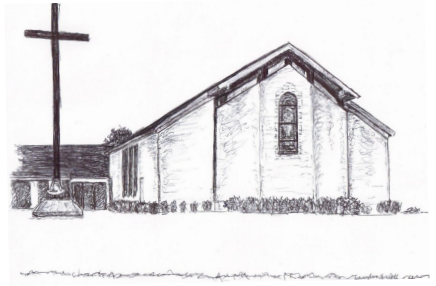


Presby News

AUGUST 2025



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

I love riding roller coasters. My favorite has to be Rockin' Roller Coaster in Disney World. The speed and quick turns are just remarkable. This particular roller coaster is mostly in the dark which adds to the fun and excitement. William and I rode (and re-rode) this one at least five times as quickly as we could wind back and forth through the single rider line.

As much fun as the new super coasters can be, I like the old wooden roller coasters just a much. If I am totally transparent, I don't like the slow surging of the click, click, click as the cars climb that first major incline. I normally try to look around. Never down! Don't look down. I look away from the coaster. I like looking at the park and surrounding area from the bird's eye perspective. Then as the coaster reaches the top, I love the anticipation of chugging to reach the moment the coaster crests the hill and begins the first plummet down the tracks. The scientist in me can't fathom that it's a true free fall. But try telling my stomach that it's not. Then the coaster roars through all the loops, twists, turns, and whatever else the designers have planned for us. The whole time, I try to hold my hands high in the air in some pretense that I'm brave enough not to hold on. The wind whips around my face. The screams of the people in front of me mix with my own laughter as we jostle around the car. Then the ride ends. Suddenly everyone is a lot braver and is ready to get back in line for another ride or we rush off to the next coaster experience.

We have come to the time of year that life is like one of these roller coasters. We are beginning the click, click, click of the climb to another school year and church year. August marks the season when we can see the approaching time of Back to School, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and even Christmas. Anticipation starts to build as we know that we are right on the crest before the hurried, free fall feeling of the holidays and winter. We may not experience a severe winter like our northern states. But we will zip through fall and into the monotone grey winter where the humidity takes our breath like that first free-fall on a roller coaster. The roller coaster of life is clicking higher and higher before we start the race past us to the end of the year.

The psalmist seems to understand the hectic hustle of life and how quickly the years pass us. In Psalm 90 the poet writes that we reach our golden years sooner than we want. In our memories, the years pass all too quickly. The wisdom of the poet helps us focus on the most important matter. "Teach us to number our days, that we

may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). When life seems to be passing us all too quickly or when we look at our life and all we see is the roller-coaster-paced twists and turns, remember that true wisdom is learning to appreciate the presence of God with us through every day. Every moment is our opportunity to serve him and experience his grace. Even the wildest ride through circumstances that throw us for a loop or unexpected twist is an opportunity to see God with us. He will never leave us without a friend to laugh at the sudden jolt or free fall experiences of the roller coaster of life.

In His Grace and Peace,
Bro. Greg

SPECIAL DATES

August 3 9:00 am Brookdale Worship
11:00 am Worship/Communion

August 10 11:00 am Worship

August 17 11:00 am Worship

August 24 11:00 am Worship

August 31 11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Session Meeting

For what I received I passed
on to you as of first importance:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was
raised on the third day
according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4



August

SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

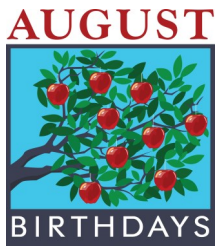
Bravery

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Day 1: Deuteronomy 31:6,8 | Day 17: Isaiah 41:13 |
| Day 2: 2 Samuel 10:12 | Day 18: Matthew 10:28 |
| Day 3: 1 Chronicles 17:25 | Day 19: Mark 5:36 |
| Day 4: 2 Chronicles 15:7 | Day 20: Acts 4:29-31 |
| Day 5: Ezra 7:27-28 | Day 21: 1 Corinthians 16:13 |
| Day 6: Psalm 27:1-3 | Day 22: 2 Corinthians 10:1-2 |
| Day 7: Psalm 27:14 | Day 23: Ephesians 3:8-13 |
| Day 8: Psalm 56:3-4 | Day 24: Ephesians 6:10 |
| Day 9: Psalm 62:6-8 | Day 25: Philippians 1:20 |
| Day 10: Psalm 118:6 | Day 26: Colossians 1:11 |
| Day 11: Proverbs 14:26 | Day 27: 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| Day 12: Proverbs 18:11 | Day 28: Hebrews 13:6 |
| Day 13: Proverbs 28:1 | Day 29: James 5:8 |
| Day 14: Isaiah 35:4 | Day 30: 1 Peter 3:5-6 |
| Day 15: Isaiah 40:26 | Day 31: Revelation 2:10 |
| Day 16: Isaiah 40:29 | |

*Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word.
Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.*

August Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
August 3	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
August 10	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
August 17	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
August 24	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
August 31	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	



Jim Hockensmith 8/5
Elizebette Kennedy 8/22



On Sunday, June 22, 2025 First Presbyterian Church hosted the Ecumenical Pride Service at 6:30 p.m.

There were 52 people in attendance, including local clergy, liturgists and musicians.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and the service.

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

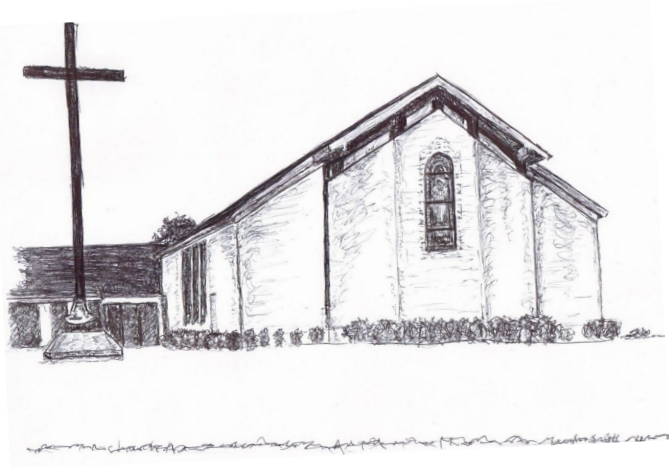
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

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.