

 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023



*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Covington, GA*



✦ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Grace of God and God of Glory*

John Hughes

*Sheep May Safely Graze*

J.S. Bach

*Rejoice, the Lord Is King/Invention No. VIII*

John Darwell/J.S. Bach

## **Prelude**

*Glorify Thy Name*

Arr. Mark Hayes

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## ✦ **Call to Worship**

We will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.

**Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!**

We will declare God's mighty acts  
and celebrate God's abundant goodness.

**Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.**

## ✦ **Hymn of Praise 619**

*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

LAUDA ANIMA

## ✦ **Call to Confession**

## ✦ **Community Confession**

**God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others.**

**We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish**

**your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace, and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.**

## **✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## **✠ Response to God's Grace 582**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*      GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***World without end, without end. Amen.***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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**

*God Provides*  
Ansley Stewart

Songwriter: Tamela Mann

# Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

## Scripture Reading

*Psalm 105:1-6*

Pew Bible page 556

*Exodus 16:2-15*

Pew Bible page 62

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Message

*What Is It?*

Rev. Erin Morgan



# *Responding to the Word*

## ✦ Response 291

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

SPIRIT

## ✦ 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: An Invitation to Generosity

### Offertory

*Honey in the Rock*  
Ansley Stewart

Songwriters: Michael Brandon Lake,  
Brooke Ligertwood, Mitchell Daniel Wong

### ✠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 36

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYDY NOS

### ✠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

*To God Be the Glory*

Tom Birchwood



# 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.

## 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. Currently we expect to have the equipment by October and have it installed in time for Advent! 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.

## 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 | Pat Harper

Acolyte | Amelia Evans, Holden Evans

*Flowers today are given to the glory of God in honor of Alice Walker for her faithful service of 20 years as Organist of FPC. Flowers are given by Ken Walker and Becky Ramsey.*

## 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](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>

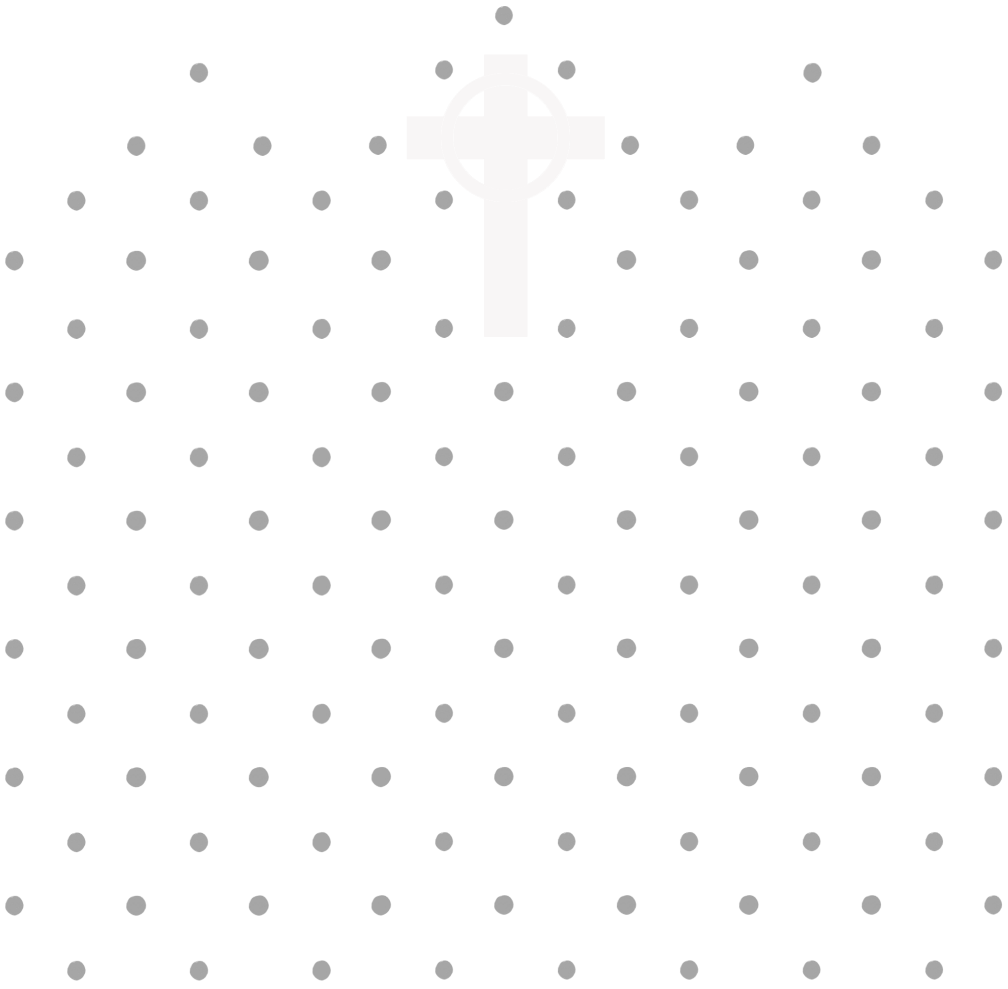
## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	Jahnyah Greene
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Laina Lalane
Krista Firkus	<i>Interim Choir Director</i>	



