# First Presbyterian Church

#### March 2022

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

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: Tina Hammer, Secretary PO Box 493 301 S. Walnut St. Winnsboro, TX 75494 Office: 903-342-3011 Fax: 903-342-3011 Email: <u>firstpres@peoplescom.net</u> Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

> FPC Website: www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles: firstpres@peoplescom.net Preaching Schedule:

March 2 - 5:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, Jane Els March 6 - Jane Els, communion March 13 - Lessons and Hymns (Daylight Savings Time begins! Spring your clocks forward!) March 20 - Jane Els March 27 - Jimmy Chapman, Regular Stated Session Meeting after worship

#### **Congregational News**

On Sunday, February 13, the congregation elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to begin the search for a full-time installed pastor. John Clark, Alice McGregor, Sandy Corder, Dan Wilson, and Tricia Clark were elected to that committee and were commissioned on Sunday, February 20 during the worship service.

A survey was handed out after the congregational meeting. This is an opportunity for our congregation to give your thoughts on what we are looking for in a pastor. It is also an opportunity for us to express who we are currently as a congregation and what our vision is for the future. If you did not receive a survey and would like to fill one out, please pick one up on Sunday or contact the church office. Having your thoughts will help the PNC write up

the Ministry Information Form (MIF) [church information form] which will be used to help match potential pastors to our church.

As we learned the last time we went through this, the process is lengthy. Your prayers for our church during this search are requested!

### Correspondence

We received a very warm letter from the Mayfield, Kentucky Presbyterian Church thanking us for our donation to them following the devastating tornado in December. That letter will be on the table near the offering plate in the narthex.

March 2022 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Ash Wednesday—March 2 Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm 51:1–17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

First Sunday in Lent—March 6 Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16 Romans 10:8b–13 Luke 4:1–13

Second Sunday in Lent—March 13 Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31–35 or Luke 9:28–36

Third Sunday in Lent—March 20 Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm 63:1–8 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Luke 13:1–9

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 27 Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

## March birthdays & anniversaries:

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

8 Judy DeWees 15 Ann Dunn 23 Jacob Wilson

## Attendance:

January 30—12 February 6—11 February 13—13 February 20—12



## Jane's Journey

What is Lent?

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2. We'll have a special service in the sanctuary at 5 o'clock for prayer and the imposition of ashes to begin a season of penitence.

During Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death and resurrection. It's a time to slow down and examine our spiritual lives and how we live out our faith in the community around us.

Some people choose to "give up" something as their act of penitence during Lent, to deny themselves something dear to them, chocolate being an example. That has a purpose because it can ground you and remind you of the season in a deep and dramatic way. Recently, others have made the choice to "take up" a new practice instead by trying out new things they may not have done before like a new prayer routine or charitable activity. There are cell phone apps now that will remind you on a daily basis of the time if you want to set up a regular habit to take place at a certain time each day.

I tried this a few years ago. I decided I would pray what the Catholics call "the office," meaning at set times throughout the day. The only catch was that, back then before Apple developed a lot of apps, the only one available that would alert you at a set time during the day was the Muslim call to prayer. It wasn't too bad if you were accepting of other religions. In fact, it worked exactly like the Roman Catholic prayer times did. An alert went off at sunrise, mid-day, afternoon and sunset, then bedtime. Those Muslims had it all figured out because this app had the sunrise and sunset calculated right down to the minute according to how the sun changes on a daily basis every day.

I'm afraid I never observed the sunrise prayer time, however. I have my limits and I think Jesus understands. Jesus was human, too after all. And I'm not sure God wants to hear what I might say at sunrise.

The intent was to pray more. To put more thought into what we are saying to our Creator. And to listen more carefully. And we don't really need a cell phone to do that.

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