



February 11, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

First Presbyterian Church

Covington, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*All Glory Be to God on High
I Danced in the Morning
The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

J.S. Bach
J. Wayne Kerr
Emma Lou Diemer

Prelude

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Charles Callahan

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

On a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured,

and God said: This is my Beloved Son.

Let us worship God.

✠ Hymn of Praise 193

Jesus Take Us to the Mountain

UNSER HERRSCHER

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Almighty God, when we encounter beauty and love and wonder in the world, so often we seek to control it, to contain it. Forgive us for all the ways we seek to pull things under our power, for the ways we fashion the world and put ourselves first. We are selfish, God. We push aside your command to love in order to seek comfort. We take this opportunity to acknowledge our lies and our denial, laying bare our hearts and minds before you now. 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

This Little Light of Mine

Arr. by Jaqueline B. Hairston

Mark Fiddie

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:2-9

Pew Bible page 44

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Transformed

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn of Response 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

✦ Affirmation of Faith

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

PCUSA

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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! Select "2024 Pledge" if you made a stewardship pledge. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general plate offering.*



Offertory

He Is Exalted
Chancel Choir

Composed by Tulia Paris

✦ Response 314

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.



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.

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.

Communion Music

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✠ **Sending Hymn 192** *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

✦ 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

Postlude on "From All That Dwell Below the Skies"

R.G. Tevelde



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 has used images from AURA's Space Telescope Science Institute's hubblesite.org in cooperation with NASA and ESA. We complete this cover series today before the beginning of Lent for the Transfiguration of the Lord. This week's image is labeled *Hubble Captures View of 'Mystic Mountain'* and credits NASA, ESA, Mario Livio (STScI), and Hubble 20th Anniversary Team (STScI) as contributors. An excerpt of Hubble's description is as follows:

The NASA Hubble Space Telescope image captures the chaotic activity atop a three-light-year-tall pillar of gas and dust that is being eaten away by the brilliant light from nearby bright stars. The pillar is also being assaulted from within, as infant stars buried inside it fire off jets of gas that can be seen streaming from towering peaks.

This turbulent cosmic pinnacle lies within a tempestuous stellar nursery called the Carina Nebula, located 7,500 light-years away in the southern constellation Carina. Scorching radiation and fast winds from super-hot newborn stars in the nebula are shaping and compressing the pillar, causing new stars to form within it. The denser parts of the pillar are resisting being eroded by radiation much like a towering butte in Utah's Monument Valley withstands erosion by water and wind.

Nestled inside this dense mountain are fledgling stars. Long streamers of gas can be seen shooting in opposite directions off the pedestal at the top of the image. Another pair of jets

are visible at another peak near the center of the image. These jets are the signpost for new star birth.

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 | Parker Firkus Usher Chair | Luke Usry

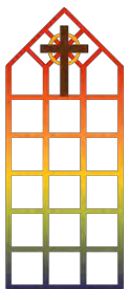
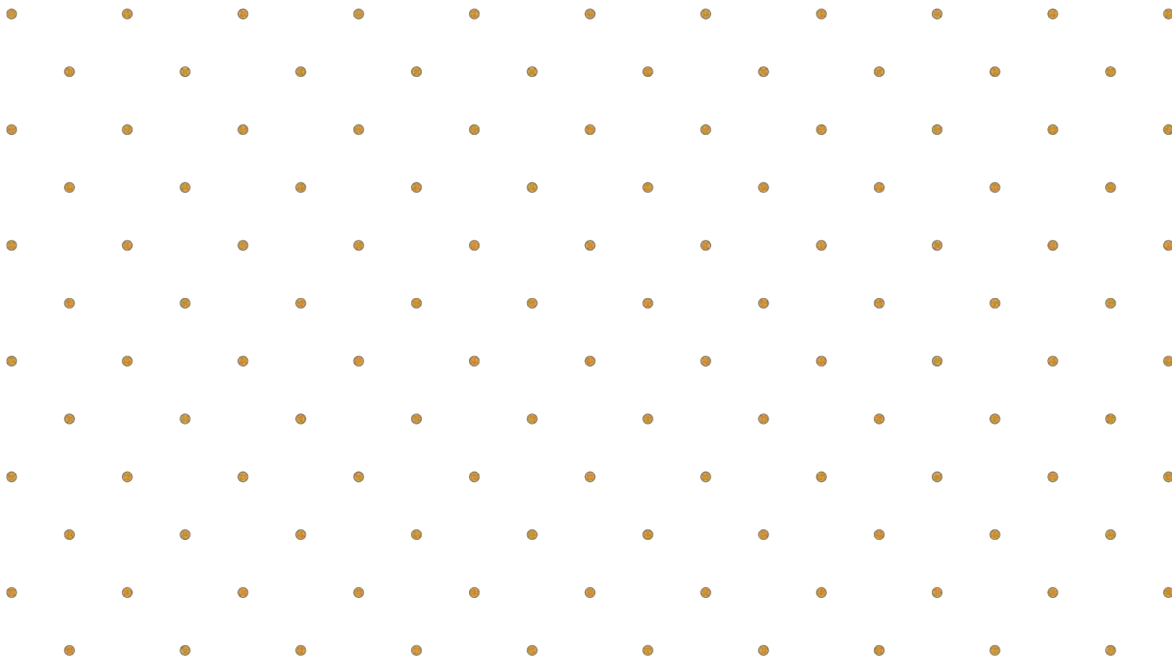
Sound System—Come and join us to learn how to connect your Bluetooth hearing aids to the sanctuary sound system! After installing our new sound system in November our wonderful tech team has been patiently making adjustments to make sure we are getting the best sound possible in the Sanctuary during worship. We are now familiar enough to invite you to connect your hearing aids to it with Bluetooth.

