

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA



Third Sunday after Pentecost

JUNE 18, 2023

God's Creative Connection

✦ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Fairest Lord Jesus
with *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Silesian Folk Melody

Arr. by Stan Pethel

William Ringham

Arr. by B.F. White

William Ringham

Traditional American melody

Oh How I Love Jesus

Prelude

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Robert Lowry

Arr. By Stan Pethel

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

written by Cynthia Langston Kirk

Welcome to a time of wonder

and music that calls us home.

Welcome to hear God's words that inspire and challenge

and to reminders that we are offered holy hospitality -

Hospitality that teaches us how to open our lives to others

leading us to fully live open minds, open hearts, open doors.

✦ Hymn of Praise 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✦ Call to Confession

Kenny Compton

✦ Community Confession

Kenny Compton

Merciful God, you are always drawing the circle of your love wider, but often we resist. You tell us that all people are your beloved, and we ask,

“Why?” “Why them?” “Even them?!” We are quick to judge others rather than being grateful that we, too, are included in the fold. We prioritize the privileged, the powerful and the people who look and act right, but you extend grace first to the sinner, the outcast and the marginalized. Forgive us, O God. Transform us, that we may show mercy as you show mercy. 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

Prayer for God’s Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:1-15

Pew Bible page 14

Readers’ Theater

Charles Ardis, Larry Kennon

Message

Creative Hospitality

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

John McCarthy

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
the realization of true humanity.
Jesus, a Palestinian Jew,
lived among his own people,
sharing their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows.
Expressing God's love in word and deed,
he became a friend to sinners,
and a refuge for those cast aside.
Many rejected him and demanded his death,
but he gave himself freely,
with mercy and love.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.
The victim of sin became the victor,
conquering death for all people.
In Christ Jesus, love gets the final word.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

John McCarthy

**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

More Love, More Love

William Ringham
Shaker Hymn

✠ Response 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

✠ 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

God Be with You till We Meet Again

William G. Tomer
Arranged by Donald F. Marsh



Worship Practices

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.

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. Community Confession from *Presbyterian Outlook*. Affirmation of Faith adapted from PCUSA’s *Confession of 1967*.



Sermon Series

God's Creative Connection

This sermon series begins with the creative agency of God's Spirit at Pentecost, when God uses the power of language to create and connect a new people. Even as God is doing a new thing, we know this same creative Spirit has been at work since the very beginning, from the creation of the world to the creative ways God works to connect with humanity. We will explore Genesis as we learn more about how God works creatively to redeem humanity, restoring the created order to its original, "very good" status and reconnecting what we have divided. God's vision of a world of persons connected to one another and to God will be realized, even if God has to use some very creative methods to do so!



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Mary Catherine Whisnant

Acolyte | Palmer Wilson

Liturgists | Charles Ardis, Kenny Compton, Larry Kennon, John McCarthy

Montreat Worship and Music Conference Participants

Krista Firkus

Pat Harper

Neeley Lane

MaryRantz Lane

Erin Morgan

Valerie Morgan

Parker

Becky Ramsey

Alicia Taylor

Beth Vining

Danny Vining

Alice Walker

Ken Walker

Following worship today you will have the opportunity to pick up a prayer wrist band.

These wristbands include names of participants of our summer trips:

Montreat Worship and Music Conference, Montreat Middle School Conference, and our PDA Mission Trip. All are invited to pray for these summer trip experiences.



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> | <i>Nursery Staff</i> |
| Alicia Taylor | <i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i> | Hattie Bellinger |
| Alice Walker | <i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i> | Sierra BlackShear |
| Catherine Laseter | <i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i> | Jahniyah Greene |
| Peni Kehoe | <i>Finance Administrator</i> | Laina Lalane |
| | | Kyla White |

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Peni Kehoe - back surgery recovery
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV liver cancer
- ✦ John McCarthy - broken shoulder and collar bone
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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.

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.



American Red Cross
at FPC Covington



You are invited to
"Text to Give" your offering.
Text FPCCOV followed by your
donation amount to: 73256
Or scan the QR code and follow
the link to give online.

BLOOD DRIVE

June 29, 2023

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

**DONORS AND
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Visit RedCrossBlood.org to register
Contact [Curtis Watson](#) to volunteer



Donuts
& DEVO
SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM
THROUGH JUNE AND JULY

Life at FPC



Sunday, June 18

Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Donuts and Devo

11:00am Worship—Montreat Music Commission

Monday, June 19

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Tuesday, June 20

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

10:00am Sandwich Ministry

Wednesday, June 21

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Thursday, June 22

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Friday, June 23

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

Saturday, June 24

9:30am Meals on Wheels delivery

Sunday, June 25

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Donuts and Devo

11:00am Worship

5:30pm Family Trail Walk



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 meals.

