



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



February 2024

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

Session members:

Class of 2024:

Patricia Clark

Class of 2025:

Slade Weaver and Kathy Winn

Class of 2026

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Pulpit supply for Feb.

Feb. 4th - Jane Els, communion

Feb. 11th - John Coleman

Feb. 18th - Jane Els

Feb. 25th - John Coleman

Session Highlights

The January 14 Stated Session meeting was postponed due to inclement weather. We are working on rescheduling that meeting.

Meanwhile, the annual congregational meeting was held on that Sunday to receive year-end reports from committee chairman. If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of the written reports, you may pick them up at the narthex or contact the church office.

ATTENDANCE:

December 31—10

January 7—11

January 14—6

January 21—7

**February 2024 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals
[Year B]**

Sunday, February 4

Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 11

2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalm 50:1–6

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 14

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isa. 58:1–12

Psalm 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

First Sunday in Lent—February 18

Genesis 9:8–17

Psalm 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

Second Sunday in Lent—February 25

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalm 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

Mark 8:31–38

**February
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

**There are no birthdays or
anniversaries this month**



Jane's Journey

If you read Facebook you will see that it is like a bulletin board that folks can put up comments and then come back later to see what anyone says about their comment. It can be like a conversation. Sometimes you can participate or sometimes just listen in. I enjoy getting a conversation started and see what different people have to say about an idea. I did that last week. The issue I posed was the common phrase that sometimes people are “**spiritual but not religious**” when you want to say that they might have a relationship with God but they don’t necessarily come to church on a regular basis. We all know people like that.

The converse phrase came to mind out of the blue and I posted the question, “What about the people who are **religious** but not **spiritual**?” It turned out to be one of the most fertile conversation starters I’ve ever put out there.

First people wanted to define our terms. Fair enough. One church professional said that he is “not the contemplative sort” so he must be religious and not spiritual. While a friend who is a layperson says that she thinks it means “being concerned with the soul, a belief in something bigger than the physical plain we occupy.” Another church professional was a tad critical of those who thought that mere attendance on Sunday was enough to call themselves a “Christian” and that it makes the church appear inauthentic. One pastor said “there is something valuable in committing to a practice and a tradition. I am also big on direct experience with God, which can happen anywhere, anytime and for anyone. Bring them together and you have something.”

Then my Muslim friend said that in Islam both are considered imperative and are addressed in the Quran specifically. My favorite was the friend who said someone told her that “spiritual was relying on your own experience with the Divine. Religious is relying on someone else’s beliefs about the Divine...”

I like where this conversation is headed. If nothing else, it’s good to think about these things. I’m a firm believer that where your head goes, your heart will generally follow. Ponder these spiritual matters and let God take the lead.

Lent begins on Valentine’s Day this year.

February

First Presbyterian, Birthdays, Holidays in United States

Feb 2024 (General time summary)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 2pm - Bible Study	30	31 9am - Bible Study	1 First Day of Black History	2	3 12pm - Al-Anon
4 Communion	5 2pm - Bible Study	6	7 9am - Bible Study	8	9	10 12pm - Al-Anon
11	12 2pm - Bible Study	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 9am - Bible Study	15	16	17 12pm - Al-Anon
18	19 Cross & Crown due Presidents' Day 2pm - Bible Study	20	21 9am - Bible Study	22	23	24 12pm - Al-Anon
25	26 2pm - Bible Study	27	28 9am - Bible Study	29	1 First Day of Women's	2 12pm - Al-Anon