We will have hearing assistance lessons on Wednesday, February 21st at 5:30pm and on Sunday, February 25th immediately following church. We ask that you RSVP to Neeley if you plan to come for the Wednesday session.



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

- ✦ Beth Vining - diabetes & Afib
- ✦ Terry Smith, friend of Denny Dobbs - pneumonia with respiratory rehab
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer and care
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ 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

Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

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.

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.

Ash Wednesday
February 14th

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

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

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

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

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

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB
 MONTHLY TUESDAYS
 6:00PM-7:00PM ON ZOOM
 VISIT FPCCOV.ORG/ZOOM-LINKS TO JOIN!

PURSUING GOD'S WILL TOGETHER: A DISCERNMENT PRACTICE FOR LEADERSHIP
 BY RUTH HALEY BARTON

FEB. 12TH

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!

SUPER BOWL OF CARING

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

JAMMIES & JESUS
TONIGHT February 11

7 PM on Zoom
 Join Neeley & Erin for a short bedtime prayer.
 Visit fpccov.org/zoom-links to join!

Lenten Devotional Study

Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!

Mondays in Lent
at 5:30pm in the Parlor
Feb. 26, March 4,
March 11, March 18

Led by Erin and Neeley
Childcare available.

Based on
Kate Bowler's book
"Have a Beautiful,
Terrible Day!
Daily Meditations
for the Ups, Downs,
and In-Betweens."

Not necessary to
read or purchase
book to participate.
Kate is a Duke
professor, podcaster,
and author with a
single mission:
giving you
permission to feel
human.

Come explore being human with us!

REMINDER:
There will be
NO Music
Ministry THIS
week on Ash
Wednesday

Saturday, February 17th
8:00am at Town House Café
RSVP by February 15th



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Let Love Lead
FPC Spring Day Retreat



Our church retreat includes:
WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP
SMALL GROUPS
FREE TIME
AND MORE!

March 9, 2024

Hard Labor Creek

10:00am-3:00pm

Adult - \$20 Child - \$5

Family max - \$40

Lunch & snacks included

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

Keynote speaker:
Rev. Emily Wilmesherr
Assoc. Pastor of Intergenerational
and Caring Ministries at Decatur
Presbyterian Church

Don't miss this
retreat with
your FPC family!

Sunday, February 11
Transfiguration of the Lord

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 12:00pm Worship Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Souper Bowl sorting at the Food Pantry
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Monday, February 12

- 5:15pm Final Presbyterianism 101

Tuesday, February 13

- 10:00am Deacons Meeting
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
- 5:00pm Faith Formation Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 12:00pm Walk-up Ashes in Sanctuary
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 6:00pm Community Worship with FUMC

Thursday, February 15

RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 17

- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Jesus Sought Me

FPC Youth

Youth Art Hang

Wednesday, February 28th
at 5:30pm-7:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Come make some Stained
Glass art with "Greta's Glass"
and your FPC Youth friends!

Dinner included

Cost: \$10

RSVP required by Feb. 13

RSVP to erin@fpccov.org