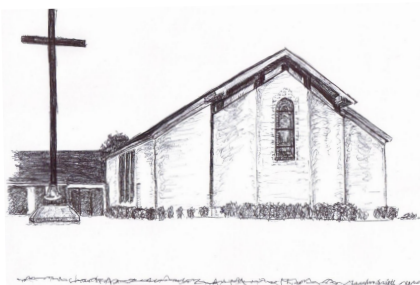


Presby News

JULY 2023



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Picture an independent five-year-old black-headed boy with an eight-foot cane fishing pole. The young lad is reaching back ready to whip that bream hook and cork far into the lake to catch a fish. But this independent little fisherman is snagged on something. When he flicks his pole forward, the line stays behind him. He looks behind him and doesn't see where he is caught on anything. He flicks the pole forward again. Still the line does not fly overhead into the water. The young fisherman cannot seem to find where his line is hung. After several tries and inevitable defeat, the young fisherman realizes he has hooked himself in the seat of his own blue jean cut-offs. ----With his father's help, he is soon trying again. But this time a little wiser about where his hook may be.

Every year, my grandfather would give us grandchildren a little money. That money never stayed in our pockets for very long. We would soon get a ride to the fireworks stand to buy whatever fireworks money would allow. We weren't smart enough to actually pool our money together to get some really nice fireworks. We all spent our money individually. Still we had enough cheap fireworks to entertain us for a very long time. It's odd that my memories of those days are mostly of the sound of laughter rather than what we actually might have found funny. I remember the bright joy in my cousins' faces in that moment more than the fireworks lighting the night sky.

We would spend all day at my grandfather's house on the Fourth of July. We would get there about 9:00 in the morning and stay until well after dark on these long summer days. For the adults, most of the day was spent over or around the barbeque pit or kitchen sink. The men cooked BBQ chicken and ribs. The women took on the colossal work of everything else: beans, bread, salad, nineteen desserts, potato salad, some stuff that Aunt Janice made that nobody knew what it was. The ladies of the family made tea. And we needed lots of it. With nine families in one little house, lots of sweaty children banging the doors as they ran in and out of the house, we needed lots to drink. Lunch was never at noon. Something was not quite finished cooking. But normally by 1:00 we were eating. That left us with plenty of time to beg, plead and sometimes trick Paw Paw into letting us cut some of his watermelons from his garden. I remember one year, my uncle raised the trunk of his car claiming to have watermelons in his trunk. The car was between Paw Paw as he sat in the swing and his watermelon patch. I'm not sure if everyone just winked and grinded to pretend not to know what was happening. But you guessed it, my uncle blocked the view and just cut watermelons from the garden.

So many memories fill my head of family, fun, laughter, and the celebration of more than just Independence Day, but the celebration of life. It's that what we are supposed to do: celebrate. Even in the midst of a troublesome subject like lamentations, the writer of Lamentations proclaimed, "The steadfast love the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) I hope that we take a moment of every day to celebrate the joy of life and love. May we never forget the rich depth of God's love for us to make us his children and that is reason enough to celebrate. If we can add our country's birthday, fun, memories, good neighbors, family, and a thousand other reasons to celebrate, well, that's just a bonus!

Grace and Peace,
Bro. Greg

Blessed is the nation whose
God is the Lord: and the
people whom he hath chosen for
his own inheritance.

- Psalm 33:12

drjamesdobson.org

SPECIAL DATES

July 2 9:00 am Brookdale Worship
 11:00 am Worship/Communion

July 4 Fourth of July (*Office Closed*)





