



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



March 2024

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

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

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

Pulpit for March:

3rd- Jane Els, communion
10th - John Coleman
17th - Jane Els
24th - John Coleman
28th - Maundy Thursday-NO SERVICE
31st - still working on.

Session Highlights

The annual congregational meeting to hear committee reports was held on January 14 after the worship service.

Due to the icy weather and the need for people to get home, it was agreed that the January stated session meeting could be done through email vote to attend to "rubber stamp" items of business that needed to be handled forthwith. The following items were approved:

- Approved the annual church statistics report attached.
- Approved the 2024 budget attached.
- Appointed John Clark as Chairman/Treasurer of Reid committee.
- Appointed Ronny Knight as Treasurer and Tricia

Clark as Clerk of Session

- Appointed Jane and Beaven Els as representatives to Camp Gilmont.
- Appointed Sandy Corder as our commissioned elder to Presbytery meetings.
- Approved yearly mission giving - Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Shared Mission Commitment [formerly per capita]
- Approved celebrating communion on the first Sunday of every month.
- Approved holding Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve services.

Any other business will be handled as needed with a called meeting or at the April 28 Stated Session meeting.

It's always fun to have a chance to get together, so please join us after church on March 24, Palm Sunday, for a casual fellowship lunch. We will have hot dogs and chips, so bring sides or desserts.

ATTENDANCE:

January 28—9
February 4—12
February 11—11
February 18—10

MARCH BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES

23 Jacob Wilson

March 2024 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Third Sunday in Lent—March 3

Exodus 20:1–17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18–25
John 2:13–22

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 10

Numbers 21:4–9
Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22
Ephesians 2:1–10
John 3:14–21

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 17

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16
Hebrews 5:5–10
John 12:20–33

Passion/Palm Sunday—March 24

Liturgy of the Palms
Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a
Psalm 31:9–16
Philippians 2:5–11
Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)

Maundy Thursday—March 28

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
1 Corinthians 11:23–26
John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Good Friday—March 29

Isaiah 52:13–53:12
Psalm 22:1–31
Hebrews 10:16–25 or Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9
John 18:1–19:42

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter—March 31

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24
1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43
John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8



Jane's Journey

A good friend died the other day under really tough circumstances, and I was confused. There was absolutely no reason for this death. It made a person of faith doubt God. I could only chalk it up to evil forces. Sometimes evil wins. We are all tired of seeing bad stuff happen in the world and sometimes it just seems like evil is on a winning streak.

Lent is like this. We take time to consider our mortality and the fact that we sin and are hopelessly mortal. We sin and we died. And sometimes we just can't help it in spite of our best efforts. We come to church and get ashes smeared on our foreheads. (When we remember—because even then sometimes a couple of us forgot this year but that's also part of being human, isn't it?) and the ashes of the Wednesday service remind us that sin is part of the package.

But we take forty plus days to talk with God and listen carefully to God and ponder our humanness.

There are two trees by the church property are big and old. One on the church property and one is across the street on the neighbor's yard. But, because they are so old their branches extend over the street and they grow up over the street, meeting each other high in the air. A squirrel can easily scamper from tree to tree. It's almost like they are one tree with two trunks.

I sat in my car the other day and realized this is the way Jesus related to humanity. In his divinity he is able to be just what we need to protect us from evil. And in his humanity, Jesus understands our desperate need for salvation. Jesus understands us.

On my best day I have trouble standing up to evil. And that's why I pray the Lord's Prayer to deliver me from it. During Lent I will try to practice avoiding evil.

But on Resurrection Day I will get to celebrate Christ, the Anointed One, who will take all our sins away just because he loves us. And the branches of his massive tree will reach over and touch the branches of my tree and it will all make sense.

March

Calendar for March 2024 (Central Time - Chicago). Includes events such as Bible Study, Communion, Daylight Saving Time, St. Patrick's Day, Fellowship lunch, Palm/Passion Sunday, Easter Sunday, and various church services.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
	2pm - Bible Study		9am - Bible Study last		First Day of Women's	12pm - Al-Anon
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion	2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time	2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day	2pm - Bible Study					Jacob Wilson 12pm - Al-Anon
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fellowship lunch Palm/Passion Sunday	Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study			Mourning Thursday No church service	Good Friday	12pm - Al-Anon
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday 2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon