

January 14, 2024



second sunday  
after epiphany

✠ *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*



## *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

**Gathering Music**    *Chorale-Prelude on "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*    Edward L. Good  
*Prelude pm "Fairest Lord Jesus"*    CRUSADERS' HYMN  
*For the Bread Which You have Broken*    Anthony Giamanco

**Prelude**                    *Come, All Christians, Be Committed*                    B.F. White

### **Chiming of the Hour**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

✠ **Call to Worship**                    *Psalm 139*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain.

Jesus says, "Follow me!"

**Let us worship the Lord with gladness, glorifying God with our whole selves.**

✠ **Hymn of Praise 35**                    *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*                    LOBE DEN HERREN

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

**Jesus says "Follow me," we turn away.**

**Jesus says, "I see you," we try to hide.**

**Jesus says, "You will see," we are reluctant to open our eyes.**

**Holy one, you call us by name and yet we are fearful of the truth that you know us all too well. We pray you will search us and make straight our paths. Continue to stir in us, wake us up, stop us in our daily comings and goings to hear your words anew: "Follow me, I see you, you will see greater things than these."**

**Very truly, forgive us and help us believe. Amen.**

## ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠ Response to God's Grace 582

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

## ✠ Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you!**



## *Proclaiming the Word*

### Wondering with God's Children

#### **Anthem**

*Witness*

Arr. by Hal Johnson

Mark Fiddie

### Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

#### **Scripture Reading**

*John 1:43-51*

Pew Bible page 92

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Message**

*An Invitation*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



# Responding to the Word

✦ **Response 720**

*Jesus Calls Us*

GALILEE

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,  
Fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,**

**teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,**

**healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,**

**eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,**

**and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,**

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks**

**and to live holy and joyful lives,**

**even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,**

**praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## **Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity**

*You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering!*

*Text\* FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256 and follow the link to give online! Or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page!*



**Offertory**

*Life Is a Gift*  
Chancel Choir

Joseph M. Martin

✦ **Response 126**

*Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

WONDERFUL CHILD

*1st time: Soloist, Perri Walden*

**2nd and 3rd time: ALL**

***Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.***

***Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild; new life, new hope, the child will bring.***

***Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory!" Let the heavens ring.***



## *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

### **Invitation to the Table**

### **The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Communion Music**

### **Words of Institution**

*Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body! See our Worship Practices section for more details.*

### **Prayer After Communion**



## *Being the Church in the World*

✠ **Sending Hymn 726**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

KELVINGROVE

**Verses 1, 4, 5**

### **Congregational Meeting**

## ✠Charge and Benediction

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

## ✠Postlude

*Praise Him! Praise Him!*

JOYFUL SONG



## *Worship Practices*

**Communion**—All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

**Worship Art**—Our worship guide cover art for this Epiphany season will use images from AURA's Space Telescope Science Institute's [hubblesite.org](http://hubblesite.org) in cooperation with NASA and ESA. This week's image is an *Artist's View of Star Birth in the Lynx Arc* created with work from ESA, NASA and Robert A.E. Fosbury (European Space Agency/ Space Telescope-European Coordinating Facility, Germany). Hubble's description is as follows:

*This is an artist's impression of the biggest and brightest star-birth region seen in the universe to date. The newly identified supercluster contains 1 million ultra-hot stars. Their torrent of ultraviolet radiation illuminates huge placental walls of cold hydrogen gas. For comparison, the nearby Orion Nebula star-birth region contains only four blue-hot stars. The stars in the Lynx galaxy cluster are twice as hot as the brightest stars in the Orion Nebula. This super star-birth region is a rarely seen*

*example of the early days of the universe where furious firestorms of star birth blazed across the skies. The spectacular cluster's opulence is dimmed when seen from Earth only because it is 12 billion light-years away. The Lynx arc was detected by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, as a gravitationally magnified smear in light embedded in an image of a relatively nearby galaxy cluster.*

We hope this Heavenly body will remind us all of the beauty and expanse of God's universe.

**Children in Worship**—We have a “Children in Worship” guiding brochure available in the Narthex! This brochure is intended to serve as an aid to parents and other members of our congregation in welcoming our children to worship. Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! During worship children are invited to join us at the front of the Sanctuary for a time of Wondering with God's Children. Afterwards, children planning to go to the nursery will be escorted downstairs by Pastor Neeley or Pastor Erin. This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way.

**Friendship Registers**—In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends! We encourage visitors and newcomers to connect with us by filling out the Friendship Register so we can be sure to send you a message to thank you for joining us.

