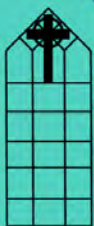


**DID JESUS
REALLY
SAY THAT?**



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

**SEVENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**

JULY 16, 2023

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

O Stor Gud

Swedish Folk Melody; Arr. by Jerry Ray

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard; Arr. by Jerry Ray

It Is Well with My Soul

Philip P. Bliss; Arr. by Jerry Ray

Prelude

I Love to Tell the Story

Words by A. Catherine Hankey

Music by William G. Fischer; Arr. by Phillip Keveren

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Jesus says, "Judge Not."

This is hard. God, show us the way!

Jesus says, "Do Not Worry."

This is hard. God, show us the way!

Jesus says, "Love Your Enemies."

This is hard. God, show us the way!

Jesus says, "Turn the Other Cheek."

This is hard. God, show us the way!

Jesus says, "Forgive As You Have Been Forgiven."

This is hard. God, Show us the way!

We are here to worship! Show us the way!

✠ Hymn of Praise

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

AURELIA

***We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand;***

***He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.***

***You only are the Maker of all things near and far.
you paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.***

***We thank you, then, Creator, for all things bright and good,
the seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer, for all your love imparts,
and what you most would welcome, our humble, thankful hearts.***

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

adapted from Ted Loder

**Gracious and Holy One, we come to you full of much that clutters and
distracts, stifles and burdens. Empty us now of gnawing dissatisfactions,
of anxious imaginings, or fretful preoccupations, of nagging prejudices, of
old scores to settle, and of the arrogance of being right. Empty us of
judging others by the way they look, talk, walk, for what they believe or
how they live. We have fallen short in treating all your beloved children
with kindness and love. Fill us with your love as we sing together:**

✠ Hymn of Response 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

CHERPONT

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

***Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
this is the way we should live like you.***

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love;
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.***

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Special Music

Holy Spirit, Hear Us

Holden Evans

Music by Friedrich Filitz

Arr. by Palmer/Manus/Lethco

Anthem

Do Unto Others (The Golden Rule)

Kately Lane, Paisley Lane, MaryRantz Lane

Vicki Hancock Wright

based on Matthew 7:12

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:1-12

Pew Bible page 6

Hear now the Word of the Lord.

Our ears are open.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Judge Not: Did Jesus Really Say That?

Rev. Neeley Rantz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 175**

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

Montreat Middle School Commissioning

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

Simple Gifts

Traditional Shaker Melody
Arr. by Victor Labenske

✠ **Response 606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNREDTH

***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 465**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

✦ **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 in C

Michael Thomas
Quoting Edvard Grieg



Montreat Middle School Participants

Beatrice Briggs

Aubrey Evans

Holden Evans

Kately Lane

Neeley Rentz Lane

Mary Lindsey Whisnant



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Bob Tabb

Acolyte | Holden Evans



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.

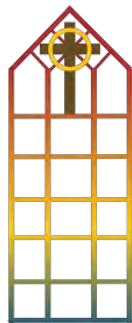
Sound System

We are excited to announce that session has approved updating the sound system in our sanctuary! Our sound system has not been updated in several years and we believe this is a valuable way to make our church welcoming and accessible for all of God's people. The new system is designed to improve the sound in the space, not only in volume but in clarity and it will include a Bluetooth hearing aid connectivity option.

Due to supply chain delays we do not have a firm timeline for installation, so we still encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to sit close to the front near the main speakers. Know that you have been heard and you are loved!

Use

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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COVINGTON, GA

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	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	<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>
Belonging	
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp	<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Finance (2023)</i>
Connecting (Deacons)	
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Eleanor Scarborough	<i>Pastoral Care (2023)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2024)</i>
More	
Billy Fortson	<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 & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kyla White

Life at FPC

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast



Sunday, July 16

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Donuts & Devo

11:00am Worship—Montreat Middle Commission

Monday, July, 17

11:00am Ambassador Choir at Salem Campground

7:30pm Chancel Choir at Salem Campground

Wednesday, July 19

Montreat Middle Conference begins

10:00am Coffee Club

Thursday, July 20

RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, July 22

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, July 23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Montreat Middle returns

10:00am Donuts and Devo

11:00am Worship—Guest Preacher Larry Kennon

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!

FPC at Camp Meetings!

Salem Campground Meeting (July 14-21) will feature *Alice Walker* at every service. **TOMORROW**, 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!

F P C C O V I N G T O N 2 0 2 3

Rally Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH
START THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF
WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

NAMETAGS & BREAKFAST
FELLOWSHIP HALL | 9:45AM
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
SANCTUARY | 11:00AM

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

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.

Presbyterian Women is supporting Fairview Elementary School again this year!

You are invited to bring bookbags and clinic supplies to the narthex before July 31st for a great start to the school year!



Sunday, August 13th we will be welcoming NEW MEMBERS to FPC! Talk to Neeley if you are interested in joining or learning more about what membership means!

We welcome everyone into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!

Sunday, August 13th
after worship
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

Becoming a member is a valuable way to say

"I have chosen FPC Covington as my home to trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ!"



pcusa.org
fpccov.org



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.