

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

Rally Day

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST
AUGUST 6, 2023

*DID JESUS
REALLY
SAY THAT?*

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Rhosymedre (My Song Is Love Unknown)

R.V. Williams

Toccatà in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

O Love, How Deep, How Broad

Vicki Collingsworth

Prelude

Live Into Hope

TRURO

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Strength is...

Commanding the wind and sea to obey,

Strength is wielding

a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.

Strength is accepting vulnerability

from inside the boat,

Strength is standing in solidarity

with the powerless.

Strength is turning a cheek,

Strength is loving an enemy.

We come to worship

a God who redefines our vision of strength.

✠ Hymn of Praise 391

This Is the Day

ESTE ES EL DÍA

✠ Call to Confession

✠Community Confession

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not always lived up to the example set by Your Son, Jesus Christ.

In Your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.

We confess how difficult it is to truly love the people around us; to care as deeply for their well-being as for our own, to delight in their good fortune without feeling envious.

Forgive us.

Teach us to whole-heartedly love one another.

We confess how often we act out of our own self-interest; putting our needs and desires ahead of the needs of others, hoarding our resources rather than sharing them freely.

Forgive us.

Teach us to live with generosity and compassion.

✠Hymn of Response 434

Restore in Us, O God

BAYLOR

*Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.*

*Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.*

✠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

Blessing of the Backpacks

We invite students, teachers, administrators, extra-curricular leaders, and any others to stand to be recognized and blessed for the new school year.

Baptism of Kora Liese Howell

Elder Louly Hay-Kapp

Baptismal Response 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Anthem

Testify

Bear and Bo Rinehart

Ansley Stewart

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:38-42

Pew Bible page 5

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Be A Light

written by Thomas Rhett, Matt Dragstrem

Ansley Stewart

Josh Miller, and Josh Thompson

Adapted by Ansley Stewart

Message *Turn the other cheek! Did Jesus really say that?*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

excerpt from *Confession of Belhar*

PCUSA

We believe

that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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: An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

10,000 Reasons
Ansley Stewart

written by Matt Redman
and Jonas Myrin

✦ **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 756**

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

✦ **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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Marilyn Arison



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Louly Hay-Kapp

Acolyte | Alexander Whisnant



Baptism Notes

Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; Communion is the other. The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world.

Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). When we are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's own baptism.

Presbyterians celebrate baptism as a communal act of public worship! Today we, as the body of Christ, will say "YES" to walking alongside Kora Howell as we seek to nurture and love her as her family of faith!

Speak to Pastors Neeley or Erin if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.



Worship Practices

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!

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.

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.

Use

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



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | fpccov.org | 770.786.7321

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>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</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>	Jahnyiah Greene
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kyla White

Life at FPC

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL &
CLASSIC HYMN SING**
Sunday, August 20th • 4:00pm
Fellowship Hall
Send hymn requests to alicia@fpccov.org

SOUL FEAST

AUGUST 16



Signup with Erin
to bring your
favorite side!
erin@fpccov.org

Feed your body and soul in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.

RSVP by Monday, August 14th

to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

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



pcusa.org
fpccov.org



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

Sunday, August 6 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:45am Rally Day Breakfast
- 11:00am Worship - Blessing of the Backpacks
- 12:30pm Youth Lunch & Boost

Monday, August 7

- 11:00am Endowment Meeting
- 6:00pm Grief Group

Tuesday, August 8

- RSVP deadline for Lunch Bunch
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 9

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 11:30am Lunch Bunch

Sunday, August 13 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm New Member Welcome
- 4:00pm Kids' Worship Class



Join Neeley, Erin, and some of
your FPC family in the Parlor
for a grief support group.

**Mondays in August
at 6:00pm**

August 7, 14, 21, 28
Enter through the office door

Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 20

Immediately following worship on Sunday, August 20, we will host a congregational meeting with the purpose of hearing and voting on the Nominating Committee's selection of proposed Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2026.

*August
Lunch*

FPC
**Lunch
Bunch**
EST. 2023

*Golden-Age
Ministry*

**Wednesday, August 9th
at 11:30AM**

The Village Grille at Ashton Hills

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, August 8th at 12:00PM

770.786.7321 or catherine@fpccov.org

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Brenda Howell - car accident
- ✦ Caroline Harper, daughter of Pat Harper - cervical cancer
- ✦ Ken Walker - upcoming surgery
- ✦ 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

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with the loved ones of Gene Wallace who passed away on July 26, 2023. A funeral service will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:00am on Saturday, August 26.
- ✦ Our prayers are with the loved ones of Angela Gilmer who passed away on July 26, 2023. A private family service will be held at a later date.

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
- ✦ 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.



You are invited to
"Text to Give" your offering.
 Text FPCCOV followed by your
 donation amount to: 73256

Sunday, August 13th
 4:00pm-5:30pm
 for 1st-3rd Graders

KIDS' WORSHIP CLASS!

Come explore elements of worship and help plan a real service for...

Our FPC Kids will lead worship and we will hear from our Youth about their time at the **Montreat Middle Conference**

BAPTISM
COMMUNION
PRAYER
LEADERSHIP
...AND MORE

Youth & Children Sunday

August 20th 11:00am

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

August 27

Celebrate the Presbyterian Church's roots in the Church of Scotland!

You are invited to bring in fabric from around the world and flags from countries with Presbyterian denominations for the worship art!

Please provide the materials to Alicia Taylor by Friday, August 18th.