

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

JUNE 25, 2023

God's Creative Connection

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Come Down, O Love Divine
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Mark Sedio
J.S. Bach
Robin Milford

Prelude

O God Our Help in Ages Past

Diane Bish

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

Do not be afraid:

God hears our cries when we are lost.

Do not be afraid:

God does not leave us abandoned.

Do not be afraid:

God is with us, now and always.

Let us worship the Living God!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 24** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* HOLY MANNA

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

God of Abraham and Sarah; God of Hagar, God of Isaac and God of Ishmael, send your Holy Spirit among us to help us confess the ways in which we have turned on one another. We have failed to care for the

**weak, the poor, the disenfranchised among us; we seek our own preservation. Your Son emptied himself and revealed your eternal self-giving love. Forgive us, we pray.
Wipe sin from our lives and lead us to find our true selves in Christ alone.
Amen.**

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

God, who loves us, does not abandon us, will not forsake us.
Our Savior hears our cries when hurt by others,
and feels the tear in our own souls when we cause pain and division.
The death of our sin cannot bind us, for we are freed.
Hear the good news, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✦ **Hymn of Response 59**

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

Perri Walden, soprano; Aubrey Evans, alto

Music by Jean Sibelius
Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Genesis 21:8-21

Pew Bible page 17

Message

God Hears Me

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 43**

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

O Rest in the Lord
Janet Carmichael, soprano

from *Elijah*
Music by Felix Mendelssohn
Edited and arr. by Patrick M. Liebergen

✠ 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 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

✠ 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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Matt Limbaugh



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.



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 | Mary Lindsey Whisnant



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 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

Celebrations

- ✦ Please join us in welcoming our Summer Seminary Intern from Columbia Theological Seminary, Minister Felicia Carson, Ph.D.! Felicia will begin her call at FPC on July 6th.

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.



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

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.



WORSHIP WITH US!

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES:

SUNDAYS AT 11:00AM IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK
JULY 16-AUGUST 13



DID JESUS
REALLY
SAY THAT?

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 26th!

Salem Campground Meeting (July 14-21) will feature *Alice Walker* at every service. July 17th will feature *Neeley* offering prayers at both services with the *Ambassador Choir* singing at the midday service, and the *Chancel Choir* singing at the evening service!

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



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

