First Presbyterian Church

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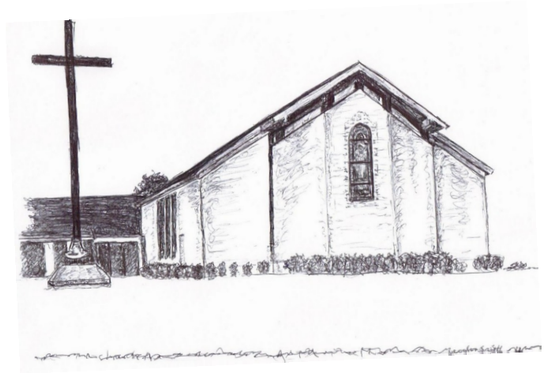
www.alexandriafpc.org

Greg Carroll, *Pastor*

Jennifer Ciobanu, *Director of Music*

Carolyn Sterne, *Administrative Assistant*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



First Presbyterian Church

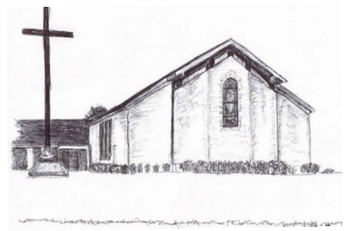
357 Windermere Blvd.

Alexandria, LA 71303

Come experience God's love at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday School—9:45 a.m., Worship—11:00 a.m.

Presby News



NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

While other parts of the country experience a dramatic, sudden shift as hillsides turn bright crimson and trees drop all their leaves, our autumn arrives with a much gentler, subtle touch. Our towering pines remain stubbornly green, and our ancient live oaks hold onto their canopy. Yet, if we look closely, the fall season is undeniably here. The oppressive summer humidity has finally broken, giving way to crisp mornings and milder afternoons, and a softening of the late-day sun. The tailgate parties and weekends hunting have replaced the iced tea on the porch, mowing the yard, and afternoons at the pool.

This subtle transition in our southern climate offers us a beautiful, distinct spiritual lesson. In a place where the seasons blend without stark visual markers, we are challenged to become people of deeper notice. We cannot rely on the sudden changing leaves to remind us that time is passing. Instead, we have to look for the quieter shifts.

The fast-paced demands of daily life make it difficult to slow down, and our schedules rarely ease up just because the calendar page turns. As the end of the year approaches, life often accelerates into a blur of activities, shopping, and holiday planning. It is precisely because of this frantic rush that the season of Thanksgiving arrives as a vital, God-given reason to slow down and pause. Thanksgiving calls a halt to our busy routines, offering us the opportunity to stop striving long enough to look around, look back, and truly behold what God has done.

Without this intentional pause, gratitude gets pushed to the margins of our lives. When we allow ourselves to stop and sit at the Thanksgiving table, our hearts naturally become more attentive to the presence of God. We begin to recognize that even in seasons of fading light, God is actively working beneath the surface.

Consider James 1:17 that says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

What a comforting truth in a world where the only thing constant is change. The world around us can shift violently from one day to the next. This passage reminds us of the beautiful contrast that our Heavenly Father remains absolutely constant. He is the unchanging source of every blessing we enjoy.

As we move through these November days, let this truth shape your perspective. When you enjoy the welcome relief of our milder fall weather, look past the temporary comforts and fix your eyes on the permanent goodness of God. Just as the evergreen pine holds the green needles, God maintains an everlasting love for us. As the mighty oak resists stripping her leaves, God's might power and strength cover and protect us. Let us celebrate the "good and perfect gifts" that fill our lives. As we move into Thanksgiving, we remember the comfort of a faith community, the gift of family, and the ultimate gift of His unconditional love.

Let this month be a time where we intentionally count our blessings, acknowledging that every single one of them traces its origin back to a loving Father. In your homes, around your dinner tables, and in your quiet moments of prayer, take the time to name those gifts out loud and thank God for his constant goodness.

May God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving!

Bro. Greg



SPECIAL DATES

November 1	**All Saints' Day**
	Brookdale Worship
	Worship/Communion
	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 11	**Veterans' Day** *(Office Closed)*
November 22	**Christ the King/Reign of Christ**
November 26	**Thanksgiving Day** *(Office Closed)*
November 29	**First Sunday of Advent**
	Session Meeting





On Thursday, October 8. the First Presbyterian Church hosted the Red River Chorale Concert.

It was a beautiful fall evening of wonderful music for the Alexandria community. We had a great crowd!

Bill Higgins and Jennifer Ciobanu did an outstanding job of hosting the choir. We continue to mourn the loss of Elder Bill Higgins.



November Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
November 1	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	**Communion Team:** Elizebette Kennedy & Bill Higgins
November 8	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
November 15	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
November 22	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	
November 29	Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



Rebecca LaPrairie 11/25

