



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



May 2024

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

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Class of 2025:
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Pulpit supply for May:

May 5th: Jane Els & communion

May 12th: John Coleman

May 19th: Jane Els

May 26th: John Coleman

**May 2024 Revised Common Lectionary for
Sundays and Festivals**

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 5

Acts 10:44–48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1–6

John 15:9–17

Ascension of the Lord—May 9

Acts 1:1–11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15–23

Luke 24:44–53

Seventh Sunday of Easter—May 12

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9–13

John 17:6–19

Day of Pentecost—May 19

Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14

Psalm 104:24–34, 35b

Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21

John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

Trinity Sunday—May 26

Isaiah 6:1–8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12–17

John 3:1–17

The next Fellowship Lunch will be after church on May 19, Pentecost Sunday. We will be having Barbecue sandwiches. Please plan to bring side dishes, desserts, or anything else you like. Everyone is welcome, and it's a lot of fun!



Jane's Journey

I served communion in an unfamiliar setting last week and once I had all the bread and grape juice sent around to the whole congregation, I noticed they were all sitting there with the pieces of bread and juice cups in their lap looking at me expectantly. Waiting. I wasn't sure what to do. Was there some kind of cue I was supposed to look for? Or maybe I was supposed to give them a cue to start eating and drinking? I whispered to the nearest woman, what was everyone waiting for? She told me they were all waiting for everyone to be served before anyone took their own communion.

"What a polite gesture!" I thought to myself. This was the first church I had ever seen do this. Just about every one of the four churches I serve does communion just a little bit differently. It's not expected at communion but nonetheless a sweet, small move.

I found myself thinking how food and the act of eating gets integrated into religion. On the surface you might think food and religion are two totally different concepts. We can't live without nourishment while plenty of people live without religion. But early in the covenant relationship between God and humanity, sacrifices of animals were required to show our devotion to God. I like to joke that you can tell that God is a Texan because of all the time God expresses a love for the aroma of smoked meat. (Leviticus 3:16)

Both Judaism and Islam require fasting at different times of the year. Both have dietary restrictions that draw them closer to God through the effort that goes into their daily lives that these restrictions cause.

But only Christianity, only Jesus Christ, offers himself as both the host of the meal and as the actual meal itself, if only symbolically, in communion. We have no need for animal sacrifice in our religion. Jesus has already done this for us. Jesus welcomes us to the table and then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes our sustenance that carries us into the community we enter after the service ends.

I liked the idea of the church community who waited until all were served before each took their own portion but I'm not suggesting we change anything here at Winnsboro. I also like a church community who walks out into the world together singing "Blessed Be the Ties that Bind", who talks on the phone to each other often, who have bible study classes with each other, who invite each other to their homes for meals and who serve the community together. That's a church who is nourished by Christ and nourishes others.

**May
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

17 Debra Gaines

ATTENDANCE:

March 31—9

April 7—11

April 14—12

April 21—12

May

First Presbyterian Birthdays, Holidays in United States

May 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 2pm - Bible Study	30	1 First Day of Asian Pacific 9am - Bible study	2 Civic center Prayer - Natl Day of Prayer	3	4 12pm - AA/Anon
5 Cinco de Mayo Communion	6 2pm - Bible Study	7	8 9am - Bible study	9 Ascension of the Lord	10	11 12pm - AA/Anon
12 Mother's Day	13 2pm - Bible Study	14	15 9am - Bible study	16	17 Civico Games	18 12pm - AA/Anon
19 Pentecost 12pm - Fellowship	20 Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study	21	22 9am - Bible study	23	24	25 12pm - AA/Anon
26	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28	29 9am - Bible study	30	31	1 First Day of LGBTQ+ 12pm - AA/Anon