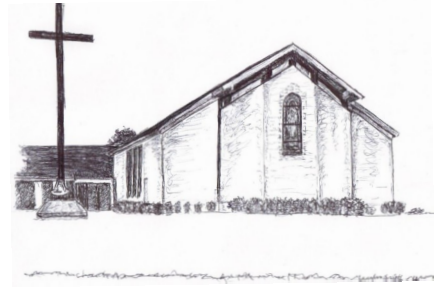


Presby News

JULY 2020



FROM THE PASTOR . . .

"Let Every Person Be in Subjection to the Governing Authority"

The title of this message is taken from Romans 13:1. In the light of our current political and social unrest, I think it wise for us to consider what is going on in America the light of backdrop the Gospel of Christ, lest you and I get caught up in unbiblical mindsets, and our modern day social idealizations that are opposed to the teachings of Scripture.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 13:1-7 gives you and me very direct and distinct instruction for our thoughts, and behaviors in a society that is governed by law.

The first principle of God's teaching regarding our relationship to the "state" and national government is submission in "good behavior" (Romans 13:3), rather than in violence, and anarchy. That is because the clear teaching of Scripture is that our American government's very existence is established by God for your and my good. He who opposes government opposes God, for such rebellion God visits His condemnation upon law breakers (Romans 13:1-4). The purpose of this directive from God is because the Gospel flourishes best when there is peaceful and orderly conduct by the citizens under government.

Secondly, it is "for conscience sake" before God (Romans 13:5). Now, because in our day, many have protested for so called "conscience sake" to do the very things the first principle above prohibits. Thus they are in double violation, both of their own conscience, and the ordinance of God. The overarching principle that the Apostle Paul teaches us here is that God gives these directives to us in order that we demonstrate our love for Him, as well as for our neighbor (Romans 13:6-8; 8-10), for love does no harm for our neighbor.

Now, compare this with what we are seeing daily on the streets of certain cities in America. No doubt, we see injustices, and lawlessness which need to be addressed. The biblical redress for injustice and lawlessness is given to the hand of the ruling (governing) authorities, which in our American form of government is entrusted in the hands of our elected officials which you and I have specifically appointed over us. Therefore, if they do what is wrong, ultimately you and I have in large degree look to ourselves to blame. As is often said, "the people get the government they deserve."

To the greater extent, the injustice we've seen on our streets in looting, burning, pillaging, murder, "autonomous zones," etc. et al, has superseded the just redress of the very injustices which brought America's current unrest in the first place.

Make no mistake about it, the take-over of private and public owned property, the vandalism of statues (whether we approve of them or not), the unlawful assembly not intended for peace, is the work of organized evil anarchists who are intent on the forcible overthrow of this government by all means necessary. That puts everyone of us at great risk of our lives, the well-being of our family members, friends, the general public, and the government we chose to rule over us.

All this, in the reminder that the works of the Devil is clearly among us, as described in Mark 7:21-23; "For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceitfulness, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly.

Pray that God will have mercy upon our nation, and put an end to this wanton, violent attempt to destroy the government and our nation as we have known it.

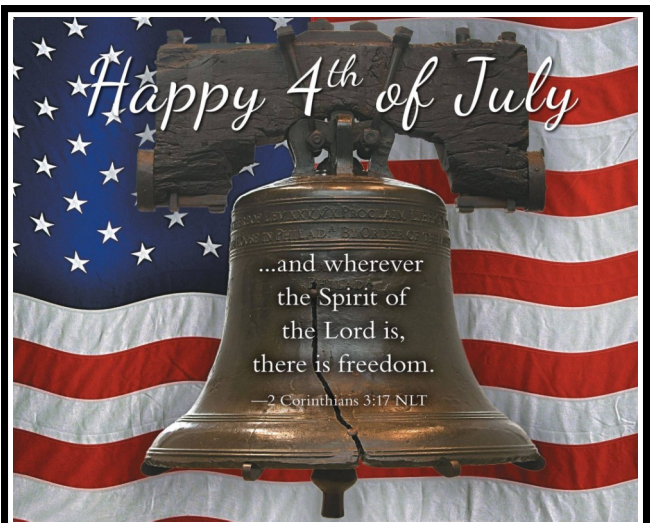
Amen!