**Use**—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. \*Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.



## *Serving Today*

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,  
Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | Alexander Whisnant, Mary Lindsey Whisnant



# Worship Notes & Doodles

*We invite you to fill the space below with the thoughts, reminders, and doodles that you may be blessed with during and after worship.*



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
COVINGTON, GA

[fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) | 770.786.7321

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Catrina Crowe
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Laina Lalane

## Officers

### Reaching Out

Luke Usry	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>

### Engaging

Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant	<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>

### Belonging

Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Billy Fortson	<i>Finance, Personnel (2024)</i>

### Connecting (Deacons)

Janet Carmichael	<i>Pastoral Care (2026)</i>
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</i>

### More

Jodi Atkins	<i>Strategic Planning (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2026)</i>



# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Illness and Strife

- ✦ Rick Gunter - hospitalized
- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Marissa Evans McMahan, friend of Donna Weesner - in ICU due to complications from leukemia
- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton - settling into life at Westbury McDonough
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer and care
- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer

- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Carolyn Watson
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

## Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Harry Hinton and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his brother-in-law, Forrest Oliver Bowden. A private service will be held at a later date.
- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Lonnie Lamb and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his mother, Arnetta Pritchard

## Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

## Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

All **prayer requests** should be sent to:  
[catherine@fpcgov.org](mailto:catherine@fpcgov.org)  
 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

Dear church family,

On behalf of our staff, I extend sincere gratitude for the Christmas love gift offering. Thank you for all the ways you care for us as we seek to faithfully care for our congregation. It is a joy and deep privilege to serve the church family of FPC! Thank you for all the love you give year round.

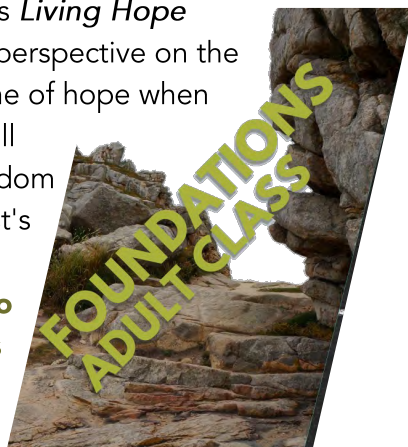
With an abundance of gratitude for YOU,

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane  
 Senior Pastor

## February Sunday School for our Foundations Class!

David H. Jensen's *Living Hope* offers a brighter perspective on the end-time as a time of hope when we will see the full glory of the Kingdom of God and Christ's promised return.

**All are invited to join us Sundays in February at 9:45am.**



## Youth Fundraising LUNCH

The youth are holding a soup & salad lunch to raise money for their trip to the 2024 Montreat Middle School Conference in July.

**Sunday, January 28 at 12 pm**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**  
**Any donations are appreciated!**

**NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY**

IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL

## Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.  
 Children's Class (PreK-4th) Youth Class (5th+)  
 Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD

# SOUL FEAST

## JAN. 17



**ON THE MENU:  
SPAGHETTI**

Feed your body and soul  
in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.

Adults: \$5 Kids: \$3

RSVP by Tuesday, January 16th to  
[catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321



Join us after Soul Feast for a talk  
centered on reframing education  
as a collective endeavor.

On January 17th following Soul  
Feast we will hear from Gail  
Rothman executive director of the  
newly relaunched **Newton Education Foundation.**

Gail will share more about the relaunch of NEF and how  
education foundations can be the catalyst for community  
engagement and investment in public education, **ensuring that  
every child has resources and opportunities that lead to  
success.** You will learn what the foundation has supported in the  
past, the vision for the future and how you can get involved in  
shaping this important work.

**Mondays from 5:15pm-6:15pm**

Jan. 29 | Feb. 5 | Feb. 12

In the Gathering Room at FPC

Come in the Office Door

Childcare provided.

Have you been "visiting" for a while?

# Presbyterianism 101

Taught by Neeley and Erin

Come learn what it means to be  
Presbyterian on a *spiritual* level  
*and* a *functional* one!

**We'd LOVE  
to have you!**

We suggest this class to  
visitors & new members at FPC!



[pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org)  
[fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org)

### Sunday, January 14

#### Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Communion

12:00pm Congregational Meeting

12:15pm Reception for Mark Fiddie

3:00pm Neeley praying at MLK Observance

### Monday, January 15

Office CLOSED

### Tuesday, January 16

RSVP for Soul Feast

12:00pm Lectio Divina— Pastor's Bible Study

3:30pm Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, January 17

10:00am Coffee Club

5:00pm Children's Choir

5:15pm Soul Feast

5:45pm Newton Education Foundation Talk

6:00pm Youth Hang

6:00pm Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, January 18

RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:30am Singing Ambassadors at Rockdale Baptist

### Saturday, January 20

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### Sunday, January 21

#### Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

Saturday, January 20th  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP by January 18th

# Men's Prayer Breakfast

