



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



March 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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Preaching Schedule

The Season of Lent

March 5 - Jane Els, Communion

March 12 - Lessons and Hymns (Daylight Savings begins)

March 19 - Jane Els

March 26 - Tricia Clark

Session Highlights

Highlights from the January 9 Stated Session meeting are as follows:

- Changed stated session meetings to quarterly rather than bi-monthly.
- Heard committee reports.
- Took care of annual business.

1) Appointed Ronny Knight, treasurer; Tricia Clark, Clerk; Sandy Corder, Elder representative for Presbytery; Jane and Beaven Els, Gilmont representatives; John Clark, Reid moderator/treasurer

2) Set communion dates as 1st Sunday of every month, Maundy Thursday

3) Set special services - Ash Wednesday [which was canceled], Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve

4) Approved yearly mission giving (Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Shared Mission Support)

- Approved the 2022 Church Statistics Report
- Bldg/Grounds noted that yet another pine tree is dying and needs to be removed.
- Scheduled the next stated meeting for April 30.

As always, complete minutes and financials are open to congregational members. Just ask Tricia Clark (minutes) or Ronny Knight (financials).



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.

Attendance:

January 29—12

February 5—15

February 12—9

February 19—11

March birthdays &

anniversaries:

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

8 Judy DeWees

23 Jacob Wilson

March 2023 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Second Sunday in Lent—March 5

Genesis 12:1–4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9

Third Sunday in Lent—March 12

Exodus 17:1–7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1–11

John 4:5–42

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 19

1 Samuel 16:1–13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 26

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6–11

John 11:1–45



Jane's Journey

There is an old gospel song that goes,

*You have to walk that lonesome valley,
You have to walk it by yourself,
Nobody here can walk it for you,
You have to walk it by yourself.*

While I am usually the most outgoing and extroverted person anywhere I go, Lent is the one time I suggest that people encourage solitude.

When I took my trip to Scotland last summer, I had dreams of encountering the Holy Spirit in the famous Thin Places I had heard so much about on the Island of Iona. And it was certainly a beautiful and historic place. But something didn't feel right. I was living inside a community of 27 souls that comprised some of my spiritual mentors and dearest friends, so it didn't compute that I wasn't having an intense spiritual experience with God.

Last night it finally dawned on me that the time I got lost alone in London with a dead cell phone before the trip even started was more spiritual than my week spent in twice daily worship in an historic Christian chapel. And I think it was because I was not alone really. I was reduced to total dependence on God. Yes, London is a safe city, and I never was really in danger. But I had no one to talk to or share the experience with. It was just me and God.

The Lenten season is a counterpart to Christmas. We withdraw into ourselves during Lent and ponder our own mortality while considering Christ's sacrifice on the cross. While some people "give up" something to help remind them of that sacrifice, you can also "take on" a regular time of prayer to spend time listening for God. Listen for the birds to return with their songs. Look for the flowers to pop up and bloom with their bright colors of promise. Smell the freshness of the spring air. Go to the Promised Land. Not the region in the Middle East-- the new bakery in town. Taste one of their delicious cinnamon rolls fresh out of the oven. Explore all six of your senses Talk a walk outside. But do it alone. Just you and God.

When you walk that lonesome valley you really aren't alone. God is always with you. And you never have to be afraid. God will speak if you just get quiet enough and still enough to hear.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 1st Sunday In Lent	27 2pm - Bible Study	28	1 First Day of Women's 9am - Bible study	2	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon
5 Communion	6 2pm - Bible Study	7	8 Judy DeWees 9am - Bible study &	9 Secretary out	10	11 12pm - Al-Anon
12 Daylight Saving Time	13 2pm - Bible Study	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 12pm - Al-Anon
19	20 Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study	21	22	23 Jacob Wilson	24	25 12pm - Al-Anon
26	27 2pm - Bible Study	28	29	30	31	1 12pm - Al-Anon