



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



February 2025

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

Class of 2025:
Slade Weaver and Kathy Winn
Class of 2026
John Clark and Patricia Fields
Treasurer:
Ronny Knight
Clerk:
Sandy Corder

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February pulpit supply:

2nd - Jane Els, communion
9th - Crosby Fleming
16th - Jane Els
23rd - Mitch Thompson

On Sunday February 16, please join us after the service for a Friendship Lunch of soup and sandwiches! Be thinking about what you might bring, and we will fill up the menu and make a plan the Sunday before.

Session Highlights

- The Session took care of routine yearly business.
 1. Made routine appointments: Sandy Corder, Clerk of Session; Ronny Knight, Treasurer; John Clark, Moderator/Treasurer of Reid Committee
 2. Approved communion dates (1st Sunday of the month, and possibly Maundy Thursday); Yearly mission giving (Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing, Shared Mission Commitment)
 3. Set special services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, possibly Maundy Thursday)
- Approved the yearly Statistics Report required by PCUSA
- Discussed how to proceed with new requirements from the Book of Order: Boundary Training for ruling elders, Creating Anti Racism and Harassment Policies
- Set next Session meeting for April 27

**February
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

**No birthdays or anniversaries
this month**

ATTENDANCE:

December 29—12
January 5—10
January 12—15
January 19—17
January 26—8



Jane's Journey

February is a good month to think about Love. Valentines Day comes smack dab in the center of our shortest month of the year when it's too cold to go outdoors so we might as well sit inside and think profound thoughts. And our first Sunday's lectionary calls for the preacher to preach on the classic I Corinthians 13:1-13 scripture about Love. We are all about Love in February.

Then, along comes my first experience with artificial intelligence. My Microsoft Word software came out of the blue (to me, at least) and added a feature called Copilot that will produce a 1,000 word essay on

Love with the mere flick of the wrist. As tempting as it was to get my laptop to do my homework for me, I found what the laptop produced to be dry and not worth your time.

So, I decided that a marriage of over 50 years qualifies me to write about love. Maybe not the kind Paul talked about in Corinthians or what Jesus was talking about. Maybe a little. The one thing they all have in common is patience. But I do know that what the bible talked about isn't really about married couples.

The two great teachings of Jesus was "Love God and Love each other". Paul spoke of the kind of love the Christian community had for each other. This kind of love is a lot harder than buying your wife a box of chocolates. Loving a community requires us to want the best for people that we don't know as well as family, people we don't live with, sometimes people we may not even have a lot in common with. It may require us to love people we may not even like. But we still gotta love them. Oof. Because Jesus told us to.

The Old Testament prophets spoke a lot about Justice. Micah 6:8 told us that God requires us to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." But nothing about loving people. It was Jesus who told us to "love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves."

It's interesting that Jesus phrased it that way. Almost as though he wanted to make sure we started out loving ourselves first and then went from there to love other people. So: Love God. Love ourselves. Love each other. Something to think about.

Buy someone you love a box of chocolates. Even if it's for yourself.

Happy Valentines Day.

February 2025 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, February 2

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, February 9

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 16

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, February 23

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

Below is the article published in the Wood County Monitor December 19, 2024 One of our stained glass windows was featured.

By John Arbter
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There are many ways to celebrate Christmas. Most are seasonal – recreated year after year.

Decorating for the Christmas season has become an event all unto itself. That is not wrong, but there are year-long reminders of Jesus Christ's birth as a man. Those reminders are around us every day in the form of the many truly beautiful stained-glass windows which adorn churches in Wood County. They can reflect grandeur, and grace and beauty.

People can have a truly individual connection to a specific piece of painted glass or they may feel enveloped by the color and grace unfolding before them.

In some cases, as at First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro, the stained-glass windows are located at each of the four cardinal directions of the sanctuary.

At St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, the stained-glass figure of Jesus is what remains of the original church at that site and welcomes people into the church hall.

The explosion of color in the grand window behind the altar at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Holly Lake Ranch glorifies God, while the simple mosaic at St. Peter the Apostle Church in Mineola is contemplative and reassuring.

When the sun sets, reminders of the spirit within local churches are cast into the surrounding neighborhoods, as illustrated at the First Baptist Church and First Methodist Church in downtown Mineola.

As is likely intended by all the artists and congregations when creating and selecting their stained-glass windows, a sacred atmosphere results, such as witnessed by the lady in prayer at Tinney Chapel.

Merry Christmas.



Exterior view of First Baptist Church of Mineola



Exterior view of First Methodist Church of Mineola



First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro.



Altar of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church at Holly Lake Ranch.



Window at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church at Holly Lake Ranch



St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Mineola from the original structure.



St. Peter the Apostle Church of Mineola



Tinney Chapel United Methodist Church in Winnsboro

February

First Presbyterian, Holidays in United States, Birthdays

Feb 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Congregation Susan Drennart session meeting	27 Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study	28	29 Bible study 9-11	30	31	1 12pm - Al-Anon
2 Communion	3 2pm - Bible Study	4	5 Bible study 9-11	6	7	8 12pm - Al-Anon
9	10 2pm - Bible Study	11	12 Bible study 9-11	13	14 Tina's 20 yrs at FPC Valentine's Day	15 12pm - Al-Anon
16 Friendship lunch	17 Presidents' Day 2pm - Bible Study	18	19 Bible study 9-11	20	21	22 12pm - Al-Anon
23	24 Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study	25	26 Bible study 9-11	27	28	1 12pm - Al-Anon