



# Second Sunday after Pentecost

**JUNE 11, 2023**

## God's Creative Connection

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



## *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

### **Gathering Music**

*Toccata on HYMN TO JOY*  
*Praise and Thanksgiving*  
*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

Joel Martinson  
Dale Wood  
Linstead

### **Prelude**

*Be Thou My Vision*

Fred Bock

### **Chiming of the Hour**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### ✠ **Call to Worship**

"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!  
Your glory is higher than the heavens."

We gather to praise you!

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."**

"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!  
Your glory is higher than the heavens."

We gather to celebrate you!

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...**

**And God saw that it was good..."**

**We gather to celebrate our God.**

"O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!  
Your glory is higher than the heavens."

We gather to worship you!

**"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...**

**And God saw that it was very good..."**

**We gather to worship our God!**

**All praise, honor, majesty and power belong to our Creating God! Amen**

### ✠ **Hymn of Praise 15**

*All Creatures of Our God and King*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

## ✠ Call to Confession

### ✠ Community Confession

*From The Abingdon Worship Annual*

**Holy and eternal God,  
you created us in your image  
and gave us special responsibilities toward creation  
and our fellow human beings.  
You set us as caretakers for the earth  
and all its plants and animals.  
Dear God, as we look at our polluted earth,  
where we consume resources at an unsustainable rate,  
we know that we have failed to be good stewards.  
We beg your mercy for our sins  
and await with expectancy  
the renewal of our minds and hearts,  
that we may devote the rest of our days  
to protecting the earth and being good stewards of your creation. Amen.**

### ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

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

### ✠ Hymn of Response 581

*Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, amen.***

### ✠ Passing of the Peace



*Proclaiming the Word*

**Wondering with God's Children**

# Vacation Bible School Presentation

*Ready, Set, Move!*

## **Anthem**

*God of Wonders*  
Ansley Stewart

Written by Steve Hindalong  
and Marc Byrd

## **Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding**

## **Scripture Reading**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Pew Bible page 1

Debra Arnold, Luke Usry, Trista Hooten-Wilson,  
Laurel Ardis, Mary Lindsey Whisnant, Doug Bolton

## **Message**

*Brush Strokes of God*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

### **✠ Hymn of Response 32**

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

ELLACOMBE

### **✠ Affirmation of Faith**

Excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith* PCUSA

**We trust in God,**

**whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good**

**and makes everyone equally in God's image**

**male and female, of every race and people,**

**to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,**

**we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,**

**accept lies as truth,**

**exploit neighbor and nature,**

**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

**We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love,**

**the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry,**

**God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still,**

**God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

## **Offering Our Gifts**

### **Offertory**

*How Great Thou Art*  
Ansley Stewart

O STORE GUD  
Text by Carl Gustav Boberg

### **Offertory Response 37**

*Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

***Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.***



## *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.**

## **Communion Music**

*Crowded Table*  
Ansley Stewart

Written by Lori McKenna

## **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.*

## **Prayer After Communion**



### *Being the Church in the World*

## **✠ Sending Hymn 20**

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

## **✠ 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**

*Come, Let Us Lift Our Loftiest Song*

Joel Raney



# *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.

## **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

Our Worship Art for our scripture was created by our children at Vacation Bible School! One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. Community Confession from *The Abingdon Worship Annual*, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press.

## Serving Today

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Kraig Howell

Usher Chair | Mary Catherine Whisnant      Acolyte | Alexander Whisnant

Liturgists | Laurel Ardis, Debra Arnold, Doug Bolton, Trista Hooten-Wilson,

Luke Usry, Mary Lindsey Whisnant

Guest Worship Leader | Ansley Stewart



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### 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](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

### Officers

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

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

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



## Life at FPC



### 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

### Monday, June 12

- 5:30pm Mission Trip Meeting

### Tuesday, June 13

RSVP deadline for Lunch Bunch

- 10:00am PVA Day Trip

### Wednesday, June 14

- 11:30am Lunch Bunch
- 5:30pm Mission Trip Book Study on Zoom

### Thursday, June 15

- 5:30pm Belief and Beer

### Sunday, June 18

#### Third Sunday after Pentecost

- 10:00am Donuts and Devo
- 11:00am Worship—Montreat Music Commission

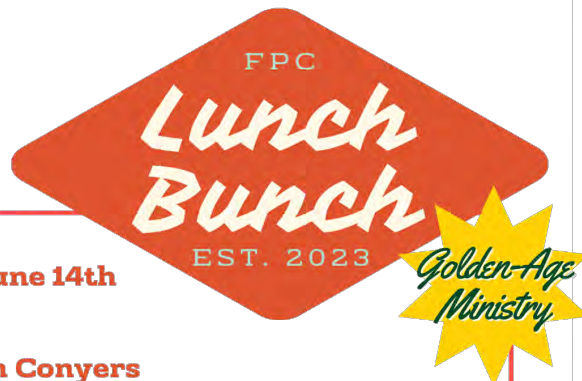
June  
Lunch

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 YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

**BELIEF AND**  
--- BEER ---

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION  
MAY 16TH | 5:30PM  
AT THE SOCIAL GOAT  
CHILDCARE AT FPC

TEXT  
"@K74G9K"  
TO 810-10  
FOR  
UPDATES &  
REMINDERS

## FPC at Camp Meetings!

We'll have FPC representation at multiple camp meetings this summer!

**Smyrna Camp Meeting (June 23-29)** will feature the *Ambassador Choir* on June 29th and a sermon from *Larry Kennon* on June 26!

**Salem Campground Meeting (June 14-21)** will feature *Alice Walker* at every service, with *Neeley* offering prayers and the *Ambassador Choir* singing on July 17, and the *Chancel Choir* singing on July 20!

Check the e-news for more details on locations, service times, and



# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Illness

- ✦ Peni Kehoe - upcoming back surgery
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV liver cancer
- ✦ John McCarthy - broken shoulder and collar bone
- ✦ Bill Loebler - 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ 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. A small grave side service will be held on June 24, 2023 at 11:00am at Oconee Hill Cemetery.
- ✦ 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.



## BLOOD DRIVE

**June 29, 2023**

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

**DONORS AND  
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) to register  
 Call **Curtis Watson**  
 at **404-550-1212** to volunteer



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.