Jane Eis Native American	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4