

Presby News

JANUARY 2026



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a big Southern plate of black-eyed peas, cabbage, and ham. I am still confused what is supposed to bring luck, health, and money. I just love the warm soul food! I wonder what cornbread is supposed to bring? My southern roots won't let me serve black-eyed peas without cornbread.

The New Year season is one of my favorite times of year. I look forward to making New Year's resolutions each year. Some years I do much better at keeping them. It's good for us to find seasons like New Year to reflect on the past, set higher goals, and see what we can accomplish and who we can become in the process.

The Psalmist wrote "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). This verse does not mention resolutions, but it hints to the spirit behind them. It reminds us that time is not an endless resource. Our days are numbered and known only to God. This awareness is not meant to make us anxious or discouraged, but wise. It is the wise heart, not the strong will, that shapes a meaningful year.

"Teach us to number our days" is a prayer of humility. It admits that without God's perspective, we will misjudge what matters. We will pour ourselves into goals that shine for a moment but fade quickly: a slimmer body, a cleaner house, a more impressive financial portfolio. We cannot neglect the things that last: knowing God, loving others, becoming more like Christ. Numbering our days means recognizing that every sunrise is a gift, every year a trust, and every resolution an opportunity to align our lives with God's purposes instead of merely chasing our own preferences.

This year, even our church has made some resolutions. With some changes in our congregation and the excitement of growth, we will start two new Sunday School classes. We will host a New Member's class and a Young Adult Sunday School class.

The New Member class will help us better understand church membership and the Presbyterian tradition. Mat Taylor will be leading this class. We will finalize plans, times, and a location soon. I am excited about the opportunity before us.

We will also begin a Young Adult Sunday School class that will meet from 10:00 to 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall area. The class will give us an opportunity to study more deeply Scripture. The class will also build a smaller unit of fellowship and support as we try to live what we learn! I would like to start with a short study of 1 John. The short book gets pretty deep in love and following the example of Christ. It will be a good start for us. As the New Member class gets underway, we will likely combine the two classes for those weeks.

I am excited to see what other great new ministry and missions God will give us opportunity to work. I truly believe that when we are patient and obedient, we will see where God wants us to join His work. Completing the tasks God shows us is a secondary goal. Sure God uses us to accomplish great things through his power. For me, the main reason God invites us to join him is so we can spend time with God to allow him to change US.

As we move into the New Year, may we allow God to change us. Maybe we change through resolutions and personal efforts. Maybe we change because we are spending time with God that shapes us into an example of his love, grace, and nature through Christ.

May God be with you and bless you this New Year!
Bro. Greg



*May the New Year fill your home
with joy, your heart with love, and
your life with laughter. & may God
bless you today and every day.*

Happy New Year.

SPECIAL DATES

January 1	Happy New Year! (Church Office Closed)
January 4	Brookdale Worship Communion
January 6	Epiphany of the Lord
January 11	Baptism of the Lord
January 23	Session Meeting

**MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!**

2025 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thanks to everyone involved in this beautiful worship service!



January Responders Schedule

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



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

Kennedy Jewell	1/4
Frank Hempen	1/5
Kylee LaPrairie	1/7
Greg Carroll	1/9
Alexis Ellington	1/13
Dirk Benade, Jr.	1/25
Bill Willson	1/29



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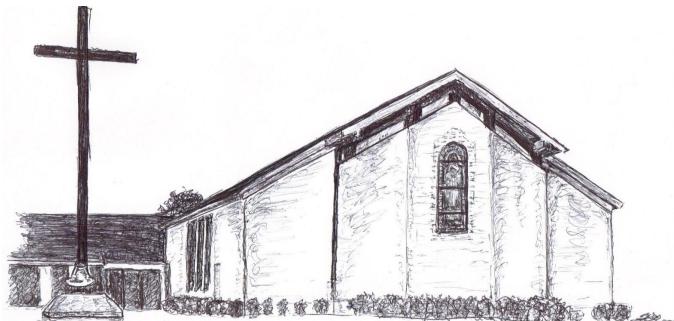
Greg Carroll, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Music Director*

Jennifer Ciobanu, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Administrative Assistant*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



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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.