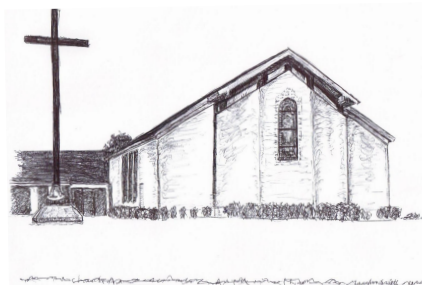


Presby News

FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

February kind of gets the short stick as far as months goes. It doesn't have the big holidays like Christmas, Easter, or even Halloween. It does get Valentine's day. And I do love those little conversation hearts. But it seems Valentine's Day is a holiday for those who have found that special Valentine to share it. February gets Mardi Gras in many years. Certainly, that is a big holiday for many.

February is that middle month. It's in the middle of winter. When we look at our seasons, we might get a good snowfall in the beginning of February or we might get an early spring. In Louisiana, we can never predict! February is in-between Winter and Spring!

Even in our school year, February gets stuck in the middle. February is in the middle of the spring semester for school. It doesn't get to share the excitement and newness of a fresh start like January. It's still early enough that it seems that we have a long way to go before summer. But before the month ends, we are counting days and talking about how quickly school will be over. It's the month in-between fresh starts and ending strong.

Come to think about it, February is smack in the middle of two major Christian seasons as well. December has Christmas and late March or April has Easter. I'm beginning to understand why February has only 28 days. February has a complex and feels smaller than the rest of the months.

February can help us illustrate where we are in waiting for Christ's return. We are right in the middle. Waiting. We are not the generation that witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus. And from all appearances, we are not the generation that witnesses the triumphant return of Christ at the end of time. We are stuck in the middle. Matthew 24:42 encourages us; "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Matthew reminds us that Jesus could come at any time. We might be nearer the final days than we can predict. But we might be a long way from His return. Either way, we should stay ready. We are challenged to keep ministering, loving, and teaching people about Christ.

Even if we are just a middle generation, we play an important part in the kingdom of God. Our ministry to others keeps the story alive and fresh for those who follow us. We lay the foundation for those who walk the way of Christ after us.

Grace and Peace,
Bro. Greg

Valentine's Day Blessing

*Love one another;
as I
have
loved
you,*

*John 13:34
(KJV)*

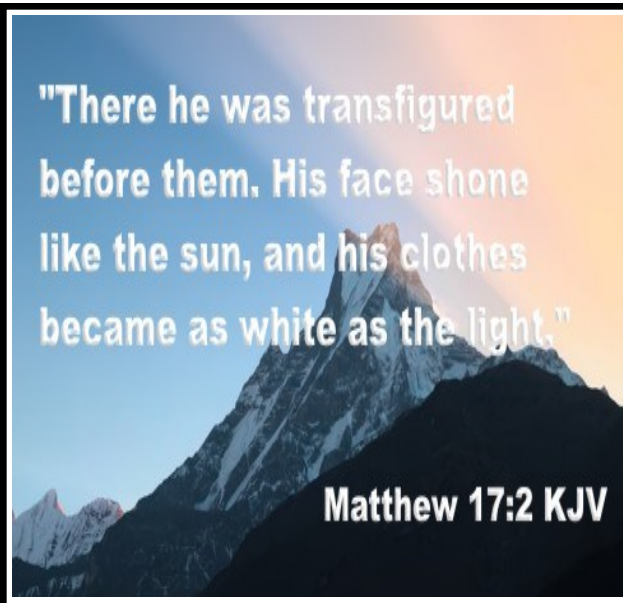


SPECIAL DATES

February 4	Brookdale Worship Worship/Communion
February 11	Transfiguration of the Lord
February 14	Ash Wednesday Happy Valentine's Day!
February 18	First Sunday of Lent
February 19	President's Day

"There he was transfigured
before them. His face shone
like the sun, and his clothes
became as white as the light."

Matthew 17:2 KJV



South Africa Mission Work

By Elizebette Kennedy, February, 2023



Things are going well. We arrived in Philippolis with a bad storm and a 3 day without electricity deal. We are in 'camping' mode, but most people here have adjusted to all the unpleasantness of load shedding and every other day of water supply. More about that later.

Last Sunday my daughter and I were invited to go and have lunch at the church in the Bergmanshoogte community. They were very hospitable and thanked First Presbyterian for all the support and help that they cannot do without. After Pastor Carin's death, they had a very rough time, but things are looking up and they are growing and planning a lot of new projects with their youth. They have a huge youth catechism class starting now. They also started with classes for the small kids. Of course the feeding programs are of vital importance and they are planning to recruit more out of their own members to have their very limited potlucks (mostly consisting of bread or porridge) and of course the soup kitchen in winter..

For each one to contribute a spoonful of butter, a slice of bread, a bowl of porridge and then put it together to provide a church meal share thing.

They invited us again to worship with them this morning and we had an informative meeting after church. They want to be very transparent and of course want us to know about all their progress and plans.

Anyway, I will be glad to talk more about it once I am back. God willing.

Love in Christ,
Elizebette

February Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
February 4	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
February 11	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
February 18	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
February 25	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	



Frank & Gayle Hempen

2/20



**Thank you for your generous donations to the
South Africa Mission.
A wire transfer is sent
annually to the Mission.**

First Presbyterian Church

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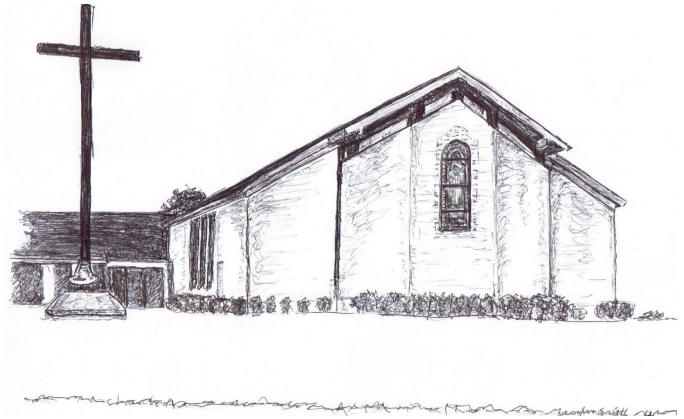
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

Jennifer Ciobanu, *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.