



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



April 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

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### Cross and Crown articles:

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### Preaching Schedule:

**April 3 - Jane Els, communion**

**April 10 - Jimmy Chapman, Palm Sunday**

**April 14 5:00 PM - Maundy Thursday, Jane Els, communion**

**April 17 - Jane Els, Easter**

**April 24 - Lessons and Hymns**

**May 1 - Jane Els, communion**

**May 8 - Jimmy Chapman**

**May 15 - Jane Els**

**May 22 - Tricia Clark**

**May 29 - Lessons and Hymns**

### Congregational News

The Session met on March 27. Very little new business was discussed, so it was a quick meeting!

- Heard committee reports. Mostly routine business. Slade Weaver did mention that our Microsoft Office has expired. He is working on replacing that.
- The PNC reported that they are working on rewrites for the narrative questions for the MIF. When that is completed, it will be submitted for Session approval and to COM for approval.
- Scheduled the next Session meeting for May 8.

## April 2022 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

### Fifth Sunday in Lent—April 3

Isaiah 43:16–21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b–14

John 12:1–8

### Passion / Palm Sunday—April 10

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19:28–40

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

### Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1–49

### Maundy Thursday—April 14

Exodus 12:1–4 [5–10] 11–14

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

### Resurrection of the Lord—April 17

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 65:17–25

Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

1 Corinthians 15:19–26 or Acts 10:34–43

John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12

### Second Sunday of Easter—April 24

Acts 5:27–32

Psalm 118:14–29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4–8

John 20:19–31

### **April birthdays & anniversaries:**

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

**There are no birthdays in April**

### **Attendance:**

**February 27—10**

**March 6—13**

**March 13—9**

**March 20—11**

**March 27—10**



# Jane's Journey

Most Christian holidays are tied to the seasons. Just as December is linked to the winter solstice, Easter is tied to the spring Equinox. An interesting tidbit I learned a few years ago was how to calculate the date of Easter since it seems to be a sort of traveling mystery. Well, here it is folks: Easter is always (1) the **first Sunday** after (2) the **first full moon** after (3) the **Spring Equinox**. Got it? So, once you know that the Spring Equinox this year was March 20<sup>th</sup> you just figure out when the next full moon is after that and it will be April 16, which is a Saturday—so, Bingo! Easter is the next day: Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Now, nobody has an excuse to forget Easter. As if you could with all the decorations in the stores.

We sometimes forget how closely our ancestors tied their religious holidays to the seasons. Weather and food were so vital to their very survival. Without food, they died and without attention to the weather, their crops and animals would suffer. We have historically been tied much closer to our environment than we think about today. And for the last few centuries we have indulged in the luxury of not paying much attention to our environment.

In what has got to be one of the highlights of my life, I was elected to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) this summer. For this cradle-to-grave Presbyterian I never dreamed I would ever have this opportunity and I'm still pinching myself. Because of Covid it will be a hybrid event with some events held online and some in person. Sadly, the best part: the opening worship with hundreds of voices raised in joyful praise to God will be toned down and I'll have to watch it online. I had the opportunity to attend the opening worship service years ago when the General Assembly was held in Ft. Worth so I know what I am missing. If you've never been to something like this, just imagine the largest gathering of Presbyterians in our country singing the classic hymns in one voice.

But I will be traveling to Louisville, Kentucky for four days to meet with the committee I was assigned to. Which brings us back to the environment. I was assigned to the Environmental Justice committee. It's still early so I'm still not sure what this committee will do. But I think it speaks well of our denomination that we value God's Creation deeply enough that we are dedicating this much time and attention at our national gathering.

I will always carry in my mind's eye the memory of last year's deep freeze and how badly affected our trees were. We had a late spring last year because the trees had to re-group after the freeze. I remember the huge Live Oak that stands in the front of our church. A few of us gathered and looked at its bare branches before worship on Maundy Thursday. We discussed when they were planted and by whom and how old the trees were. It appeared that the larger one was done for. We started making plans for when we declared it dead. It was going to be expensive to cut down and carry off. I thought about planting some of its acorns in its place but couldn't find any. That was Thursday.

Easter Sunday, we arrived to find the beginnings of green tips on the ends of the branches. Every branch. You can't make this stuff up, folks. Easter Sunday. Our Live Oak had its own resurrection.

May you have a resurrection of your own this year.

## A Lenten Resource

I have had two things going on in addition to getting ready for Easter this Lenten season. The most spiritual activity has been painting a labyrinth in my field. While some "give up" something for Lent (like chocolate) and refrain from consuming in those pleasures, others "take on" some sort of spiritual practice like additional prayer or readings. I walked my first labyrinth at a youth retreat over 20 years ago and I've loved the practice ever since. It's great for someone who has a problem when their mind wanders during prayer.

A labyrinth is simply a path that is set out in a pattern that you follow. It has twists and turns. I will have one printed here on a full page for you to look at or use if you want to. When you walk it, the turns have a way of occupying your mind and engaging your brain that neurologists say actually sooth and engage your neurons in a positive way. They didn't discover this until recently, but Labyrinths have been around since 400 years before Christ. Theoretically, Christ could have walked a labyrinth to enhance his prayers. The one I use is called the Chartres pattern after the one laid in the floor of the cathedral in Chartres, France.

What I find helpful in walking a labyrinth is that you don't have to think about where you are going. All you have to do it follow the path. There are no decisions; your feet just follow the path. Once you reach the center, you can stop and spend as much time as you like then just walk the same path back to the beginning.

There are no rules to walking a labyrinth. Sometimes if I have something heavy on my mind I will wrestle with it and the solution might come to my mind while I'm walking and I can spend the rest of my walk praising God. Or not. Sometimes nothing happens. Just as there are no rules, there are no guarantees. Every walk is different. There is no right or wrong way to walk a lab.

I painted my labyrinth out on a field behind our house with spray paint giving myself a 30-inch path and invite anyone who wants to come use it anytime they want.

The experts also claim that you can get an idea of the exercise simply by tracing the pattern on paper with your finger. So I'm including a full page of the pattern here for you to try right at home.

I would love to have you come out to my house, however, and do the real thing. Give me a call.

Jane (972) 345-8346

Eleven Circuit Chartres Labyrinth



# April 2022

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays In United States

Apr 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Session	28 2pm - Bible Study	29	30 9am - Bible study	31	1	2
3 Communion	4 2pm - Bible Study	5	6 9am - Bible study	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday	11 2pm - Bible Study	12	13 9am - Bible study	14 Maundy Thursday services 5:00 PM w/communion	15	16
17 Easter Sunday OGHS offering	18 Easter Monday Tax Day 2pm - Bible Study	19	20 9am - Bible study	21	22	23
24 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible Study	25	26	27 9am - Bible study	28	29	30