



**DID JESUS
REALLY
SAY THAT?**

**EIGHTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST**

JULY 23, 2023



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

<i>Flute Tune</i>	Thomas Augustine Arne
<i>To God Be the Glory</i>	Tom Birchwood
<i>Adagio from Chorale in A Minor</i>	Cesar Franck

Prelude

<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	Robert Hebble
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Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

The Lord is God; we are God's people.

We are the sheep of God's pasture.

Let us worship God.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and

strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ our Lord, 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**

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

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Seek Ye First

Krista Firkus, Perri Walden, Alicia Taylor

Music by Karen Lafferty

Text from Matthew 6:33

Last verse by John F. Wilson

Arranged by John F. Wilson

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 6:25-34

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

Don't Worry???

Rev. Larry Kennon



Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn of Response 661

Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

SPARROW

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

Consider the Lilies
Nicole Howell

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

✠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 697

Take My Life

HENDON

✠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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

David Cherwien



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.



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Bob Tabb
Acolyte | Ruth Ralston

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>	
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	

Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger
Sierra BlackShear
Jahniyah Greene
Laina Lalane
Kyla White



FPC COVINGTON 2023
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

Presbyterian Women is supporting Fairview Elementary School as a Partner in Education again this year!

You are invited to bring bookbags and clinic supplies to the narthex before the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 6th!



Come explore the various elements of worship!
KIDS WORSHIP CLASS!
 Sunday, August 13th
 4:00pm-5:00pm
 for 1st-3rd Graders
**BAPTISM
 COMMUNION
 PRAYER
 LEADERSHIP
 ...AND MORE**



- Sunday, July 23**
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
 Montreat Middle returns
 10:00am Donuts & Devo
 11:00am Worship—Guest Preacher Larry Kennon
- Tuesday, July 25**
 12:00pm Staff Planning Retreat
 Office will be CLOSED in the afternoon
- Wednesday, July 26**
 RSVP for Summer Party
 10:00am Coffee Club
- Sunday, July 30**
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
 10:00am Donuts & Devo
 11:00am Worship
 4:00pm Summer Party at River Cove Pool

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!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Doris Deadwyler, friend of Judy Davis - hip replacement ✦ 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 ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ 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 ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of the congregation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's <p>Military Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy <p>Independent and Assisted Living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ 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 |
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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



Sunday, August 20th
11:00am in the Sanctuary

Youth & Children Sunday

Our FPC Kids will be **leading worship** and we will hear from our Youth about their experiences at the **Montreat Middle Conference**

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!"



Regular Sunday School starts back on August 13th at 9:45am! See you there!

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.

