



The Resurrection of the Lord
11:00am March 31, 2024

*Easter
Sunday* 



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

The Blessed Christ is Risen Today J.S. Bach
On Earth Has Dawned This Day of Days J.S. Bach
Festive Prelude on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" ST. THEODULPH

Prelude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Matt Limbaugh

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

This Is the Day! The Lord Has Made Mark Hayes
Chancel Choir

✠ **Call to Worship**

Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 232**

Jesus Christ is Risen Today EASTER HYMN

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠Community Confession

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

**Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.**

**Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.**

**Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.**

Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you."

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God's grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this.

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠Response to God's Grace 240 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO.1

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

✠ **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

Glorious Day

Casting Crowns

Ansley Stewart

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Pew Bible page 90

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Living Hope

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 246**

Christ is Alive!

TRURO

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

We may weep through the longest nights.

We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.

We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.

But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

We believe that Jesus abides among us,

healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

**We believe that the sun does rise.
We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.
We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us.
Today we are a people of hope.**

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

*Lindesfarne
Tom Crawford, bagpipes*

Composed by Matt Seattle

✠ Response 239

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

GELOBT SEI GOTT

***Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Prayer of Gratitude

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



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 245

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

LLANFAIR

✦ 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.

Choral Response

Hallelujah Chorus
Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

✦ Postlude

Toccata

Charles-Marie Widor



Serving Today

Bagpipes | Tom Crawford

Soloist | Ansley Stewart

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

Acolyte | Parker Firkus

Usher Chair | Curtis Watson



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Our worship guide cover today is an acrylic painting on canvas by Jen Norton titled “Easter Morning”. The following is an excerpt from the artist’s statement:

In this painting, the lamp held by the women represents our man-made light. Ego, inventions, hard work... anything we seek to control and call our own. In the distance is the sunrise, God’s gift to divide our earthly days between work and rest. And finally, the light of the Resurrection, shining brightest of all... the light that we cannot extinguish.

Accessibility—In an effort to make FPC a welcoming place for ALL of God’s people we have removed a portion of one of our pews in the Sanctuary to make our space more accessible to wheelchair and walker users! We’ve also recently updated our sound system to have Bluetooth capabilities. If you’d like to learn about connecting your Bluetooth hearing aids to our Sanctuary sound system we invite you to talk to Dan Walden on the Tech Team.

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. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way. If your child needs to leave the Sanctuary for whatever reason, please accompany them throughout the building.

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 | Liturgy-Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | Art: “Easter Morning” by Jen Norton | jennortonartstudio.com



fpccov.org 770.786.7321
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>	
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Catrina Crowe
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Jahniah 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>

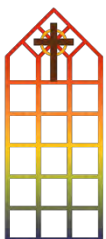
Easter Lilies

The flowers are given to the glory of God in witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Donations above the cost of flowers will go to aid our FPC Youth on their journey to the Montreat Middle School Conference this summer.

Following today's 11:00am service we ask for those who gave to collect their lilies and enjoy them at home.

In honor of	Given by
-------------	----------

Miriam Wheeler	Mike & Tamra Crews
FPC Staff	Stan & Dana Hall
My grandchildren	Pat Harper
Memama & Bamma	Robert & Neeley Lane
Laura Todd, Dickie Knox-Dick, Steve Kaasa	Jeff & Julie MacKenzie
Penelope Blakeney	Cynthia & David Noble
Our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchild	Carolyn & Curtis Watson
Miriam G. Wheeler	Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA



