



January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday
after epiphany



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Come, Sing O Church in Joy
Trumpet Tune in A
Blessed Assurance*

DARWELL'S 148TH
David N. Johnson
Barbara Harbach

Prelude

They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love

Peter Scholtes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Youth Ministry Invitation

Harper Holder, Kately Lane, Mary Lindsey Whisnant

✠ **Call to Worship**

With our whole hearts, we give God thanks.

Great are the works of the Lord!

We ascribe honor and majesty to God.

God's righteousness endures forever.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Let us worship God!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 15**

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUN

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Great God,

We know that you are our God and that we are mere mortals,

But self-righteousness still consumes us,

Arrogance still guides our decisions,

And we become isolated and alone.
Bring us back to rest in your sovereign love,
Encourage us in relationship,
And guide us to live in community of faith, that we might experience your
love building us up,
Enabling us to do the work to which you call us.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. 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

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir

Arr. by Keith Christopher

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Pew Bible page 171

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Food for Thought

Rev. Neeley Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn of Response 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

✠ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall
come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

Blessed Assurance
Chancel Choir

Words: Fanny Crosby
Music: Phoebe Palmer

✠Response 749

Come! Live in Light!

WE ARE CALLED

***Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.***

***We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

***Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.***

***We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.***

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 300

We Are One in the Spirit THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

✦ 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

Rejoice, the Lord is King

Mark Hayes



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 of the *Cepheid Variable Star RS Puppis*. Hubble's description is as follows:

This festive NASA Hubble Space Telescope image resembles a holiday wreath made of sparkling lights. The bright southern hemisphere star RS Puppis, at the center of the image, is swaddled in a gossamer cocoon of reflective dust illuminated by the glittering star. The super star is ten times more massive than our Sun and 200 times larger.

RS Puppis rhythmically brightens and dims over a six-week cycle. It is one of the most luminous in the class of so-called Cepheid variable stars. Its average intrinsic brightness is 15,000 times greater than our Sun's luminosity.

The nebula flickers in brightness as pulses of light from the Cepheid propagate outwards. Hubble took a series of photos of light flashes rippling across the nebula in a phenomenon known as a "light echo." Even though light travels through space fast enough to span the gap between Earth and the Moon in a little over a second, the nebula is so large that reflected light can actually be photographed traversing the nebula.

By observing the fluctuation of light in RS Puppis itself, as well as recording the faint reflections of light pulses moving across the nebula, astronomers are able to measure these light echoes and pin down a very accurate distance. The distance to RS Puppis has been narrowed down to 6,500 light-years (with a margin of error of only one percent).

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

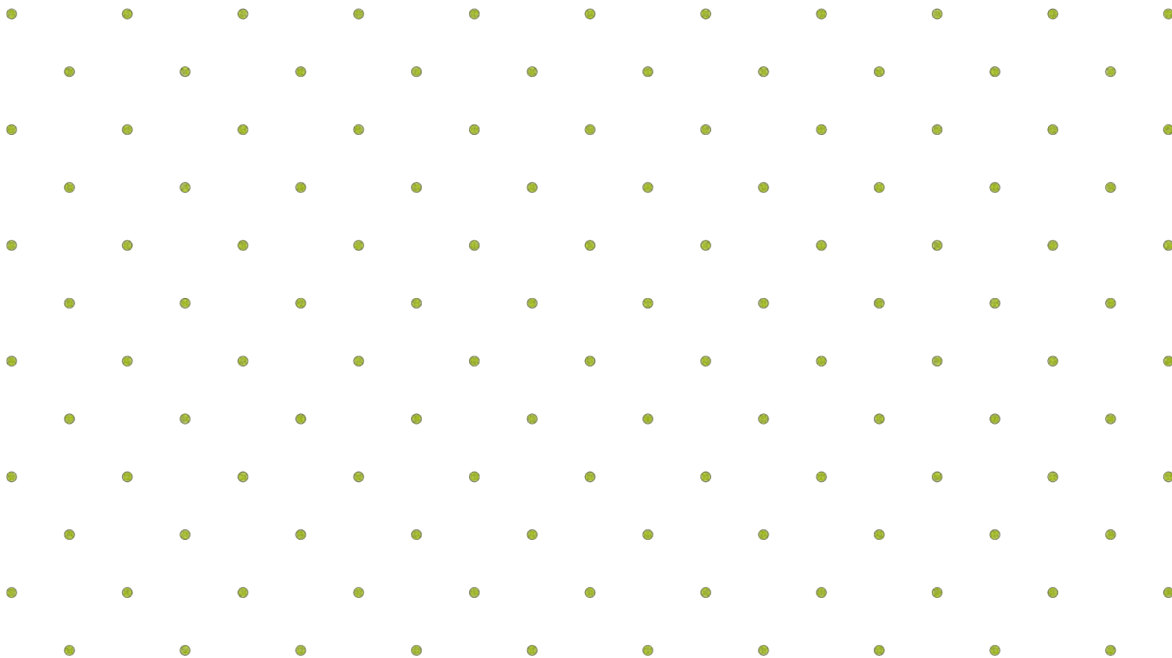
Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,
Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Acolytes | Thornton Holder, Greer Holder
Usher Chair | Pat Harper

