

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA



# Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 9, 2023

## God's Creative Connection

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



## *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

### **Gathering Music**

*When in Our Music God is Glorified  
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Matt Limbaugh  
ST. DENIO  
Rowland Pritchard

### **Prelude**

*As We Gather at Your Table*

Joshua Evanovich

### **Chiming of the Hour**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **✠ Call to Worship**

Psalm 45

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.

**They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,**

to make known to all people your mighty deeds  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and gracious in all his deeds.

Let us worship the Lord with gladness!

### **✠ Hymn of Praise 366**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

## ✠ Call to Confession

## ✠ Community Confession

God of love,

You created us out of love, for love.

And yet

We have not loved you;

We have not loved one another;

We have not loved ourselves.

Love is hard. Love is messy. Love is complicated.

Grant us permission to see afresh what we love, who we love, and how we express love for you, one another, and self.

Thank you for your faithful love as we desire to love more deeply, love more fully.

Amen.

## ✠ Hymn of Response 693

*Though I May Speak*

○ WALY, WALY

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole.*

*Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed.*

## ✠ 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**

## **Anthem**

*Reckless Love*  
Ansley Stewart

Written by Caleb Culver  
Cory Asbury, and Ran Jackson

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

### **Scripture Reading**

Genesis 24: 34, 42-49, 58-67

Pew Bible page 19

### **Reader's Theater**

Amy Fraser, Charles Ardis, Lori Ardis,  
Yvonne Hill-Davenport, Felicia Carson

### **Message**

*Designing Love*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

### **✦ Hymn of Response 340**

*When Love Is Found*

O WALY, WALY

***When love is found and hope comes home,  
sing and be glad that two are one.***

***When love explodes and fills the sky,  
praise God and share our Maker's joy.***

***When love has flower'd in trust and care,  
build both each day that love may dare  
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,  
to serve and strive for truth and right.***

***When love is tried as loved ones change,  
hold still to hope though all seems strange,  
till ease returns and love grows wise  
through list'ning ears and opened eyes.***

***When love is torn and trust betrayed,  
pray strength to love till torments fade,  
till lovers keep no score of wrong,  
but hear through pain love's Easter song.***

# Mission Trip Commissioning

## Offering Our Gifts

### Offertory

*How He Loves*  
Ansley Stewart

John Mark McMillan

### ✠ Response

*When Love Comes Home*

○ WALY, WALY

***Praise God for love, praise God for life,  
in age or youth, in calm or strife.  
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed  
through death and life in broken bread.***



## *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

*Come As You Are*  
Ansley Stewart

Written by David Crowder  
Matt Maher, and Ben Glover

## 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 215

*What Wonderous Love Is This*

WONDEROUS LOVE

### ✦ 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

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON



## *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 "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 | Bob Tabb

Acolyte | Amelia Evans



# Mission Trip Participants

Felicia Carson  
Neeley Rentz Lane  
Pily Waetzig

Judy Davis  
Stephanie Scarborough  
Mary Lindsey Whisnant

Erin Morgan  
Wolf Waetzig  
Adrian Whisnant



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) | 770.786.7321

## Our Mission Statement

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## 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>	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Charles Ardis	<b>Engaging</b>	<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>	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp		<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb		<i>Finance (2023)</i>
Tom Crews	<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	<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>	<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</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Jahnyah Greene
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	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
- ✦ 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.!

### 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

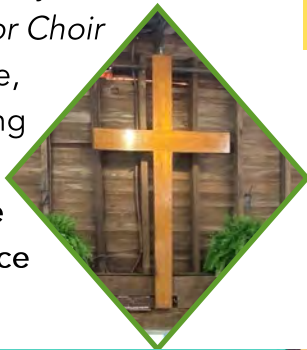
### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

## FPC at Camp Meetings!

**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.



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?

Saturday, July 22nd  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP to Neeley  
by July 20th

# Men's Prayer Breakfast



**Sunday, July 9**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00am Donuts & Devo

11:00am Worship—Mission Trip Commission

**Tuesday, July 11**

RSVP deadline for Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, July 12**

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

11:30am Lunch Bunch

**Thursday, July 13**

Mission Trip Returns

**Sunday, July 16**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00am Donuts and Devo

11:00am Worship—Montreat Middle Commission



FPC CHURCHWIDE  
**Summer Party**  
PICNIC & POOL PARTY  
SUNDAY, JULY 30  
4:00PM

at River Cove Pool  
500 River Cove Rd  
Social Circle, GA 30025

RSVP to the office  
by July 26th

**On the Menu: Fried Chicken**

Bring a friend and a side dish to share!  
River Cove Pool has plenty of cover  
for folks who prefer shade!



*July Lunch*

**Wednesday, July 12th**

**at 11:30AM**

**El Charro on the Covington Bypass**

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, July 11th at 12:00PM

770.786.7321 or [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)