Dr. Michael Frazier

SPECIAL DATES

July 4	Independence Day - Happy Fourth!
July 5	Resume Communion
July 6	Office Closed - July Fourth Monday

Sunday Choir Rehearsal is suspended.



DID YOU KNOW ...



John Trumbull's 1819 painting "Declaration of Independence."

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WASN'T SIGNED ON JULY 4 (OR IN JULY AT ALL).

It might make for an iconic painting, but that famous image of all the Founding Fathers and Continental Congress huddled together, presenting the first draft of the Declaration of Independence for July 4, 1776 signing, isn't quite how things really went down. As famed historian David McCullough wrote, "No such scene, with all the delegates present, ever occurred at Philadelphia."

It's now generally accepted that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on the Fourth of July—that's just the day the document was formally dated, finalized, and adopted by the Continental Congress, which had officially voted for independence on July 2 (the day John Adams thought we *should* celebrate). Early printed copies of the Declaration were signed by John Hancock and secretary Charles Thomson to be given to military officers and various political committees, but the bulk of the other 54 men signed an official engrossed (finalized and in larger print) copy on August 2, with others to follow at a later date. Hancock (boldly) signed his name again on the updated version.

So if you want to sound like a history buff at your family's barbecue this year, point out that we're celebrating the adoption of the Declaration, not the signing of it.

July Responders Schedule

	Usher Narthex	Monitor	Communion Servers
July 5	Robert Kennedy	Jim Hockensmith	Elder Liturgist: Jim Hockensmith Communion Team: Annelize & Dirk Benade
July 12	Annelize & Dirk Benade	Dirk Benade	
July 19	Robert Kennedy Elizebette Kennedy	Jim Smolenski	
July 26	Jim Hockensmith Robert Kennedy	Bill Higgins	



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

7/8	Wynn Ware
7/10	Annelize Benade
7/12	Payton Jewell
7/15	Nancy Smilie
7/16	Bill & Martha Higgins
7/21	Justin Ware
7/22	Rocky Willson
7/23	Christelle Carley

Stay Safe, Everyone!
COVID-19 Guidelines:

- Wash Hands/Use Hand Sanitizer.
- Refrain from shaking hands/hugging.
- Remain 6 feet apart.
- Masks are recommended.
- Pray for a vaccine and the end of this Coronavirus.

May God Bless You All!

First Presbyterian Church

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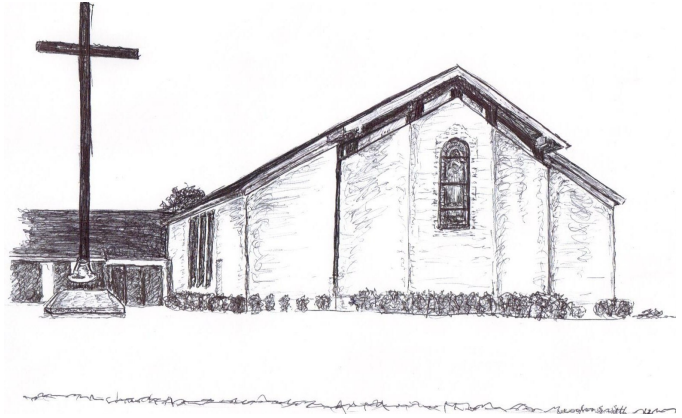
Dr. Michael Frazier, *Interim Pastor*

Aaron Rogers, *Choir Director*

Michael Martin, *Pianist*

Carolyn Sterne, *Secretary*

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.