



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



October 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

302 S. Chestnut

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

Congregational Meeting Notice

A congregational meeting has been called for October 27 immediately following worship to vote on 1) bypassing the election of a nomination committee and 2) proceeding directly to electing officers for the class of 2027 (0-2 session members and 1 trustee.)

Our by-laws require a nomination committee to be elected to select a slate of officer candidates for session and trustees. Since our congregation has become so small, this extra step has proven to be superfluous. For at least the last three years, the committee that was elected to serve as a nomination committee ended up being the nominated slate of officer candidates because of their willingness to serve. If the congregation agrees that there is no need to elect a nomination committee, we will need to vote to bypass that step and proceed straight to electing officers. With that in mind, the Session members encourage the members of the congregation to be ready to nominate from the floor up to 2 folks to the office of session ruling elders and one trustee for the class of 2027. (John Clark will roll off as trustee, and Sandy Corder and Ronny Knight will continue to serve in that capacity. Trustees may be reelected; they may also serve as current session members.)

It should be noted that we have amended our by-laws to allow that the session may include from 4 to 6 members depending on the size of the congregation and people's willingness to serve. We currently have 5 members. Tricia Clark is rolling off and Slade Weaver, Kathy Winn, Patricia Fields, and John Clark will continue to serve. Since that leaves 4 session members, we can elect 0, 1, or 2 people.

Also, the Session will be seeking someone to fill the role of Clerk of Session in 2025. That person must be a ruling elder although they do not have to be currently serving on Session.

When making a nomination, be sure you have spoken with the person you are nominating to see if they are willing to take on the role. You may also nominate yourself.

Please be in prayer as to whether God might be calling you to serve as a trustee, session member, and/or Clerk.

October pulpit:

Oct. 6th - Jane Els. Communion

Oct. 13th - Lessons and hymns

Oct. 20th - Jane Els

Oct. 27th - Jimmy Chapman, congregation meeting & session meeting

October 2024 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, October 6 (Proper 22)

Semicontinuous

Job 1:1; 2:1–10

Psalm 26

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

Mark 10:2–16

Complementary

Genesis 2:18–24

Psalm 8

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12

Mark 10:2–16

Sunday, October 13 (Proper 23)

Semicontinuous

Job 23:1–9; 16–17

Psalm 22:1–15

Hebrews 4:12–16

Mark 10:17–31

Complementary

Amos 5:6–7, 10–15

Psalm 90:12–17

Hebrews 4:12–16

Mark 10:17–31

Sunday, October 20 (Proper 24)

Semicontinuous

Job 38:1–7 (34–41)

Psalm 104:1–9, 24, 35c

Hebrews 5:1–10

Mark 10:35–45

Complementary

Isaiah 53:4–12

Psalm 91:9–16

Hebrews 5:1–10

Mark 10:35–45

Sunday, October 27 (Proper 25)

Semicontinuous

Job 42:1–6, 10–17

Psalm 34:1–8 (19–22)

Hebrews 7:23–28

Mark 10:46–52

Complementary

Jeremiah 31:7–9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23–28

Mark 10:46–52

**October
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

**1 Olivia Holloman
13 Beaven Els**

ATTENDANCE:

**July 28—13
August 4—11
August 11—11
August 18—12
August 25—15
September 1—12
September 8—12
September 15—9
September 22—11**



Jane's Journey

Years ago I became interested in a practice called "Praying the Office." It sounds like a funny term, doesn't it? And for a long time I kept thinking it might involve staplers and paper clips. But it's an old Latin term (*officium*) for "service". It's also called praying the Hours; basically you are praying on a regular basis.

Praying on a regular basis throughout the day is hard for busy people. Nuns or similarly dedicated people might have an easier time being diligent but I kept looking for a way to remind me to stop what I was doing, to interrupt my day and my train of thought; to shift gears from what I was doing. My first time to attempt a regular practice was before cell phones had alarms. But believe it or not there was an app on phones for Muslim prayer times even before alarms on cell phones. So I installed that app on my phone. And it was a handy for a while and it even told me what direction Mecca was and when the sunrise and sunset was. But it was a little awkward to find myself in a Christian retreat and have the Muslim call to prayer sound on my phone as sunset approached.

Then when iPhone came out with alarms I was off and running. Today I have an alarm set for 9 a.m., noon, 3, 6, and 9 p.m.....those five times of the day seem sufficient to keep me in touch with God. I figure God doesn't want to know what I have to say at 6 o'clock in the morning. And I'm asleep at midnight. Now that I had all the logistics set up I needed to figure out what to say.

A lot of the experts I read suggested the same thing: the Jesus Prayer. So I looked it up. "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." It's short and snappy. Easy to memorize. Easy to say. AND it says everything you really need to say. If I'm in the middle of a conversation with you and the time reaches 6 pm and my back pocket buzzes, you might not even notice my attention wander for the briefest of few seconds while I silently ask Jesus to have mercy on me.

Five times a day I remember that I have things in my life that separate me from Christ and I need help to draw back closer to him and his intentions for my life. It's not usually big things like murder or bank robbery or the little things that keep me from being who God created me to be: taking the cheap and easy laugh at someone's expense (usually without thinking) or knowingly letting the store clerk give me too much change (rationalizing that Walmart can afford it). It's the in-between sins that get me: the ones I won't even talk about here in public but fill the silence during worship. "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." And I need to check in with God five times a day for those.

October

First Presbyterian, Holidays in United States Oct 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Fellowship Lunch	30 2pm - Bible Study	31 Breakfast	1 9am - Bible study	2	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon
6 Communion	7 2pm - Bible Study	8	9 9am - Bible study	10	11	12 12pm - Al-Anon
13 Breathers Lit	14 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 2pm - Bible Study	15	16 9am - Bible study	17	18	19 12pm - Al-Anon
20	21 2pm - Bible Study	22	23 9am - Bible study	24	25	26 12pm - Al-Anon
27 Congregation meeting Session Meeting	28 2pm - Bible Study	29	30 9am - Bible study	31 Halloween	1 First Day of American	2 Patricia Fields 12pm - Al-Anon