



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



December 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: firstpres@peoplescom.net

Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

FPC Website:

www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles:

firstpres@peoplescom.net

Worship/Preaching Schedule

Dec. 4 - Jane Els, communion, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 11 - Jimmy Chapman, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 18 - Jane Els, 4th Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service 5:30

Dec. 25 - No service

January 1 - Jane Els, communion

Poinsettias for Christmas

Again, this year we are not ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary, BUT if you would like to bring one (or more) you are most welcome to do so!

Christmas Eve Service

We will celebrate Christmas with a Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. We will light candles and hear the story of the Christmas season, beginning with the Old Testament prophecies of a Messiah through the New Testament story of the birth of Jesus,

accompanied by the singing of carols and hearing special music. There will be no service on Christmas Day, Sunday Dec. 25.



Music Notes

The chime choir has begun meeting again. Practice is at 10:20 on Sunday mornings. If you would like to join us, we would welcome you most warmly! You do not need to be able to read music; you just need to be able to count and follow directions. Contact Patricia Fields if you would like to give it a shot.

December 2022 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Second Sunday of Advent—December 4

Isaiah 11:1–10
Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19
Romans 15:4–13
Matthew 3:1–12

Third Sunday of Advent—December 11

Isaiah 35:1–10
Psalm 146:5–10 or Luke 1:46–55
James 5:7–10
Matthew 11:2–11

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day—December 25 (NO CHURCH SERVICE here today)

Christmas Day
Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]
John 1:1–14

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 18

Isaiah 7:10–16
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
Romans 1:1–7
Matthew 1:18–25

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Eve—Dec 24

Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]



*The President, Faculty, and Graduating Class
of
Arkansas Tech University
announce that
Garnett Wade Russell
will be awarded the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
with a minor in Sociology
at the
Commencement Exercises
Saturday, December tenth
Two thousand twenty-two
Ten o'clock in the morning
Tucker Coliseum*

**December birthdays &
anniversaries:**

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

**28 Chris Holloman
28 Carrie Russell**

Attendance:

**October 30—16
November 6—14
November 13—11
November 20—11**



Jane's Journey

Christmas wasn't designed to be what we have turned it into. turned it into a holiday then into a shopping frenzy that would send him into Walmart turning over display tables and shouting insults to us all. In the meantime, we expect our children to dress up and act like characters from the commercials on TV. Few of the things we see on TV are realistic. December 25 is a day on the calendar. Christmas is something that happens in our hearts.

We can't blame Jesus for what we've done. I'm not really sure there is just one spot to lay blame. The advertisers and commercials folks have to make money just like the rest of us. But somehow we have taken one single day and spend over a month preparing for it, building it into a climax that is sure to disappoint in some way.

Family dynamics are a tricky business on a good day. There is always a delicate balance of personalities within any group of more than two people. When you get a whole family together it becomes a circus act of walking a tightrope 50-feet in the air with no net. And their balance can be thrown off by almost anything. And this is on a GOOD day.

Then, for Christmas you put more people onto the tightrope and make them put on a pink tutu like everybody else even when they would rather wear green spandex and you tell them to bring their own baggage and walk the tightrope carrying it. Then we ask everybody to sing and skip rope while they try to keep their balance. There's no wonder this results in a heap of pink tutus on the ground.

Beaven and I got to talking about the 50 plus Christmases we've spent together. Not every single one of them was as good as we had hoped. Tragic events happen during the Christmas season just like any other day.

Jesus did not come into the world expecting it to be perfect. His whole reason for coming was because the world is not perfect and needs someone to love us anyway.

Yes, Christmas is a reason to be Joy-filled. God has done a Marvel-ous and wonder-filled thing. Let us put all our excitement into the things that God has done and not into unrealistic play-acting. Let us accept our friends and family for who they are and love them as Jesus loves them. Let us fill our Christmas season with excitement for what God has done and not for what Amazon has delivered.

Gene Ash, husband of Betty Ash, passed away recently and was buried with military honors at DFW National Cemetery on October 28, 2022. Officiating at his burial service was Rev. Peggy Rounseville.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Congregation meeting Session	28 2pm - Bible Study	29	30	1	2	3 12pm - Al-Anon
4 Communion	5 2pm - Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10 12pm - Al-Anon
11	12 2pm - Bible Study	13	14	15	16	17 12pm - Al-Anon
18	19 2pm - Bible Study	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols 5:30 12pm - Al-Anon
25 Christmas Day No church today	26 Christmas Day Cross & Crown articles	27	28 Carrie Russell Chris Holloman	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 12pm - Al-Anon