



First Sunday after Pentecost

JUNE 4, 2023

God's Creative
Connection

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA



✦ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Prelude in A Minor
How Firm a Foundation
Joyful, Joyful

J.S. Bach
Janet Linker
Diane Bish

Prelude

Sing Unto the Lord with I Will Sing of the Mercies

Mark Hayes

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ **Call to Worship**

How majestic is our God! How worthy of our worship and praise!

**When we stand in awe of our Creator,
marveling at the heavens, the moon and the stars,
we ask, "What are we that you are mindful of us?
Who are we that you care for us?"**

How majestic is our God! How worthy of our worship and praise!

Handbell Dedication

adapted from a prayer by Silver Woodbury and
Peace from Ringing True: Prayers for Handbell Ringers
by Linda Stahelin

Today we dedicate the gift of these handbells.

Let us pray...

Lord, let the notes rung be your notes.

Let them fall on our ears as celestial music.

Guide our hands, our heads, and our hearts
as we raise our music to your Glory.

**Come Holy Spirit, come;
Bless our bells and make them instruments of your peace.**

✠ Hymn of Praise 1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Spirit of the Living God, you call us to spread the good news, to live the gospel, to teach Jesus' way to future generations. But we skirt our responsibilities and fail to act on your Great Commission. Forgive our silence. Forgive our apathy. Forgive our lack of fire. Help us be bold in faith, loving the world as Christ loves and embodying our Savior's church. Amen.

✠ Hymn of Response 469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

***Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.***

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✠ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Baptism of Nora Brooke Stillerman

Elder Pam Stillerman

Baptismal Response 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

Anthem

Amazing Grace
Aubrey Evans and Adriane Ivey

Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 8

Pew Bible page 492

New Testament Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Pew Bible page 34

Message

The Great Commission

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 733**

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

Commissioning of Vacation Bible School Volunteers

Written by Centre Street United Methodist Church

Pastor:

You have recognized God's call in your lives. Will you endeavor to develop your gifts for teaching so as to continue to pass on the Christian faith? Will you be faithful to the task, taking seriously the commitment of time and talent? Will you take seriously your role as learner, studying diligently the Scriptures and VBS lessons for each day?

Volunteers:

We have heard God's call to teach and lead Vacation Bible School for our church. We teach, trusting in God's support, sustaining grace and empowerment for this task. We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives. We teach, depending on our church family to uphold us in prayer, love and support.

All:

Loving God, you have entrusted us with the message of your power, grace, justice, and love. We ask for your guidance, that we may be teachers and learners together. Believing that you are in our midst, we set apart those who would serve in our Vacation Bible School. May they serve you in nurturing the spiritual growth of all who are entrusted in their care. Bless each one gathered here, enabling them to be channels of your grace. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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

Offertory

Now the Green Blade Riseth
Carillon Handbell Choir

Arranged by Kevin McChesney

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 746

Send Me, Jesus

THUMA MINA

✦ 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 WEBB

Jason D. Payne



Worship Practices

Children in Worship

We have a new "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.

Sound System

Please know we recognize the need for improving our sound system. We have new microphones and we are evaluating new settings while we plan for better solutions. Currently, we encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to move closer to the front near the main speakers.

Use

One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Mary Catherine Whisnant

Acolyte | Paisley Lane



Baptism Notes

Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; Communion is the other. The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world.

Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). When we are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's own baptism.

Presbyterians celebrate baptism as a communal act of public worship! Today we, as the body of Christ, will say "YES" to walking alongside Nora Stillerman and her family as we seek to nurture and love her as her family of faith!

Speak to Pastors Neeley or Erin if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.



Worship Notes

There is no record of when the bell was invented. Bells are mentioned in the book of Exodus as part of Hebrew worship, and they are shown decorating the robes of priests. When the Christian church was recognized by Constantine in Rome and came out of hiding, founders began to increase the size of bells, and priests hung them on the outside of their churches. One of the rules of the church from this time period read, *"Let all priests, at the appointed hours, day and night, toll the bells in their churches and then celebrate divine worship."* This regular tolling became very important to people in early days as it was the only way they had of telling the time and beckoned them from wherever they were to worship.

Change ringing, as we know it today, emerged in England in the 17th century. To that era, we can trace the origins of the earliest ringing societies, such as the *Lincoln Cathedral Guild*, which claims to date to 1612 or to a Society in Bristol which was founded in 1620 and lasted as a ringing society until the late 19th century. The recreation began to flourish in earnest in the Restoration era and in 1668 a book was written which set down easy rules for ringing.

There is something in the sound of bells which is beckoning and joyful, I am sure as much for the hearer as for the people pulling the ropes. Bells are intrinsically linked with prayer and the worship of God. That is why they have been historically so important in the life of the English church.

The psalmist calls us to praise the Lord, using not only our voices, but musical instruments as well, and the summoning of bells to worship across the English countryside is part of our commitment to the praise of God. That is the point of bells. Yes, they sing out joyful praises to God, but they are also calling people to come to where they will be reminded of the majesty of God and worship him in the splendor of his holiness.



Handbell Donations

The Carillon Handbell Choir's new bells are dedicated this Sunday as instrument's of the Lord's peace. These handbells were provided through donations made to the Give-A-Bell program in memory, in honor of, and by the following people.

In memory of:

Betty Robinson

Barbara Crews

JoAnn Crews

Charlotte Epps

Dr. James Stillerman

Guy McGiboney and

Betty Robinson

Guy McGiboney

Guy McGiboney

Our parents

Given by:

Covington First Presbyterian Women

Mike and Tamra Crews

Dr. Tom Crews

Julianne Epps

Larry and Day Kennon

Joel and Faye Kitchens

Michael and Christy Ann Lassiter

Carol McGiboney

Curtis and Carolyn Watson

In honor of:

Jack Wheeler

Ellis and Carol Dunbar

*The love of music and to make
a joyful noise unto the Lord*

Stephanie Scarborough

Wayne & Eleanor Scarborough

Eleanor Scarborough

Ellis and Carol Dunbar

Miriam Wheeler

Given by:

Mike and Tamra Crews

Sam and Loucy Hay

Jeff and Julia MacKenzie

Eleanor Scarborough

Stephanie Scarborough

Wayne Scarborough

Ken and Alice Walker

Jack Wheeler

Additional gifts given by:

Doug and Sherri Bolton

Billy and Stephanie Fortson

Billy and Theodosia Wade





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

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.

Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other activities. Contact the office and we’ll point you in the right direction!
 Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

Officers

- Reaching Out**
Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*
- Engaging**
Charles Ardis *Christian Ed (2025)*
Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*
Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*
Mary Catherine Whisnant *Christian Ed (2024)*
- Belonging**
Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*
Louly Hay Kapp *Marketing (2023)*
Bob Tabb *Finance (2023)*
- Connecting (Deacons)**
Tom Crews *Pastoral Care (2025)*
Dana Hall *Faith & Fellowship (2025)*
Eleanor Scarborough *Pastoral Care (2023)*
Darcel Tabb *Faith & Fellowship (2024)*
- More**
Billy Fortson *Personnel (2024)*
Stan Hall *Facilities (2023)*
John McCarthy *Clerk of Session*
Ed Perkerson *Strategic Planning (2023)*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Neeley Rentz Lane | <i>Senior Pastor</i> | |
| Erin Morgan | <i>Associate Pastor</i> | |
| Alicia Taylor | <i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i> | <i>Nursery Staff</i> |
| Alice Walker | <i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/
Ambassador Choir</i> | Hattie Bellinger |
| Catherine Laseter | <i>Dir. of Communications
& Operations</i> | Sierra BlackShear |
| Peni Kehoe | <i>Finance Administrator</i> | Laina Lalane |
| | | Kyla White |

Life at FPC

June
Lunch

Wednesday, June 14th
at 11:30AM

Café Milano in Conyers

RSVP to the office by Tuesday, June 13th at 12:00PM.
Lunch Bunch is a new lunch outing that will meet one
Wednesday of the month at different local restaurants!

FPC
**Lunch
Bunch**
EST. 2023

Golden-Age
Ministry

Saturday, June 10th
8:00am at Town House Café
RSVP to Neeley
by June 8th

Men's
**Prayer
Breakfast**



**GWINNETT
Stripers**

\$15
RSVP by June 4th
Permission
form required

FPC
YOUTH

Baseball Outing

June
10th
Drop off - 4:30pm
Pickup - 9:30pm
at the church

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN
US FOR A
**GWINNETT STRIPERS
GAME!**

Sunday, June 4
Trinity Sunday

10:00am Donuts and Devo
11:00am Worship—Handbell Dedication

Monday, June 5

9:00am VBS
5:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, June 6

9:00am VBS
3:30pm Deacons Meeting
5:00pm Health Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 7

9:00am VBS
4:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting
5:30pm Mission Trip Book Study on Zoom

Thursday, June 8

RSVP deadline for Prayer Breakfast
9:00am VBS

Saturday, June 10

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:00pm Youth to see Gwinnett Stripers Baseball

Sunday, June 11
Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Donuts and Devo
11:00am Worship—VBS Singing
12:00pm Popsicles on the Lawn
12:30pm Session Meeting

**Donuts
& DEVO**

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
THROUGH JUNE AND JULY

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ John McCarthy - broken shoulder and collar bone
- ✦ Pat Harper - hand surgery
- ✦ Bill Loeble - recovering from kidney removal surgery
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Lucas, Morgan, and baby Nate, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - baby going through dialysis
- ✦ Taylor Waters, great-niece of Gene Wallace
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael

- ✦ 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 - dementia
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of the congregation
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with the family and loved ones of Blair Weaver as they mourn his passing on Saturday, May 27, 2023. There are no immediate plans for a public memorial service.

- ✦ Our prayers are with Day Kennon and her family as they mourn the loss of her brother-in-law, Joe Milner, on Friday, May 26, 2023.

Military Service

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

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
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: catherine@fpccov.org
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering.



Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256
Or scan the QR code to give online.



BLOOD DRIVE

June 29, 2023

12:00pm-5:00pm
in the FPC Fellowship Hall

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) to register
Call [Curtis Watson at 404.550.1212](tel:404.550.1212) to volunteer

VBS Food Pantry Drive

JUNE 11TH

We invite ALL of our FPC Family to join our VBS kids in bringing canned goods to support the Community Food Pantry!

Suggested items:
cans of fruit, chicken, tuna, ham, ravioli or even a box of kid friendly cereals!

Monetary gifts are also welcome!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

POPSICLES ON THE LAWN

FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH!