



January 21, 2024
second sunday
after epiphany



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Jesus Loves the Little Children

C.H. Wollston

Let All Things Now Living

Marvin Gaspard

I Love to Tell the Story

Michael J. Glasgow

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Youth Ministry Invitation

Emerson Bouie, Beatrice Briggs, Kately Lane

✠ **Call to Worship**

from Presbyterian Outlook, by Stephanie Sorge

Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions.

God calls us here to worship.

We are here to worship.

Drop your nets and leave your boats.

God is with us. Jesus calls us.

We are here to worship.

Let us worship God together.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 408**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

from Presbyterian Outlook, by Terri McDowell Ott

Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know our sins even before we confess. Your knowledge is wonderful, but also

challenging. We'd much rather avoid painful truths and deny our role in wrongdoing. Help us face our failings so we can move forward in truth.
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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy
Chancel Choir

Arr. by Hal Wright
Words by Joseph Hart

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Pew Bible page 170

Old Testament Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

Pew Bible page 860

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Second Chances

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✦ **Response 694**

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

from The Declaration of Faith

In forming his people and sending them into the world, Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death. We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by our siblings in Christ, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

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

Toccata on HOLY MANNA
Alice Walker

Joel Rainey

✦ Response 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Gratitude

All are invited to join in our community Prayer of Gratitude by lifting up a one-word prayer of thanksgiving.



Being the Church in the World

✦ Sending Hymn 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

✦ 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

Festive Proclamation on "All Hail the Power" Arr. Frederick K. Steffens



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Our worship guide cover art for this Epiphany season will use images from AURA's Space Telescope Science Institute's hubblesite.org in cooperation with NASA and ESA. This week's image is a *Runaway Supermassive Black Hole Illustration* created with work from NASA, ESA, and Leah Hustak (STScI). Hubble's description is as follows:

This is an artist's impression of a runaway supermassive black hole that was ejected from its host galaxy as a result of a tussle between it and two other black holes. As the black hole plows through intergalactic space it compresses tenuous gas in front of it. This precipitates the birth of hot blue stars. This illustration is based on Hubble Space Telescope observations of a 200,000-light-year-long "contrail" of stars behind an escaping black hole.

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 | Audrey Fullerton, Paisley Lane
 Usher Chair | Pat Harper

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 & Worship Arts</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Catrina Crowe
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Laina Lalane

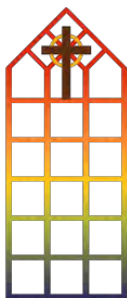
Officers	
Reaching Out	
Luke Usry	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant	<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>
Belonging	
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome, Worship (2026)</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 & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & 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>



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.

A large grid of small green dots for writing notes and doodles.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

fpc cov.org | 770.786.7321

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Rick Gunter - hospitalized
- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ 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.

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@fpccov.org
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

Note about Giving through Realm online and Text-to-Give:

If you made a written pledge for 2024, you must choose the fund "**2024 Pledge**" when you make your online or text donation. If you have set up your account to auto pay last year, you need to change the fund to this year's 2024 pledge account or it will not show you as paying your 2024 commitment.

If you give to the budget, but do not pledge, please choose the fund "**non-pledge**".

You can also choose other funds from the dropdown menu if you are giving for another reason.

By choosing the correct fund you are helping us properly account for your gifts no matter what fund you are making your donation to. We thank you so much for helping us do accurate bookkeeping!

Remember that you can always call our Finance Administrator, Peni Kehoe, in the church office if you need help with any of your financial gifts/pledges. Bless you for your faithful stewardship!

Sunday School

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

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!



pcusa.org
fpccov.org

We'd LOVE
to have you!

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

Let Love Lead

FPC Spring Day Retreat

March 9, 2024

Hard Labor Creek

10:00am-3:00pm

visit fpccov.org/signup
to register by March 1st

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

FPC KIDS ART CLASS

JANUARY 31ST
5:00PM-6:30PM

Come express your creativity through art with FPC Kids in the Southern Heartland Art class room on the lower floor!

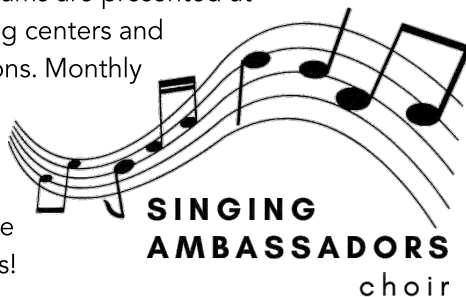
RSVP TO ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG

The Singing Ambassadors are a multi-denominational choir co-directed by Alice Walker and Becky Ramsey!

The choir meets regularly to practice on *Thursdays* at 2:00 PM at FPC Covington.

Non-auditioned membership is open to anyone over fifty, and regular programs are presented at churches, assisted living centers and community organizations. Monthly socials are held throughout the year.

New members are welcome! Contact Alice Walker for more details!



A Novel Bunch Book Club

January Book: *Lessons in Chemistry*
Tues, Jan. 23 @ 2:00pm on Zoom
To join visit fpccov.org/zoom-links

- Sunday, January 21**
Third Sunday after Epiphany
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
- Monday, January 22**
5:30pm Belief & Beer
- Tuesday, January 23**
12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor’s Bible Study
2:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club
3:00pm Staff Meeting
4:15pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- Wednesday, January 24**
10:00am Coffee Club
5:00pm Children’s Choir
6:00pm Handbell Choir
7:00pm Chancel Choir
- Saturday, January 27**
9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery
- Sunday, January 28**
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Youth Fundraising Lunch

A Congregational Meeting will be held on February 4th following worship to hear an update on the State of the Church and a report from the Finance Team on the 2024 budget.

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF AND - BEER -

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION
JANUARY 22ND | 5:30PM
AMICI COVINGTON
CHILDCARE AT FPC

TEXT “@K74G9K” TO 810-10 FOR UPDATES AND REMINDERS!