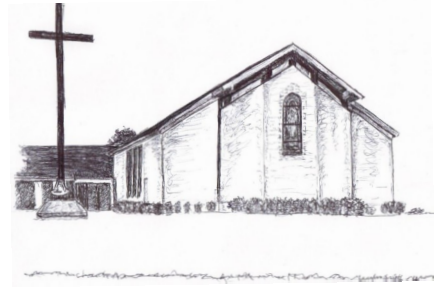


# Presby News

AUGUST 2019



## FROM THE PASTOR . . .

So many things that are happening in American society indicate that we are a society in crisis. The list of problems we are facing is very long and very disturbing.

Here is an attempt to list some of those problems as I see it:

- Gun shootings. Nearly every week, there seems to be another one.
- Violence on our streets and in public places. People are beaten, robbed, and sometimes killed in broad daylight.
- Growing numbers of suicides. Teenagers are taking their lives in record numbers.
- The drug overdose and opioid crisis. People of all age groups are getting hooked and are destroying their lives.
- Sexual misconduct among those in leadership positions, including educators and religious leaders. Persons highly respected and in positions of trust are violating the very people they are responsible for leading and helping.
- Increase of hate groups and ugly racism. Our nation has seen a rising number of such groups and some in high places are promoting white supremacy in the last 2-3 years.
- Disrespect of our planet and even bold denials of our environmental crisis. We threaten the sustainability of the earth by our excessive addiction to fossil fuels.
- The poisonous polarization which seems to multiply throughout the fabric of our nation. The "us" against "them" divisions seem to be so ugly and debilitating.
- The lack of respect for telling the truth and basic moral principles such as respect for all people and treating others as you would like to be treated. Some have no problem with breaking their word and taking advantage of whomever they wish due to their self-centeredness.

In enumerating these and other societal ills which could also be listed, we cannot but help to wonder WHY?

It seems to me that there has been a slow but certain erosion of some of the basic moral principles which used to be more widely accepted and embraced by our population. The Bible seems to indicate that when the basic moral principles which are rooted in the character of God, Himself, are broken, we suffer the negative consequences.

As Christians, we see those basic moral principles encoded in the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt not kill" when looked at positively means that we should respect human life. "Thou shalt not bear false witness" means that we should tell the truth.

Seeing every person as made "in the image of God" contributes to the respect of all humans. If we do not see human life as sacred, then we can easily justify in our minds disposing of others when doing so makes life more convenient for us. Just think how many abortions have been done because the conception of new life did not occur at a convenient time? To be sure, there are extenuating circumstances in which abortion is understandable (in cases of rape, incest, or the mother's life is endangered)--but not as a wholesale plan for birth control.

We can do our part in supporting the Judaeo-Christian ethic and in standing up for it whenever we have a chance. This will not solve all of the problems listed above. But it will help the little corner of the world in which we live.

Just think of the impact upon our nation if all who profess the name of Jesus were consistent in living what we say we believe!

May the Holy Spirit empower each of us to be consistent in our speaking and living.

Grace and Peace!

Jim

## SPECIAL DATES

August 4	9:00 am Brookdale Worship 11:00 am Communion Served
August 7	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
August 14	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
August 21	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting
August 28	3:00 pm Prayer Meeting

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

# WORDS OF WISDOM



# August Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
<b>August 4</b>	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	<b>Elder Liturgist:</b> Bill Higgins <b>Communion Team:</b> Elizebette Kennedy
<b>August 11</b>	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
<b>August 18</b>	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
<b>August 25</b>	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



8/05	Jim Hockensmith
8/17	Lynn Pilcher
8/19	Dee Arnold
8/19	Wynn & Debbie Ware
8/22	Elizebette Kennedy



## ***We Have Joined in Partnership with Circle Church, Alexandria***

***Beginning Sunday, August 4, 2019, Circle Church will hold their  
Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and will use part of the  
Youth Wing for their Sunday School and Nursery.***

***First Presbyterian Services will remain the same.***

***Please give them a warm FPC Welcome!***



## **First Presbyterian Church**

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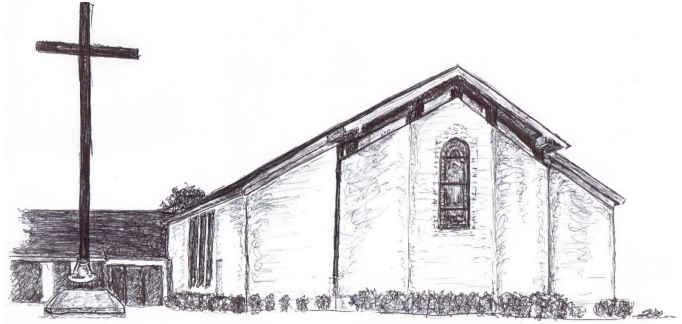
Jim Heath, *Stated Supply Pastor*

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.