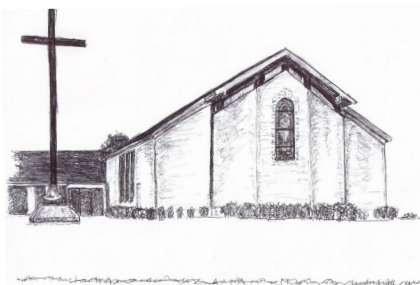


Presby News

JULY 2026



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

This week we celebrate an historic moment in the life of our country. We will celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each year we celebrate another year of our independence but this year marks the 250th anniversary! If we were to take the time to read our Declaration of Independence, we would quickly find the words that seem to frame our nation. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

We are all stirred by these words. All people are equal and endowed by God to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These words remind me that all men and women are equal. Our country took quite a bit of time to finally come to this conclusion even if these words framed our independence. I believe God established equality in the garden when he took Eve from Adam's side. She was to be a helper, encourager, and equal to Adam. It took our country until 1920's to finally catch up to say women had the right to vote. It also took our country over 100 years to realize that people are equal regardless of race. It was another 100 years before civil rights caught up with that same idea. Society still has some growing to do. Perhaps we will learn to love each other as people first. We don't have to agree with everyone to treat them with love and respect. Perhaps on the 300th anniversary of our independence, we will celebrate how we have learned to love without forcing agreement of opinions!

This summer is also memorable because we are hosting FIFA, the Federation Internationale de Football Association. We have hosted a FIFA event only a handful of times. Whether or not you get into soccer, it's been a real celebration to be the host nation. I have enjoyed hearing and seeing people from all over the world experiencing American culture maybe for the first time. We southerners laugh at the players who complain about the heat. "Hot? This isn't hot, Wait until August!" Louisiana pride fills my heart as people from around the globe get a taste of Cane's Chicken for the first time! It's also fun to welcome the light-hearted traditions of other countries during their stay with us. I think about Scotland's tradition of putting traffic cones on all the statues after a game. What fun to celebrate our country and our world remembering that we are all the same.

This summer, I am choosing to focus on the fun of FIFA and the celebration of our Independence instead of the negative news cycles. I'm not ignoring the turbulence over the Anthony-Metcalf trial. I can't turn a deaf ear to the religious groups like Southern Baptist, Methodist, or even PCUSA who are debating how to express the value of women. I can't pretend that politically the left and right wings of our democracy are attacking and blaming each other for all that ails America. What I choose to do is focus on what God is doing around me.

I have watched God affirm Laura and her team as they minister to children at summer camp. They are teaching young followers of Christ to understand that God created them in his image. They are reminding them that God has given them talents and abilities that are instrumental to show God's love and grace to people around them. And they are teaching these children to keep God at the center of life and decisions. That's a good reminder for me as well.

What is God showing you this summer? Is He showing you reasons to celebrate his goodness? Is He reminding us that we are a special people called to serve Him? Is He filling your heart with joy to give others? Let us celebrate the goodness of God around us!

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

- | | |
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| July 4 | Fourth of July |
| July 5 | Brookdale Worship
Worship/Communion |
| July 6 | Office Closed for Fourth of July |
| July 26 | Session Meeting |





