



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



November 2025

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

Class of 2026

John Clark and Patricia Fields

Class of 2027

Alice McGregor and Bryana Lenius

Treasurer:

Ronny Knight

Clerk:

Sandy Corder

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

Pulpit supply for November:

2nd - Jane Els

9th - John Coleman

16th - Jane Els

23rd - John Coleman

30th- John Coleman

November BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES

2—Patricia Fields

6—Dan Wilson

22—Nyla Kettleson

26—Jane Els

ATTENDANCE:

September 28—14

October 5—14

October 12—10

October 19—12

Join us for decorating the sanctuary for Advent after church on Nov. 23rd. We will have a light soup and bread lunch before decorating.

Congregational Meeting Update

Each year, the congregation meets to nominate and elect trustees and session members. This year, the meeting was held on October 19th and went smoothly with Jane Els as moderator. Two session terms expired in 2025, so we are grateful to Alice McGregor and Bryanna Lineus for agreeing to fill the vacated seats. They will join John Clark and Patricia Fields next year on the session. May they serve with glad hearts and open minds as they direct the course of our church.

John Clark was elected to fulfill the Class of 2027 trustee position recently vacated and Tyler Lineus was elected to the Class of 2028 trustee position.

Thank you to all the folks who step up to help keep our church running!

Session Meeting Update

The session had a lot to discuss this meeting! After hearing reports from each of the committee members took care of:

Old business updates and conclusions:

- New policies are required by the Presbytery to be included in the operations manuals. This meeting, a new harassment policy was approved, which (along with a new antiracism policy and a reworded sexual misconduct policy) keeps us in good standing.
- A new website is on its way! We received a draft back from the designer and will be tweaking it a bit before we roll it out. We hope it will be more useable for our staff and welcoming to potential congregants.
- The church was asked to help with the Holloman girls' confirmation. Jane Els worked with Ron Holloman to create a program that gave the girls a solid understanding. Thanks Jane for volunteering to carry out the church's obligation!

New business that was brought up:

- Communion wafers – We're going to give communion wafers and intinction (dipping in the communion cup) a try at communion next month. We'll ask the congregation feedback to see if folks like this method. The change is proposed due to the limited amount of staff for preparing the communion table.
- Digital media staff – We're going to look for a digital media/social media consultant to help our church get with the times. The hope is for us to hire someone to create a process for us to easily share our sermons, pictures, and do posts on social media. Once the process is in place, we hope a few members can be trained to help keep the social media up to date.
- Bible study – Jane is super excited about the new Wednesday night bible study that she will be holding. The session approved it and funds were made available for materials for those that will attend. We'll be announcing it in church and everyone is invited to attend!
- Pledge cards – Pledge cards will be going out soon!
- End of year stuff – There is a ton of things that need to be completed by the end of the year. The committees will complete their reviews and all business will be finalized at a Called Meeting to be held on December 7th.
- New session member training – A date was set for new members to be trained on December 6th.

Once we completed all this, we set the date of January 18th for the next stated session meeting and adjourned with prayer.

Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays

Saturday, November 1

All Saints' Day

Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18

Psalms 149

Ephesians 1:11–23

Luke 6:20–31

Sunday, November 2 (Proper 26)

Semicontinuous

Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4

Psalms 119:137–144

2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12

Luke 19:1–10

Complementary

Isaiah 1:10–18

Psalms 32:1–7

2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12

Luke 19:1–10

Sunday, November 9 (Proper 27)

Semicontinuous

Haggai 1:15b–2:9

Psalms 145:1–5, 17–21 or Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17

Luke 20:27–38

Complementary

Job 19:23–27a

Psalms 17:1–9

2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17

Luke 20:27–38

Sunday, November 16 (Proper 28)

Semicontinuous

Isaiah 65:17–25

Isaiah 12

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

Luke 21:5–19

Complementary

Malachi 4:1–2a

Psalms 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

Luke 21:5–19

Sunday, November 23

Reign of Christ / Christ the King

Semicontinuous

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Luke 1:68–79

Colossians 1:11–20

Luke 23:33–43

Complementary

Jeremiah 23:1–6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11–20

Luke 23:33–43

[Begin Year A]

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1–5

Psalms 122

Romans 13:11–14

Matthew 24:36–44



Jane's Journey

Good News!

We are starting a bible study here at the church! Our first meeting will be Wednesday, November 5th, here at the church at 5:30 p.m. The meetings will be very informal but will include a meal or at least some kind of substantial snacks. I love my snacks. And I understand that Jesus will be there.

Jesus himself has promised that whenever two or more gather in his name he will be among them. Matthew 18:20.

I love gathering with friends even though I also enjoy time alone. Especially in nature when the weather turns pleasant like it has been the last couple of weeks. This morning there was a coolness in the morning air that was refreshing....re-freshing as the word implies, as in bringing a new, fresh season, a change in the air. Fresh in the face of knowing I need to get the space heater out of storage to warm up those cold spots in the room. But also fresh in knowing that I don't really know what lies ahead. There are simply things I don't know.

There are things I know from decades of experience: Christmas is coming and there is a predictability in some of our family traditions. But there will be surprises. The young people in our family will provide new ideas none of us have thought of before. And I look forward to that.

And that is what I am looking forward to in the Wednesday evening bible Study. We might be tempted to think that the bible is carved in stone. But the people the bible is written for are not. They are as young as the spring morning and blossoming with new insights. I always look forward to studying the bible with fresh eyes. Each time I read a passage in scripture I learn a new insight. The bible may not change and God's love never changes but the people the bible was written for change constantly. We invent and discover and adapt and reform not only our planet but the ways we relate to the world around us and the way we relate to the people we share this world with.

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study is open to everyone. I hope you will join us November 5th at 5:30 here at the church. I'll bring sandwiches.

November

First Presbyterian, Holidays in United States

Nov 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Family lunch	27 2pm - Bible Study	28	29 9am - bible study 5:30pm - Bible study	30	31 Halloween	1 12pm - Al-Anon
2 Communion Daylight Saving Time Patricia Fields	3 2pm - Bible Study	4 Election Day	5 9am - bible study 5:30pm - Bible study	6 Daniel Wilson	7	8 12pm - Al-Anon
9	10 2pm - Bible Study	11 Veterans Day	12 9am - bible study 5:30pm - Bible study	13	14	15 12pm - Al-Anon
16	17 2pm - Bible Study	18	19 5:30pm - Bible study	20	21	22 Nyla Kettleson 12pm - Al-Anon
23 decorate for	24 2pm - Bible Study	25	26 Jane Els 5:30pm - Bible study	27 Thanksgiving Day office closed	28 Black Friday	29 12pm - Al-Anon
30	1 2pm - Bible Study	2	3 5:30pm - Bible study	4	5	6 12pm - Al-Anon