



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



November 2023

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

**Session members:**

Class of 2024:

Patricia Clark

Class of 2025:

Slade Weaver and Kathy Winn

Class of 2026

John Clark and Patricia Fields

Treasurer:

Ronny Knight

Clerk:

Patricia Clark

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**Cross and Crown articles:**

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**December Preaching Schedule:**

**Dec. 3rd - Jane Els & communion**

**Dec. 10th - Rev. Sam Steele**

**Dec. 17th - Jane Els**

**Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve service of lessons & carols. Morning service only, also Joy Offering will be taken**

**Dec. 31st - special service of music & devotions**

*We have now scheduled our next Stated session meeting and a congregational meeting. Those will both be January 14, 2024.*

**ATTENDANCE:**

**October 29—7**

**November 5—10**

**November 12—13**

**November 19—13**

**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

**2 Patricia Fields**

**6 Dan Wilson**

**12 Beth Knight**

**22 Nyla Kettleson**

**26 Jane Els**

**December 2023 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals  
[Begin Year B]**

**First Sunday of Advent—December 3**

Isaiah 64:1–9  
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19  
1 Corinthians 1:3–9  
Mark 13:24–37

**Second Sunday of Advent—December 10**

Isaiah 40:1–11  
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13  
2 Peter 3:8–15a  
Mark 1:1–8

**Third Sunday of Advent—December 17**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11  
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b–55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24  
John 1:6–8, 19–28

**Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 24**

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16  
Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26  
Romans 16:25–27  
Luke 1:26–38

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)—December 24 AM CHURCH SERVICE ONLY**

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

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Dawn)—December 25 NO CHURCH SERVICE**

Isaiah 62:6–12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4–7  
Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)—December 25 NO CHURCH SERVICE**

Isaiah 52:7–10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]  
John 1:1–14

**First Sunday of Christmas—December 31**

Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4–7



## Jane's Journey

The "holiday season" is upon us as I write this. Not even Thanksgiving yet, I am already thinking about Christmas and New Year, and it seems that we have bundled all our major holidays together into a span of a month's time. We start with thanking God for God's bounty. Then we thank God for sending the Messiah then we end marking one year and start on another. In the middle of it all we cram in eating ourselves into a coma and spending more money than we planned on things people don't need.

And we do this with the best of intentions. And in most occasions we succeed. Sometimes family dynamics are difficult and, deep down, people know they aren't alone. Because it's not unusual for families to have difficult times. Being family is no guarantee that everybody will always enjoy being together. Being related doesn't ensure that personalities will mesh in an agreeable way; possibly the best we can hope for is that picture of wild animals where lions and lambs sit next to each other in a peaceful pose looking like they don't really wish to rip each other's throats apart. People are just different. And a wise group (family) will accept this, adapt, adjust, and move on. My own family is constantly adjusting.

We have a game we play at our family get togethers where each person starts with a toothpick. If you are talking and someone interrupts you then you get to take their toothpick. I was the first person to lose my toothpick and usually by the end of the evening Beaven ends up with them all. It's not cutthroat but a gentle reminder to be respectful of each other. It has helped us become more aware of our own family dynamics.

Certainly the bible is a family scrapbook of family dynamics. You can find just about every situation in there from Mary's unplanned pregnancy to Cain murdering his brother. Then God came to us in human form to give us the commandment to love each other. He said nothing about putting on a big feast. In fact, the meal we suggested was just the most simple one of all-- something every meal had at hand already: bread and wine. He said nothing about presents or a tree or lights on the house. His message just love. Always love. Love from God to humanity. Love from human to human. Love one another. That was the gift Jesus suggested. And you won't find that on aisle 4 at Walmart on Black Friday.

Unless you put it there.

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Decorate church Fellowship lunch Jane Eis	27 2pm - Bible Study	28	29	30	1	2 12pm - Al-Anon
3 Communion	4 2pm - Bible Study	5	6	7	8	9 12pm - Al-Anon
10	11 2pm - Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16 12pm - Al-Anon
17	18 2pm - Bible Study	19	20	21	22	23 12pm - Al-Anon
24 Christmas Eve Joy Offering taken	25 Christmas Day NO CHURCH SERVICE Office closed	26 Cross & Crown due	27	28 Carrie Russell Chris Holloman	29	30 12pm - Al-Anon
31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Office closed 2pm - Bible Study	2	3	4	5	6 12pm - Al-Anon