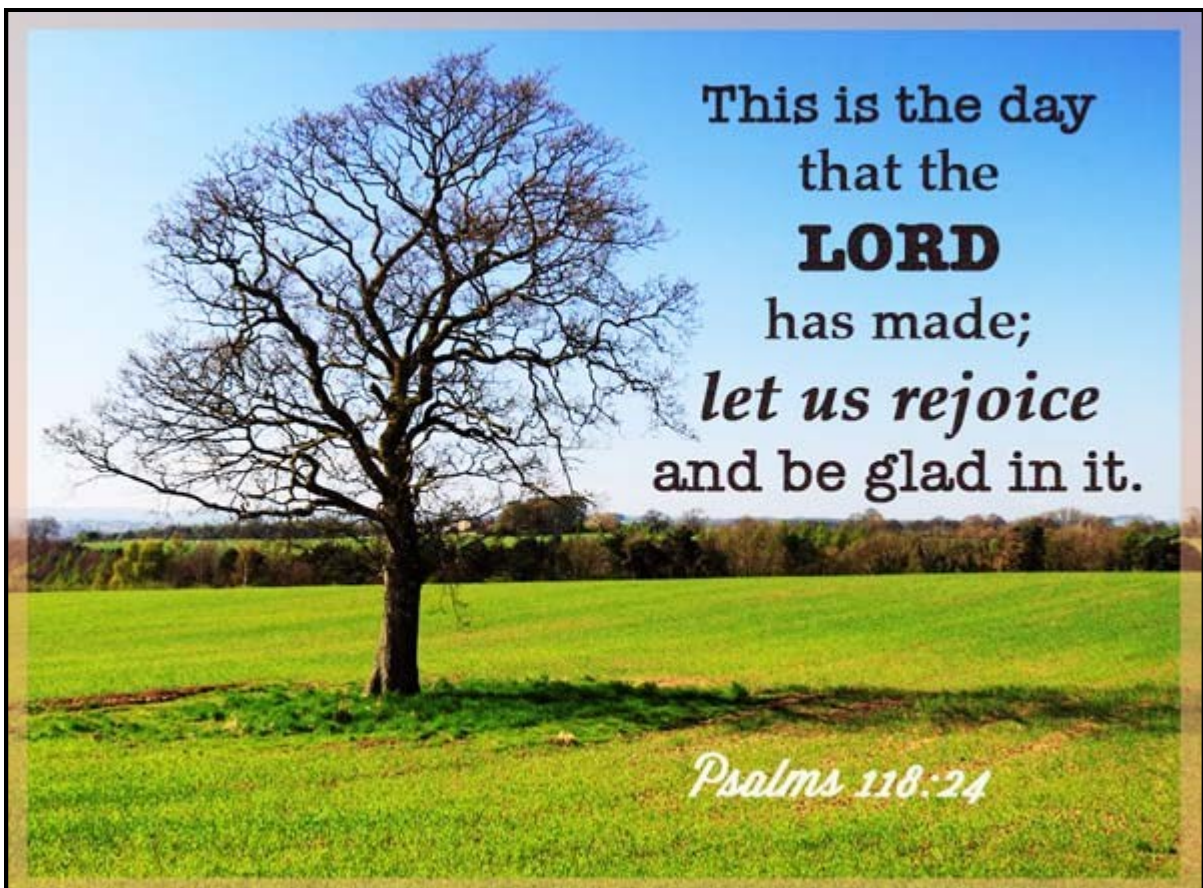
Bible Quiz



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.)



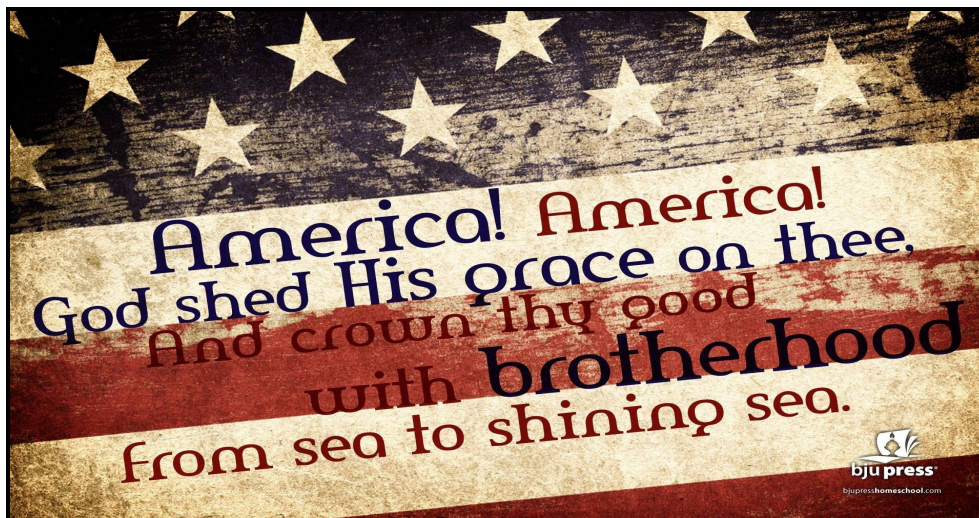
July Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
July 5	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
July 11	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
July 19	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	
July 26	Robert Kennedy	Elizebette Kennedy	

JULY



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



First Presbyterian Church

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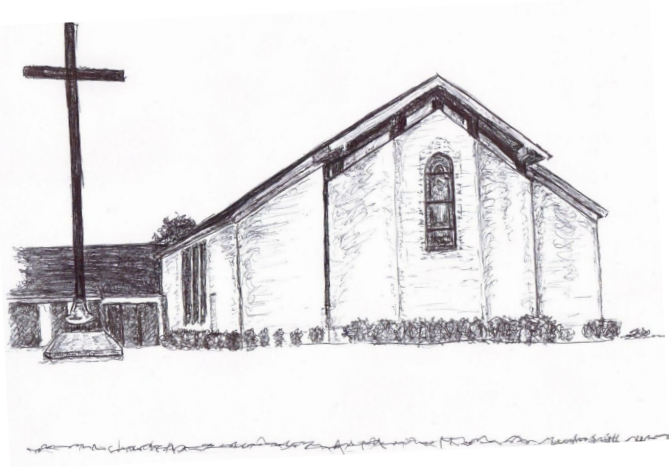
www.alexandriafpc.org

Greg Carroll, *Pastor*

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.