



First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

Wandering
Heart 
"Jesus sought me"



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Toccata in F
Prelude on ST. AGNES
Give Me Jesus

Dietrich Buxtehude
Neil Harmon
Edwin T. Childs

Prelude

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SOJOURNER

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears.

Relax the tension in your jaw,

for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Amen.

✦ Hymn of Praise 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Silent Personal Confession

✠Community Confession

Loving God,

You call us by name.

You join us in the deep waters of life.

You invite us to drop our nets and follow you,
and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.

Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised
to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you,

for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.

✠Confessional Hymn 227

Jesus, Remember Me

REMEMBER ME

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy.

And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend.

Church family, hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions.

You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes,
and assume you know better.

And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart.

That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

Amen.

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ **Response to God's Grace 215** *What Wondrous Love Is This* WONDROUS LOVE

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.*

✠ **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

Hope of the World
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

Centering Prayer

with a singing bowl

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:1-11
Peter Monologue

Pew Bible page 62

Charles Ardis

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Wandering Heart: Jesus Sought Me

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response**

You Sought Me

Words by Anna Strickland

See next page for hymn

ERHALT UNS, HERR

Verse 1: Mark Fiddie; **Verse 2, 3, 4: ALL**



My__ bones and__ head were bent down low
A__ chance en - count - ter__ by the lake
I__ tried to__ tell you, "Leave me be—
When I be - gin to__ doubt my worth



When you ap - proached me on your own
I thought this must be some mis - take
I'm not sure what you see in me."
Re - mind me I was formed from earth



You sought me__ out__ and called my name
That some - one__ wrapped in hol - i - ness
And yet you__ chose my net__ to fill
The ve - ry__ good cre - a - tion of



My life would nev - er be the same
Would wil - ling - ly em - brace this mess
With all my faults you call me still
My God who seeks me out in love

✠Affirmation of Faith

I believe in a God of abundance—

**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

I believe in a God who comforts—

**a God who says, "Do not be afraid;"
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.**

I believe in a God who invites—

**a God who says, "Follow me,"
and, "You will be fishers of people."**

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—

a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name.

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray. 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! Select "2024 Pledge" if you made a stewardship pledge. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general plate offering.*



Offertory

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
Alice Walker

Austin C. Lovelace

✠Response 743

O God, You Are My God

STEP BY STEP

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

Poetry and Prayer

All This Time

by Sarah Are Speed

You are invited to lift up a one word prayer of gratitude for this day!



Being the Church in the World

✠Sending Hymn 697

Take My Life

HENDON

Verses 1, 2, 3

✦ Charge and Benediction

Beloved wanderers, as we leave this place,
may we carry our curious heart on our sleeves.
May we look for God in every face.
May we find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb, and to speak of our faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may we hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
We are called. We are blessed.
In both our ups and our downs,
we always belong to God.
Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

✦ Postlude

Hymn to Joy

Charles Callahan



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Throughout the Lenten season we are displaying art in the Narthex by the children and youth of FPC and children of Southern Heartland Art, all under the instruction of Elise Hammond.

Our worship guide cover today is an acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing by Lisle Gwynn Garrity titled "River of Grace." The following is an excerpt from the artist's statement:

In this image, the bursting nets transform into a river of grace meandering through the composition of Peter's life. The river pours into Peter's hands, but he can't quite grasp the fullness of this gift and calling quite yet, and so most of it rushes right by. As you will see in my other pieces for this series, this river of grace will wander alongside Peter throughout his life.

Despite Peter's resistance, grace seeks him out. His right thumb gets caught in the net. He can't escape the fact that God's goodness and mercy will pursue him all the days of his life (Psalm 23:6). The river rushes in. The question for Peter—and for each of us—is will he follow where it leads?

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. | Wandering Heart Graphic Design by Lauren Wright Pittman | Art: "River of Grace" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Poetry: "All This Time" by Sarah A. Speed | Hymn of Response to the Word: "You Sought Me" by Anna Strickland, 2023 and Joseph Klug, 1543 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Serving Today

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

Acolytes | Thornton Holder, Greer Holder

Usher Chair | Luke Usry



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 & Worship Arts</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Catrina Crowe
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahnyiah 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>

Our Mission Statement

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.

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

Adults & Youth are invited to a

Stained Glass Art Party

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

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

Dinner included
Cost: \$10
RSVP required by Feb. 21
RSVP to erin@fpccov.org

- Sunday, February 18**
First Sunday in Lent
- 9:45am Sunday School
 - 11:00am Worship—Jesus Sought Me
- Tuesday, February 20**
RSVP for Lunch Bunch
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
 - 2:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club
 - 5:00pm Witness Team Meeting
 - 6:00pm Neeley's Nook—Leadership Book Club
- Wednesday, February 21**
- 10:00am Coffee Club
 - 11:30am Lunch Bunch at Musulyn's
 - 3:30pm Staff Meeting
 - 5:30pm Hearing Assistance Lesson
 - 6:00pm Chancel Choir
 - 7:00pm Handbell Choir
- Thursday, February 22**
- 5:15pm Finance Team Meeting
- Saturday, February 24**
- 9:00am Meals on Wheels delivery
- Sunday, February 25**
Second Sunday in Lent
- 9:45am Sunday School
 - 11:00am Worship—Rescue Me From Danger
 - 12:00pm Hearing Assistance Lesson
 - 12:30pm Session Meeting

O.A.S.I.S.
Lunch Bunch
FPC

Order Adults Sharing In Service at FPC
O.A.S.I.S.

February Lunch

11:30AM on February 21st
At Musulyn's International Restauraunt
6129 US 278, Covington, GA 30014

RSVP to FPC by Feb. 20th

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF AND - BEER -

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION
FEBRUARY 29TH | 5:30PM
LUCKY DAY TACO SHOP
CHILDCARE AT FPC

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

FPC KIDS STAINED GLASS ART CLASS

MARCH 6TH @ 6:00PM
AFTER SOUL FEAST

Come express your creativity with "Greta's Glass" in the Children's Sunday School Room!

COST: \$10 (FAMILY MAX: \$20)
RSVP REQUIRED BY FEB. 29
RSVP TO ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG

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.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Joel Kitchens
- ✦ Sheree Evans, friend of Cathy & Denny Dobbs - treatment for cancer
- ✦ Emmie Alexander, friend of the congregation
- ✦ Debra Hales, daughter of Faye & Joel Kitchens - upcoming heart surgery
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer & care
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Carolyn Watson

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Danny Vining and his loved ones while they mourn the passing of his sister Joyce Williams.

Funeral Announcements

- ✦ Services for Rick Gunter will be held in the FPC Memorial Garden on February 25 at 3:00pm and at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation in Marietta on March 3 at 2:00pm.

Military Service

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

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.
 20TH**

Sunday School

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



American Red Cross
 at FPC Covington

BLOOD DRIVE

MONDAY, MARCH 4TH

12:00PM-5:00PM

In the FPC Fellowship Hall

**DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED**

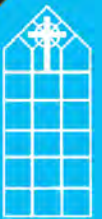
To register visit
RedCrossBlood.org
 Walk-ins welcome!

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!**