In memory of	Given by
Steve Bozarth, Pete & Pat Arnold	Doug & Debra Arnold
Elmer & Maxine Blankenship	Trent Blankenship
Howard & Madelle Boteler, Ray & Edy Moy	Gary & Susan Boteler
Jack Wheeler	Mike & Tamra Crews
JoAnn Crews	Tom Crews
Lois & S.A. Ginn, Dot & Bill Fortson	Stephanie & Billy Fortson
Our Grandparents	Kraig & Nichole Howell
Harry & Laura Craddock, James & Lucy Kratz	Beverly & Dan Kratz
Papa & Grammie	Robert & Neeley Lane
Jay & Steve Milton, Jack Wheeler	Jeff & Julie MacKenzie
Leon Savage	Anne Savage
Jim Stillerman	Pam Stillerman
Arnold & Bonnie Tingler	Roger & Tootles Tingler
David Finney	Meghan Finney Usry
John Michael Hall	The Usrys
Our Parents	Carolyn & Curtis Watson
Grady Daugherty, Guy McGiboney, Jack & Barbara Weesner	Chris & Donna Weesner
Jack F. Wheeler, James S. Gardner Jr. & Miriam A. Gardner	Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler

SOUL FEAST

APRIL 10

**ON THE MENU:
FRIED CHICKEN**




Feed your body and soul in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.
RSVP by Monday, April 8th to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

Accepting donations for our Youth to attend Montreat Middle School Conference!
No minimum charge for dinner



Following Soul Feast we will hear from our friends at **Alcovy CASA!**

Save the Date:
Sunday, April 28th
Legacy of Love
Lunch
ALL ARE WELCOME!

There will be NO Music Ministry this Wednesday, April 3rd.

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

6:45am Sunrise Service in the Garden

10:00am Resurrection Breakfast

11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord

Monday, April 1

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2

10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:30am Martha Circle

12:00pm Lectio Divina

Wednesday, April 3

10:00am Coffee Club

Friday, April 5

Church Office Closed

Sunday, April 7

Second Sunday of Easter

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

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

Botanical Gardens
ATLANTA, GA

Join your OASIS friends for a refreshing guided tour of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens

APRIL 24, 2024

Meet at FPC at 10:00am to carpool
Cost \$18 each, plus lunch cost


RSVP to neeley@fpccov.org by Apr. 15

VBS at FPC

COKEBURY'S
HERO HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

9:00AM-12:00PM
JUNE 3RD-6TH
3 y/o - 5th grade

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!



Visit fpccov.org/vbs to register

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Visit fpccov.org/vbs or talk to Erin to learn more!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ Tammy Quick, friend of Donna Weesner - recovering from ankle surgery
- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton & Pawpaw to Audrey - health issues
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Susan Hammond, aunt of Erin Morgan - cancer
- ✦ Christy Blanchford & daughter Samantha, friends of the congregation - mourning loss of husband, Sam Johnson
- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown - cousin of 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
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew

- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Jana Carter, aunt of Luke Usry - 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
- ✦ Terry Smith, friend of Denny Dobbs - pneumonia with respiratory rehab
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss

Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Curtis & Carolyn Watson on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Ford!

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy Layton and his loved ones as they mourn the loss of his brother-in-law, Larry Cox.
- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Jack Wheeler as they mourn his passing on March 3rd, 2024. A funeral was held on Friday, March 8th.

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
- ✦ 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.

8:00am at Town House Café

Saturday, April 13

**Men's
Prayer
Breakfast**



Sunday School

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

**CAMPFIRE
CHURCH**

**WITH THE
MULE CREEK
EMPORIUM
BLUEGRASS BAND!**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
5:30PM ON THE
FPC PLAYGROUND**

Mini-mission trips in the Atlanta area with your FPC Family

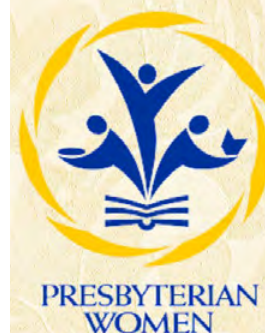
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH COVINGTON, GA**

2024 MISSION

Extravaganza

JUNE 10TH-13TH

REGISTER AT FPCCOV.ORG/SIGNUP SEND QUESTIONS TO ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:00am on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall

Martha Circle

10:30am hosted by rotating members

Tuesday, April 2nd

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

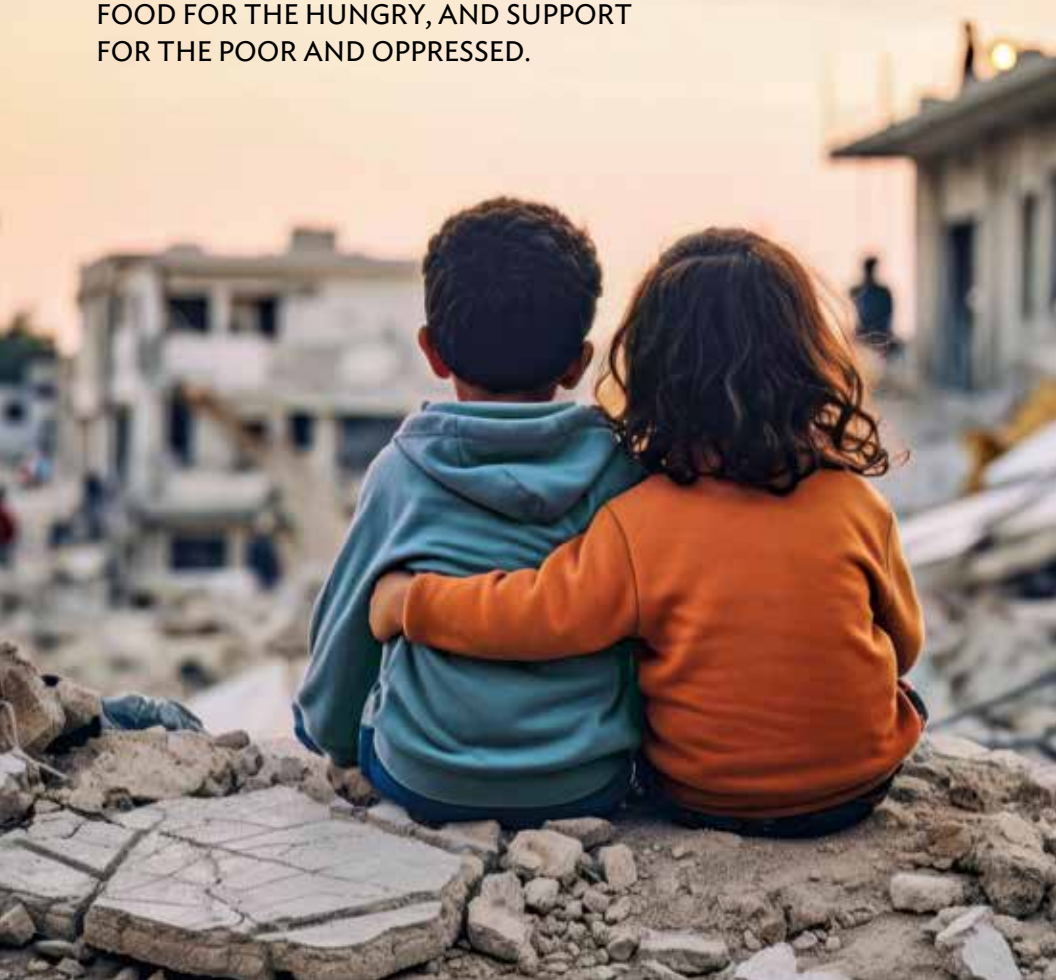
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



Repairing the Breach, Fixing What's Broken

In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach — and by repairing the breach, we will, by God's grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.”

—Isaiah 58



FLETCHER

IN THIS SEASON OF LENT,
we follow Jesus' example;
walking alongside the most vulnerable
to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them.
WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER;
and we are there with those who need us.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~



HOUSE RESTORATION - VILLAT

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

*Restore Streets
to Live In*



KASUPE MINISTRIES

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

*Share your Bread
with the Hungry*



CARIDAD GARDENS

SELF- DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

*Loose the Bonds
of Injustice*

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

12138-24-104



February 14-March 31, 2024

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give

-or-



You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings. The four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.