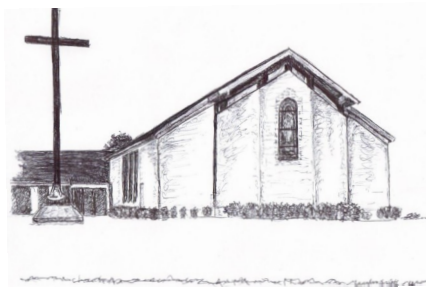


Presby News

MARCH 2022



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

1 Kings 17:8-16

The widow that Elijah was sent to was at the very end of her rope. God was having to teach Elijah about provision. Then he chose to use a very unlikely provider in the form of this widow who was down to her last dime. The test was when Elijah asked her to provide for him when she did not have enough to provide for herself.

God has a way of teaching us that he will supernaturally provide for us when we learn how to be obedient to what he asked us to do. My prayer for you is that when you feel you do not have anything else to offer anyone, that God would use your obedience to show you that he is still a God who provides.

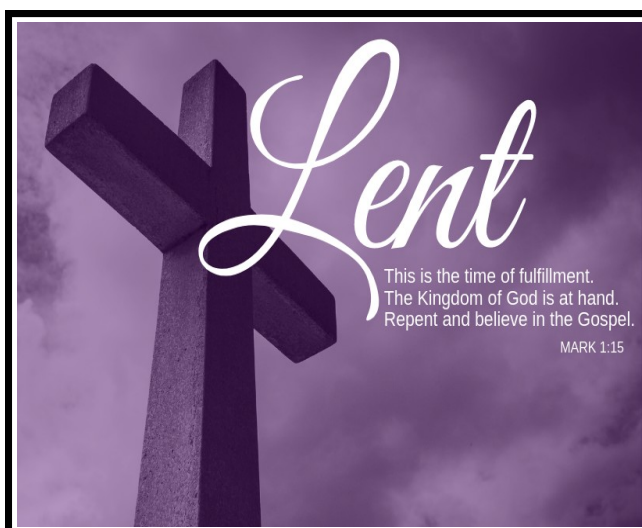
Pastor Vince

† LENT

– 40 Days Of Renewal –

SPECIAL DATES

March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 6	Brookdale Worship First Sunday of Lent Worship/Communion
March 13	Second Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 20	Third Sunday of Lent
March 27	Fourth Sunday of Lent



TRADITIONS OF LENT

Sarah Phillips, Contributing Writer, Crosswalk.com

Practicing Lent Traditions

You can benefit from celebrating Lent even if your church does not formally do so. Here are some of the key elements of the Lenten season, along with some of the symbolism that comes with it. Many of these practices can be celebrated both individually and as a community:

Purple: Like Advent, the official color for Lent is purple. Usually, churches that celebrate Lent choose the deepest, darkest shade of purple for this special season. They may also strip their churches bare of some of the usual decorations adorning the walls. Purple is the color of repentance for sins and also symbolizes the state of our souls outside the light of Christ. During this time, pray for those who do not know Christ and for those who have sinned gravely against Him.

Confession: As mentioned above, Lent is a penitential season or expressed sorrow and repentance.. The 40 days are set aside to really examine areas of recurring sin in our lives that prevent us from being conformed to God's Will. A good way to start an examination of conscience is by praying [Psalm 139](#), verse 23-24: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Fasting and Prayer: Fasting is a practice that has really gone by the wayside in many Christian circles. Yet, if done correctly, it can be a powerful time of renewing your relationship with God. Fasting can be found in both the Old Testament and the New, with Moses ([Exodus 34:28](#); [Deuteronomy 9:9,18](#)), Elijah ([1 Kings 19:8](#)), and our Lord ([Matthew 4:2](#)) all participating in 40-day fasts. Fasting is a way of denying ourselves the excesses of life so that we might be more attuned to the Lord's voice. It is also a way of disciplining yourself, strengthening your "spiritual muscles" so to speak so that when temptations arise in life, you are already used to saying "no" to your desires. And finally, fasting is also a way of participating, in a small way, in the sufferings of Christ and can be particularly powerful when accompanied by prayer and confession.

Meditating on Christ's Sacrifice for Mankind: In addition to periodic fasting and prayer, our scriptural meditations typically turn to the salvation offered to us through Christ's suffering. Read Old Testament Scriptures prophesying the suffering of Christ and the New Testament Gospel accounts.

Charity/Almsgiving: A very important element of the Lenten season is becoming aware of not only the suffering and sacrifice of Christ but also to the suffering of others. Between now and Good Friday, choose one way you can increase your giving to those in need. It could be through extra financial offerings, donating goods you no longer need or use to charity, or increasing your personal time commitment to a ministry or cause close to your heart.

Lent is a time when Christians separate from the world; when we find out our faith is not just a feel-good, self-help religion but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who journey through the Lenten season will enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. And the joy of Resurrection, as well as the promises of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.

March Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
March 6	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Elizebette Kennedy Communion Team: Jim Hockensmith
March 13	Vacancy	Vacancy	
March 20	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
March 27	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Vacancy	



Robert Kennedy	3/7
Brenda Willson	3/16
Roscoe Wilson	3/22
Robert & Elizebette Kennedy	3/28



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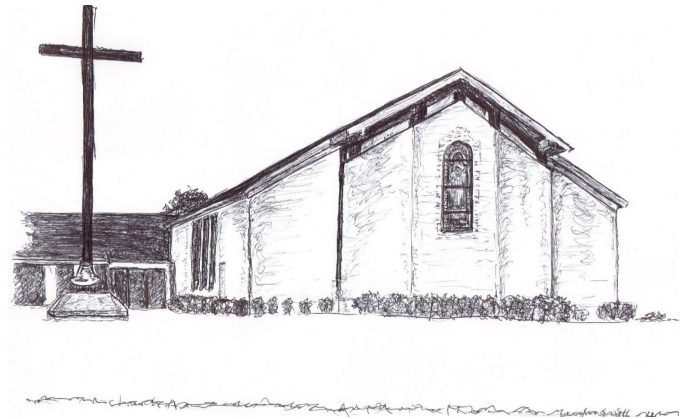
Vince Smith, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

David Berrocal, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Administrative Assistant*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd.

Alexandria, LA 71303

Come experience God's love at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday School—9:45 a.m., Worship—11:00 a.m.