



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



January 2023

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

Class of 2023:
Ronny Knight and Alice McGregor
Class of 2024:
Patricia Clark
Class of 2025:
Slade Weaver and Kathy Winn
Treasurer:
Ronny Knight
Clerk:
Patricia Clark

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Worship/Preaching Schedule

January 1 - Jane Els, communion
January 8 - Jimmy Chapman
After worship - Congregational meeting
Session meeting
January 15 - Jane Els
January 22 - Lessons and Hymns
January 29 - Tricia Clark

In a congregational meeting on November 27, Kathy Winn and Slade Weaver were elected to serve as officers for the class of 2025. Sandy Corder was elected to serve as trustee for the class of 2025. Kathy will be ordained and she and Slade will be installed during worship on January 8.

*Notice of Congregational Meeting
On January 8 following worship, there will be a congregational meeting to hear/receive annual year-end reports for 2022*



Music Notes

The chime choir will continue to practice at 10:20 on Sunday mornings. We would welcome any new members! Contact Patricia Fields if you are interested.

December 2022 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

First Sunday of Christmas—January 1, 2023

Isaiah 63:7–9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10–18
Matthew 2:13–23

Baptism of the Lord—January 8

Isaiah 42:1–9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34–43
Matthew 3:13–17

Sunday, January 22

Isaiah 9:1–4
Psalm 27:1, 4–9
1 Corinthians 1:10–18
Matthew 4:12–23

Sunday, January 15

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
1 Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

Sunday, January 29

Micah 6:1–8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18–31
Matthew 5:1–12



Ms. Billie Jean Bennett, age 93, passed away on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, in Dallas, Texas. She will be sincerely missed by her loving family, devoted friends, and all the wonderful individuals who knew and loved her.

Attendance:

November 27—16
December 4—12
December 11—15
December 18—11
December 24—20

January birthdays & anniversaries:

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

9 Kelly Holloman
12 Christian England
13 Tricia Clark
17 Garnett Russell
22 Laquita Kelm
26 Susan Drennan



Jane's Journey

I know that everybody is supposed to make New Year's resolutions but at my age I've made just about all the resolutions that I want to make and anything I would resolve at this point would be a repeat of past ones. I've come to realize that I might as well give up on the weight thing. There's just no point in it. It is what it is, for better or for worse, and I've made my peace with the current state of not just the weight thing but the whole package. I'll never look like a movie star, nor would I want to put in the time, expense or effort to achieve the change in my appearance. I'm content to look like this. I've even given up on my singing voice. In

the past several months I've faced not one but two congregations without a pianist and I have had to lead the doxology and hymns *a cappella*. Lead them. By myself. That has got to be the most ego-busting exercise a pastor can survive. And I emerged with a gold star engraved with the words of the Psalmist saying, "Make a joyful noise."

This brings us back to New Years Resolutions. What will yours be? Can you leave your ego behind in 2023? Or at least laugh about it?

We have been given absurdly human selves. One of the most successful New Years Resolutions I ever made was the year I resolved to laugh more. I forget what year it was but I decided that I had become too serious, so my resolution that year was to laugh more and I set upon the year to enjoy life and not take it so seriously. So that year I deliberately laughed more. I just plain old laughed. And it worked.

It turned out the world did not need me as much as I thought and I relaxed and enjoyed myself. I noticed that my increased laughter was contagious. Others around me laughed more, also. It turns out what they say is true: laughter is infectious.

I was checking Facebook on Christmas Eve and found one of my favorite Christian Theologians. You don't have to be dead to be a good theologian. And here is what the great KC Clark-Porter says. In addition to the point that, in Jesus, God took on a mortal human body, something we could spend a lot more time exploring in all of it's surprising theophanies, KC reminds us to relax and enjoy life.

"What I celebrateis that God, who didn't need a body, got one. That there is holiness in flesh; and enfleshed holiness appears to us whether we're religious or not: in the miracle of human touch, the delight of food and drink, the wonderment of beauty, the holiness of laughter, the ecstasy of love.

So celebrate YOUR BODY. Sing. Give hugs and kisses. Smell delicious smells. Listen to beautiful music. Make love. Call your friend and soften at the sound of their voice. And don't forget to laugh in the face of the -isms and -archies of this world. It's almost as good as kissing your favorite dog."

Find your dog and give it a kiss. Usher in 2023 with a good laugh and keep laughing. If the past few years didn't teach us anything, it was that we might as well laugh. Worrying hasn't done us a bit of good. It's time for laughter.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion New Year's Day	2 New Year's Day 2pm - Bible Study	3	4	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7 12pm - Al-Anon
8 Congregation Meeting Session	9 Kelly Holloman 2pm - Bible Study	10	11	12 Christian England	13 Patricia Clark	14 12pm - Al-Anon
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr. 2pm - Bible Study	17 Garnett Russell	18 9am - Bible study	19	20	21 12pm - Al-Anon
22 Laquita Kelm	23 Cross & Crown article 2pm - Bible Study	24	25 9am - Bible study	26 Susan Drennan	27	28 12pm - Al-Anon
29	30 2pm - Bible Study	31	1 First Day of Black History 9am - Bible study	2	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon