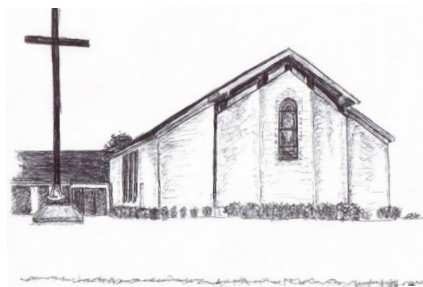


Presby News

APRIL 2019



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

It doesn't take a lot of observation to notice that hate seems to be on the rise in our society. Some alarming trends alert us to the fact that hate is on the increase.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, 2018 represented the fourth straight year of increase for hate groups in our nation. In 2014, there were 784 such groups. The number documented by the SPLC in 2018 was 1020.

In our own state of Louisiana, there are 21 active hate groups.

In addition to such hate groups, the internet has become a venue for hate groups and extremism movements to spread their damaging propaganda. Dylan Roof, the young man who killed nine African Americans in their church in Charleston, S.C. in 2015, was apparently influenced to carry out his horrendous act by what he found in internet searches.

So, how should we as followers of Jesus Christ respond to this epidemic of hate which permeates our society?

Maybe the first step is for us to be sure that there is no hate in our hearts toward a particular individual or group. The Bible makes it pretty clear that hate has no place in the lives of God's people. Listen to what we find in 1 John 3:14-15: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. **Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him."

A second step to take is to notice how Jesus related to individuals and groups who were different from Him. How did He relate to the woman of Samaria at the well? How did He relate to Zacchaeus, the tax collector? How did He relate to non-Jews, people generally looked down upon by the Jews? How did He relate to His disciples (often their spiritual sensitivity was so much lower than that of Jesus) who didn't get what He was really about? How did He relate to the Roman soldiers who crucified Him with no pain of conscience? How did He relate to Peter following his denial of Jesus, even though he had been part of His inner circle? How does He relate to you and me after we have messed up although we have pledged ourselves to faithfully follow Him?

And the third step is to practice building bridges instead of walls between ourselves and others. That might mean speaking in a gentler and kinder tone of voice. That might mean simply smiling at and greeting those who are different from us with a friendly "Hello". That might mean holding the door open for someone of a different race. That might mean not ever talking about those who are different in a way that is mean-spirited or disrespectful. These are concrete things we can do right now and right here where we live.

As for the whole nation, we can and must pray. Let us pray for more tolerance and understanding. Let us pray for more civility in our public discourse. Let us insist that we treat all of our neighbors as we would want to be treated. Let us speak out against stereotyping, prejudging, hating, and discriminating instead of remaining silent. Let us defeat the poison of hatred with the power of love.

I hope that you are being nurtured by the sermon series entitled "What Jesus Wished People Knew About God." The parable of the prodigal son is so rich and has so many relevant applications to our lives.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your pastor.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you.

