



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



**October 2025**

**Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas**

**Session members:**

Class of 2025:

Slade Weaver and Alice McGregor

Class of 2026

John Clark and Patricia Fields

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**Cross and Crown articles:**

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**Pulpit supply for October:**

**5th - Jane Els preaching, communion**

**12th - John Coleman**

**19th - Jane Els, Congregation meeting, Session**

**26th - John Coleman**

**October  
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

**1—Olivia Holloman**

**13—Beaven Els**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**August 31—9**

**September 7—14**

**September 14—13**

**September 21—9**

Gilmont's Fourth Annual Battle of the Bags Cornhole Tournament, in concert with the camp's 85th Birthday Celebration, will be held Saturday, October 11, 2025. This day of fun is an important opportunity to support Gilmont's general fund! Get your tickets (players and spectators are welcome) and register for the online Silent Auction at [www.gilmont.org](http://www.gilmont.org)! In addition to the tournament, participants will enjoy Ken Knotts' delicious BBQ, fantastic live music, camp tours, big screen college football, and some bingo too! Hope to see you soon!

A Congregation meeting has been called for October 19 immediately following worship to vote on 1) bypassing the election of a nominating committee and 2) proceeding directly to electing officers for the class of 2028 (0-2 session members and 1 Trustee).

### October Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays

#### Sunday, October 5 (Proper 22)

##### Semicontinuous

Lamentations 1:1–6

Lamentations 3:19–26 or Psalm 137

2 Timothy 1:1–14

Luke 17:5–10

##### Complementary

Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4

Psalm 37:1–9

2 Timothy 1:1–14

Luke 17:5–10

#### Sunday, October 12 (Proper 23)

##### Semicontinuous

Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7

Psalm 66:1–12

2 Timothy 2:8–15

Luke 17:11–19

##### Complementary

2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8–15

Luke 17:11–19

#### Sunday, October 19 (Proper 24)

##### Semicontinuous

Jeremiah 31:27–34

Psalm 119:97–104

2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

Luke 18:1–8

##### Complementary

Genesis 32:22–31

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14–4:5

Luke 18:1–8

#### Sunday, October 26 (Proper 25)

##### Semicontinuous

Joel 2:23–32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

Luke 18:9–14

##### Complementary

Jeremiah 14:7–10, 19–22

Psalm 84:1–7

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18

Luke 18:9–14



## Jane's Journey

I went to Scotland about three years ago to the island of Iona. It's supposed to be one of the most spiritual places in the world and I had wanted to go there for a very long time. So, once I had the chance to go with a contingent of 22 other folks from the Presbytery I jumped at the chance. The Abbey at Iona was truly magnificent and a really spiritual place. The coast of Scotland is picturesque.

But I was surprised that I didn't have the overwhelming "Gee Whiz" spiritual experience that I expected to have. Maybe I was expecting too much. Maybe it never would have lived up to my expectations. I sometimes wonder if going with a group made the experience different. If I had been alone would it have made any difference?

Later, on that same trip, I found myself walking through the huge city of London alone. And I got lost. My cell phone inconveniently lost power about this time so I had no Google map. And I happen to possess absolutely no natural sense of direction. None. At all. I... Was. Lost.

Then I realized the city bus stops had a rudimentary map on their signs. By consulting with two or three of these maps I managed to put together enough of a sense of where I was to figure out what to do.

Similarly, I was alone and lost one other time in Rome. Same story: no cell phone. No sense of where I was. But this time I also didn't speak the language of the city. But I did have a paper map. Eventually, after five tries I found the church I was looking for.

I don't remember praying or asking God for help. But I did manage to find my way. And I ended up having a deeper spiritual experience alone in a busy big city than I did in that small scenic Celtic island with 22 friends. I think there was something about being alone with God. Even without praying I could feel God's presence walking with me.

I'm reading a book about taking walks with God: It's called Camino Divina by Gina Marie Mammano.

Each chapter has devotions based on the ideas of a different great writer and thinker in Christianity from going back as far as 1148 with Hildegard of Bingen who taught us to "Be a feather on the breath of God." It continues to modern writers like John Muir and Mary Oliver. They help reinforce what God says to me as I walk. Sometimes I only walk in my mind. I take memories of past walks and dreams of future ones with me. And God accompanies with with each step.

# October

First Presbyterian, Holidays in United States							Oct 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4		
	2pm - Bible Study		Olivia Holloman			12pm - Al-Anon		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
Communion	2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
	Beaven Els Columbus Day 2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
Congregation meeting Session	Cross & Crown due 2pm - Bible Study					12pm - Al-Anon		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1		
Family lunch	2pm - Bible Study				Halloween	12pm - Al-Anon		