Bible Quiz

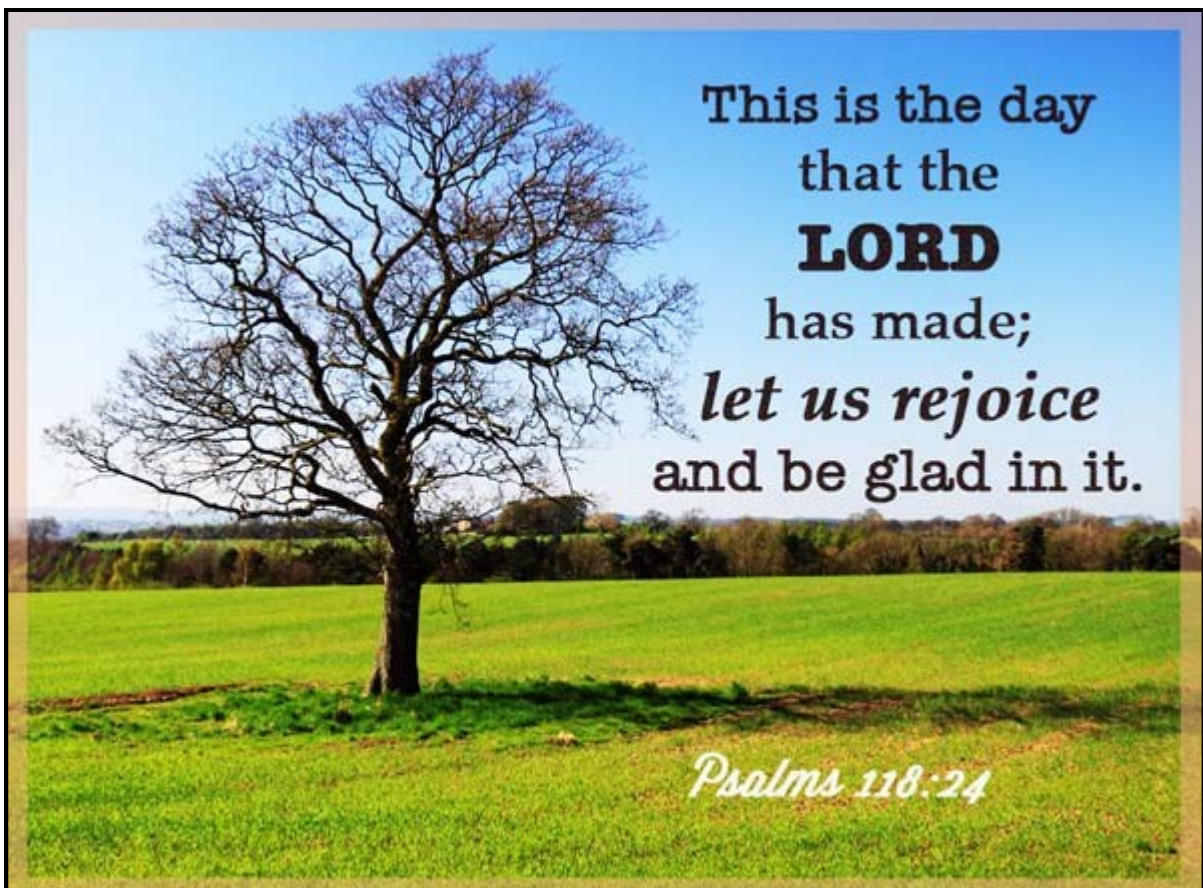


What was the name of the queen who refused to appear before the king of Persia and his guests and, as a result, was deposed?

- A. Esther
- B. Jael
- C. Vashti
- D. Milcah



Answer: C (See Esther 1:12.)



July Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
July 2	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
July 9	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
July 16	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
July 23	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
July 30	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	

JULY



Annelize Benade	7/10
Payton Jewell	7/12
Nancy Smilie	7/15
Bill & Martha Higgins	7/16
Rocky Willson	7/22
Christelle Carley	7/23



First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

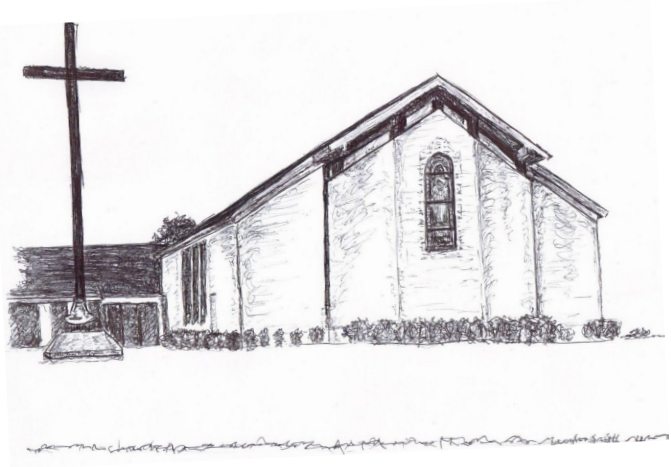
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

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.