



Second Sunday in Lent  
February 25, 2024

**Wandering  
Heart**  
*"Rescue me  
from danger"*



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA**

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



## *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

**Gathering Music** *Voluntary on "Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"* C. Callahan  
*My Heart Ever Faithful* J.S. Bach  
*Ritornello on TOPLADY* Matthew Wachtman

**Prelude** *Fughetta on "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"* EBENEZER

### **Chiming of the Hour**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **✠ Call to Worship**

God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

**the courageous and the fearful,**

the hungry and the hopeful,

**the impatient and the reserved.**

God welcomes the young and the old,

**the poets and the prophets,**

the faithful and the tired,

**the curious and the convicted.**

Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

**there is room for all to gather here.**

This is God's house.

**Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

**✠ Hymn of Praise 610** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON  
**Verses 1, 2, 5**

#### **✠ Call to Confession**

In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ.

Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats.

And here's what I mean:

In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet.

Let us pray together first silently and as one body:

## ✠ **Silent Personal Confession**

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Gracious God,**

**There are days that threaten to swallow us,  
days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,  
spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.**

**Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you.**

**Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.**

**With hope in our hearts 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**

Family of faith,

You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter,  
or fall to your knees and stay in one place.

No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging.

Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting,

Christ is always walking toward you.

So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms.

On our best days, and on our worst days,  
we are seen, forgiven, and loved.  
God is always walking toward you.  
Church, we are forgiven! **We are free to try again.**

✠ **Response to God's Grace 215** *What Wondrous Love Is This* WONDROUS LOVE  
**Verses 1, 2**

✠ **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**

#### **Children's Music**

*Peace Like a River*  
Children's Choir

African American Spiritual

#### **Anthem**

*How Great Thou Art*  
Janet Carmichael

Words, music by Stuart K. Hine  
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

#### **Centering Prayer**

*with handbells*

#### **Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 14:22-33*

Pew Bible page 16

*Reader's Theater*

Aubrey Evans, Paisley Lane, Bob Tabb

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

#### **Message**

*Wandering Heart: Rescue Me From Danger*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

#### ✠ **Hymn of Response**

*Into the Waters*

Words by Anna Strickland

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

HERZLIEBSTER

**See next page for hymn.**



In - to the wa - ters, tim - id and un - stead - y  
But then the winds shift and I let my gaze break  
Safe in the boat I won - der where the fault lies  
Grace for the jour - ney, grace for all my fail - ings

5



Bare feet find pur - chase in the wa - ter's ed - dies  
Fear starts to drag me un - der - neath the lake's waves  
Was it the storm or my own reck - less de - sire  
Grace when I'm sink - ing, grace when storms as - sail me

9



Eyes fixed on Je - sus while the storm is ra - ging  
In my dis - tress I cry out to my Sa - vior,  
To have con - trol or prove my - self as a - ble  
Faith in my - self and faith in God's pro - vis - ion

13



And waves are break - ing  
"Save me from dan - ger!"  
Rath - er than faith - ful  
Not my am - bi - tion

## ✦ Affirmation of Faith

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

**I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.**

**I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.**

**I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.**

**I believe in a God who knows my name.**

**I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

**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**

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

*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 Break Bread Together*

Martha Sobaje

Alice Walker

## **✠Response 634**

*To God Be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.***

***Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.***

## **Poetry and Prayer**

*Rescue Me*

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 838**

*Standing on the Promises*

PROMISES

## **✠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**

*O Worship the King*

David Cherwien



## *Worship Practices*

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

Our worship guide cover today is a mixed media piece on canvas by Nicolette Peñaranda titled "Lift Off." The following is an excerpt from the artist's statement:

Living in a metropolitan area, I don't get the luxury of stars but I like to imagine a world where the skies told their own stories. In "Lift Off," the elements are like main characters, inspiring whimsical fantasy. Cut-out layered clouds build into the horizon of the sea. The forceful wind tunnel blows over the sinking foot of a probably panicking Peter. This is a moving piece that is meant to tell a story in any direction it is turned. Like the theme of this series, the viewer should feel like they are on a journey with Peter. "Lift Off" is intentionally dark with beautiful highlights of color and sparkle. It is because of the darkness that the colors shine bright. These two things are complimentary, not contrasting. The fear that entered Peter with the wind was most likely heightened because it was dark out. Without knowing exactly what was around him, Peter became vulnerable, thus causing him to reach out. The wonder of darkness exposes us and invites us to seek connection.

**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 others in 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. Then children planning to go to the nursery will be escorted downstairs by Pastors Neeley or Erin. If you need help finding the nursery, please 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: “Lift Off” by Nicolette Peñaranda | Liturgy by Sarah Speed | Poetry: “Rescue Me” by Sarah Speed | Hymn: “Into the Waters” by Anna Strickland(2023), and Johann Crüger (1640) | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



## Serving Today

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

Acolytes | Parker Firkus

Usher Chair | Luke Usry



**fpccov.org**  
**770.786.7321**  
**1169 Clark Street SW**  
**Covington, GA 30014**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**COVINGTON, GA**

### 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>	Jahnyiah Greene
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Laina Lalane

### Officers

Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Jodi Atkins	<i>Strategic Planning (2026)</i>
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Janet Carmichael	<i>Pastoral Care (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Billy Fortson	<i>Finance, Personnel (2024)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome, Worship (2026)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</i>
Luke Usry	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant	<i>Faith Formation (2024)</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.



# SOUL FEAST

## MARCH 6

**ON THE MENU:  
BRADLEY'S BBQ**



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

RSVP by Monday, March 4th to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321

Following Soul Feast we test our Bible knowledge with a game of **TRIVIA!**

## STAINED GLASS ART CLASS

MARCH 6TH @ 6:00PM  
AFTER SOUL FEAST

# FPC KIDS

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**

# 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](http://fpccov.org/signup)  
to register by

## THIS FRIDAY

Don't miss this retreat with your FPC family!

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

### 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

### Monday, February 26

- 5:30pm "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent" Study

### Tuesday, February 27

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
- 5:00pm Nursery Thriving Congregations Listening

### Wednesday, February 28

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 5:30pm Stained Glass Art Party
- 6:00pm Chancel Choir
- 7:00pm Handbell Choir

### Thursday, February 29

RSVP for Kids Stained Glass Art Class

- 10:00am Neeley at Merryvale
- 5:30pm Belief and Beer

### Friday, March 1

Signup deadline for Spring Retreat

### Sunday, March 3

#### Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Praise the Mount

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

# BELIEF AND - BEER -

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

**We will have a hearing assistance lesson TODAY immediately following worship.**

# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Illness and Strife

- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Eileen Wells, sister of Cathy Dobbs
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown - cousin for Randy Layton
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty
- ✦ Vonzella Lee, friend of Barbara Martin - gastric cancer
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bernice Bailey

- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ 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 Jo Anna Fish and her loved ones as they mourn the passing of her mother Elizabeth Baarda.

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Danny Vining and his loved ones while they mourn the passing of his sister Joyce Williams.
- ✦ 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](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)  
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

## 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](http://RedCrossBlood.org)  
Walk-ins welcome!

We welcome everyone into our church family!

**We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!**

Sunday, March 10th  
after worship  
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

Becoming a member is a valuable way to say

**"I have chosen FPC Covington as my home to trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ!"**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA

*Have a Beautiful Terrible Lent!*

**Mondays in Lent**  
at 5:30pm in the Parlor  
Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, March 18  
Enter through the office door.  
Led by Erin and Neeley  
Childcare available.