Pictorial Directory—We are excited to announce that thanks to the hard work of our Welcome Team, volunteers, and our Director of Communications we will have the 2024 pictorial directory available to be handed out on Sunday, February 4th! Thank you to everyone who makes FPC a place where people can feel a sense of belonging.



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 | 770.786.7321

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

First Presbyterian Church Staff

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Neeley Rentz Lane | <i>Senior Pastor</i> | |
| Erin Morgan | <i>Associate Pastor</i> | |
| Mark Fiddie | <i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i> | |
| Peni Kehoe | <i>Finance Administrator</i> | |
| Catherine Laseter | <i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i> | |
| Alice Walker | <i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i> | |

Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger
Sierra BlackShear
Catrina Crowe
Jahniyah Greene
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> |

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Alex Martin, son of Chris & Barbara Martin - hand surgery
- ✦ Jana Carter, aunt of Luke Usry - cancer
- ✦ Norman Wheeler & Bob Wheeler - brothers of Jack Wheeler
- ✦ 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 the loved ones of Rick Gunter as they mourn his passing on January 24, 2024. No service arrangements have been made at this time.

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.

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
fpccov.org

Let Love Lead **March 9, 2024**
Hard Labor Creek
10:00am-3:00pm
visit fpccov.org/signup
to register by March 1st

Ash Wednesday February 14th

Walk-up Ashes
Noon-1:00pm
in the FPC Sanctuary

Our pastors will be offering ashes in the sanctuary!
Stop by to receive your ashes and pick up your Lenten devotional material.

**Community
Worship**

6:00pm-7:00pm
in the FPC Sanctuary
in partnership with
FUMC

Come receive your ashes and partake in the sacrament of communion as we begin our Lenten journey together.
Childcare available.

Note about Giving through Real online:

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. 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.

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

SOUL FEAST

FEB. 7

**ON THE MENU:
EL CHARRO**

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

RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 6th to
catherine@fpccov.org or
 770-786-7321

Following Soul Feast we will have a Soul Craft for all ages making "Pal-entine" cards wishing a friendly Valentine's Day to send to our pals at Merryvale

Sunday, January 28
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Youth Fundraising Lunch

Monday, January 29

- 5:15pm Presbyterianism 101

Tuesday, January 30

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Witness Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 31

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 5:30pm FPC Kids Art Class
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, February 3

- 9:00am Presbytery Meeting

Sunday, February 4
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
- 12:15pm Pictorial Directory to be handed out!

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.

THINK BEYOND THE BOWL!



What if every person watching the Big Game donated just \$1 or 1 can of food to their local charity?

TACKLE HUNGER

with the

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Bring food or monetary donations to worship on February 11th

to benefit the Community Food Pantry on Turner Lake Circle



Requested donations:
 peanut butter,
 grape jelly,
 spaghetti sauce with meat,
 canned fruit

