



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



February 2022

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

### Session members:

Class of 2022:

Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver

Class of 2023:

Ronny Knight and Alice McGregor

Class of 2024:

Patricia Clark

Treasurer:

Ronny Knight

Clerk:

Patricia Clark

### Contact us:

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### FPC Website:

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

### Cross and Crown articles:

[firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)

### Preaching Schedule:

**February 6 - Jane Els, Communion**

**February 13 - Jimmy Chapman**

**February 20 - Jane Els**

**February 27 - Lessons and Hymns**

### Session Highlights

The following are highlights from the January Stated Meeting:

- Took care of several yearly tasks one of which was to appoint Ronny Knight as Treasurer and Tricia Clark as Clerk.
- Session members: Tricia Clark (2024), Alice McGregor and Ronny Knight (2023) Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver (2022)
- Trustees - John Clark (2024) Beaven Els (2023) Chris Holloman (2022)
- Elected Sandy Corder as commissioned elder to attend and vote in Presbytery meetings.
- Approved communion dates and special services for the year. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of the month with Jane Els officiating.
- Approved the use of the Reid building for a 2nd women's community Bible study. The study with women from Morgan's Mercy Mansion and their mentors meets on Monday afternoons. Also, now, an additional women's

study will meet on Wednesday mornings. Both groups will begin meeting in February. All women are invited to attend.

- Approved a motion from the Reid Committee to change part of the policy so that more unrestricted funds are available if needed to keep the church doors open. Money amounts for mission and scholarship did not change.
- Approved appointing Beaven Els and Patricia Fields to the Reid Committee. Additional members are John Clark, Alice McGregor, and Dan Wilson.
- Reviewed and adopted 2022 budget.
- Discussed pastor search. Information has been sent to Austin Seminary to be included in their mid-winter session which includes a virtual job fair. Other possible actions are to be discussed in the very near future.
- Approved cleaning out unused / unnecessary items from the church office building. Tricia Clark will head up that task. Any who wish to help are encouraged to let her know.
- Scheduled the next stated meeting for March 13.

## February 2022 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, February 6

Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13)

Psalms 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11

Luke 5:1–11

Sunday, February 13

Jeremiah 17:5–10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

Luke 6:17–26

Sunday, February 20

Genesis 45:3–11, 15

Psalms 37:1–11, 39–40

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Luke 6:27–38

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 27

Exodus 34:29–35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2

Luke 9:28–36 [37–43]

### **February birthdays & anniversaries:**

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

**No birthdays or anniversaries  
this month**

### **Attendance:**

**January 2—14**

**January 9—8**

**January 16—cancelled**

**January 23—9**



## Jane's Journey

February is the month we always think of Valentine's Day and Love. Yesterday I preached a sermon on First Corinthians 12:12-31 and started out talking about being members of a church but ended up talking about Love. It seems like every time I preach I end up talking about Love. God is Love. Jesus is Love. I'm starting to feel like a broken record. Even the Beatles said "All you need is Love." And you can always trust the Beatles.

A couple of weeks ago I bought a book about trees. I thought I'd get a change of pace. It was a touch of autobiography but a LOT of botany; written by Dr. Suzanne Simard, a PhD who spent her life researching the trees of Canada and the American Northwest. Her specific area of interest was mycorrhizal fungi.....the fungus that lives below the surface of the ground and can extend for miles. It turns out mushrooms and fungi (the fruiting body of fungi are the mushroom and the rest of it, the root system, is the fungi) are actually the largest living organisms on earth.

It was a fat book and I'll be honest with you: I skipped over some of the scientific parts, but she became very concerned about some of the forestry methods. She noticed that clear-cutting the old growth forest and replacing the trees with one specific variety of tree seemed to create a weaker forest than the one they had cut down. They were cutting a forest that had cedar, fir and pine then replacing it with the most marketable variety of pine.

Over her long career span (trees take a long time to grow; this wasn't like fruit flies) she had already noticed that the fungal roots would travel from tree to tree and share nutrients and water among the trees. Her book was titled "Finding the Mother Tree" because the fungi would always be based at one source and radiate from there.

I really became fascinated in reading how she discovered that through these microscopic roots of fungi in the soil would move water containing various chemical necessary to nourish trees through the ground and then up into the mighty firs and pines that ultimately became the lumber that would support our houses. Because this was what it was all about in the end. Her greatest question became whether the trees in mixed forest (fir, cedar and pine) would cooperate with each other or would they share nutrients? In understanding this process, it would make for better forests and cheaper lumber but also for a better planet that God gave us stewardship over. She already knew trees would share nutrients with their own species but would they share with *other* species? If a pine needed water during a drought would a birch give it water knowing that when the birch needed something would the pine reciprocate? Do trees compete or cooperate?

And there it was on page 159. She could see under the microscope that a Douglas fir had sent nutrients to a neighboring birch tree using fungi in the soil. Nutrients. It had cooperated, not competed.

Love. I was back to love. I couldn't escape it. All of nature was designed for love.

# February 2022

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Feb 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 First Day of Black	2	3	4	5
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day 2pm - Bible Study	15	16 9am - Bible study	17	18	19
20	21 Cross & Crown Presidents Day 2pm - Bible Study	22	23 9am - Bible study	24	25	26
27	28 2pm - Bible Study	1 First Day of	2 9am - Bible study	3	4	5