Jim

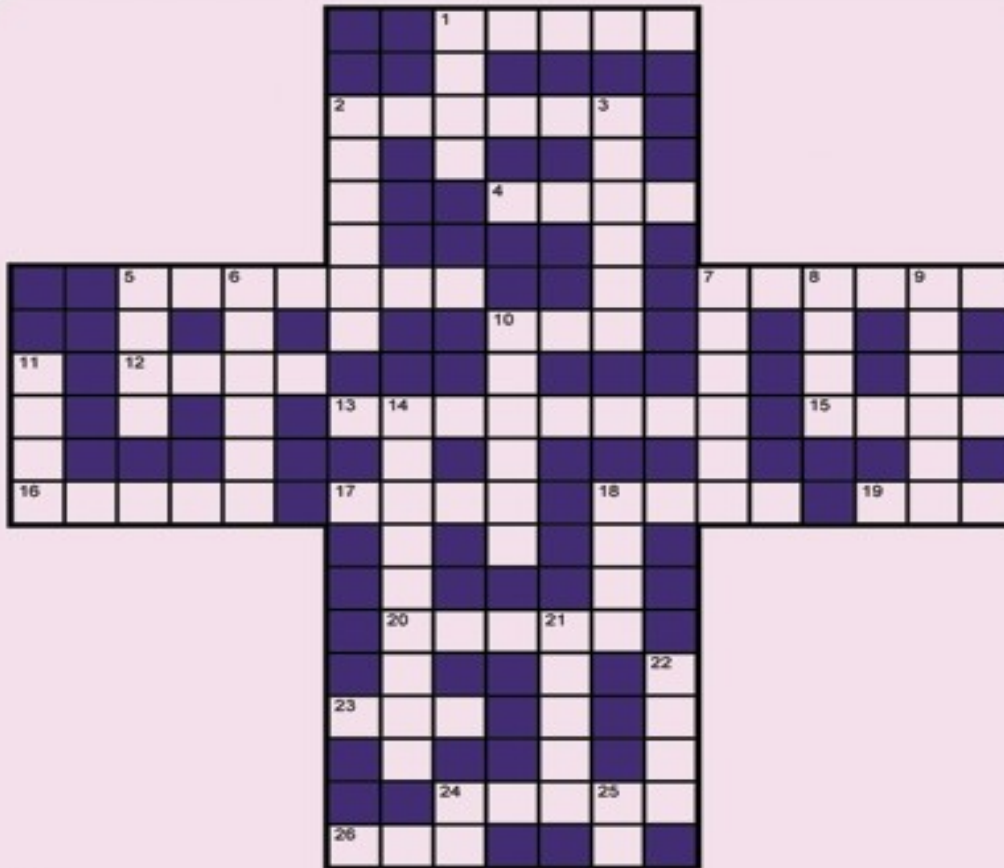
SPECIAL DATES

April 7	Fifth Sunday of Lent 9:00 am Brookdale Worship 11:00 am Communion Served
April 14	Palm/Passion Sunday
April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Dr. Heath in office on Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm



Easter Crossword Fun



Across

- 1 Goes with error (5)
- 2 Caesar + Pontius pilate (6)
- 4 Had a little lamb (4)
- 5 Name of play (7)
- 7 From Amsterdam? (6)
- 10 Has a shell (3)
- 12 Supplied money to (4)
- 13 Cross? (8)
- 15 Anno (L) (4)
- 16 Chocolate one (5)
- 17 Signed with (I o) I? (4)
- 18 Do for lent (4)
- 19 King (L) (3)
- 20 Light a candle with (5)
- 23 Of a kind? (3)
- 24 Focus of Easter (5)
- 26 Son of (Gaelic) (3)

Down

- 1 Grave (4)
- 2 Pull out of a hat? (6)
- 3 Firm, as in faith (6)
- 5 Emblem of victory (4)
- 6 Day of rest (6)
- 7 Made a crown from (6)
- 8 Of the valley? (4)
- 9 Procession (6)
- 10 Holidays (6)
- 11 Meal for passover (4)
- 14 The reconciliation (theo) (9)
- 18 Goes with chips (4)
- 21 Easter symbol (5)
- 22 Service (4)
- 24 His Initials (2)
- 25 Risen (2)

Across: 1. Trial; 2. Romans; 4. Mary; 5. Gesting; 7. Tulips; 10. Egg; 12. Lend; 13. Passover; 15. Year; 16. Bunny; 17. None; 18. Fast; 19. Rex; 20. Match; 23. One; 24. Jesus; 26. Mac

Down: 1. Tomb; 2. Rabbit; 3. Strong; 5. Gold; 6. Sunday; 7. Thorns; 8. Lily; 9. Parade; 10. Easter; 11. Lamb; 14. Atonement; 18. Fish; 21. Cross; 22. Mass; 24. JC; 25. Up

April Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
April 7	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Elizebette Kennedy, Annelize Benade
April 14	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
April 21	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
April 28	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



Bill & Laverne Willson

4/1

Dirk & Annelize Benade

4/3

Dirk Benade, Sr.

4/4



**THE BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING MINISTRY IS HELD
AT 9:00 AM THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH.
JIM HOCKENSMITH GIVES A DEVOTIONAL AND MUSIC IS PROVIDED
BY AARON ROGERS, ROBYN TAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE!**

First Presbyterian Church

357 Windermere Blvd. Phone: 318-443-7229

Alexandria, LA 71303 Fax: 318-443-5965

office@alexandriafpc.org

www.alexandriafpc.org

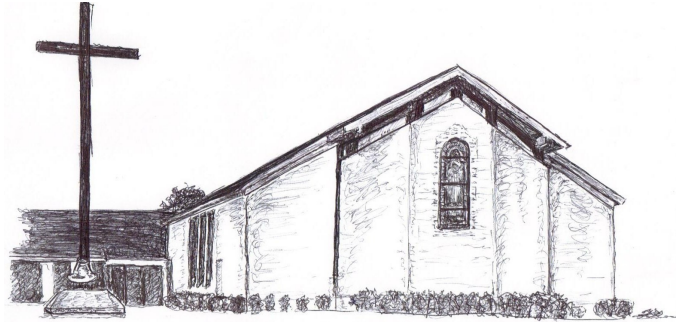
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Robyn Tan, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

Charles Bell, *Sexton*



WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

3:00 pm Prayer Service

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.