# Worship Notes & Doodles

*We invite you to fill the space below with the thoughts, reminders, and doodles that you may be blessed with during and after worship.*



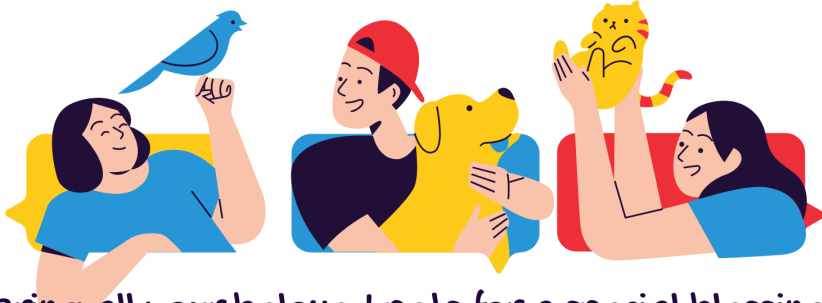
**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
COVINGTON, GA

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



# Blessing of the ANIMALS

Sunday, September 24th  
at 4:00pm on the Playground



Bring all your beloved pets for a special blessing!

ALL ARE WELCOME! BIG OR SMALL!

FURRY, FEATHERED, SCALED,  
COTTON, OR IMAGINARY!

## CHANGE THE WORLD

**SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 21ST  
10:00AM-1:00PM**

Come join us for Change the World Day, an annual

community event of education, service, fun, food, fall festival and fellowship hosted by FUMC!

Our witness team will have a booth to let us reach out and connect to people in our community of all ages! If you'd like to volunteer to help pass out goody bags on the day of, or to join us ahead of time to put everything together **please reach out to Curtis Watson!**

### Sunday, September 24 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

### Tuesday, September 26

- 10:00am Neeley & Felicia at Columbia
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, September 27

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 5:30pm Session Meeting
- 5:30pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, September 28

- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir rehearsal

### Saturday, September 30

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels delivery

### Sunday, October 1 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost World Communion Sunday

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Stillman College Choir
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

## WE ARE MAKING A NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Couldn't join us for picture day?  
Submit your photo by Oct. 9 to  
[catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) to be  
included in the photo directory!

Contact Doug Bolton or the office if you'd like to help put everything together!

If you'd like prints of your photo, contact the photographer, Sue Ann Kuhn Smith at [sueann.ks.photo@bellsouth.net](mailto:sueann.ks.photo@bellsouth.net)

# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

## Illness

- ✦ Billy Wade - recovering from hip replacement surgery
- ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering at home following rehab from car accident
- ✦ Karla Ensminger, sister of Perri Walden - in the hospital
- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ Bobbie Vining, sister-in-law of Danny and Beth Vining - in hospital with pancreatitis
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ Gabby Daugherty
- ✦ Caroline Harper, daughter of Pat Harper - cervical cancer
- ✦ Ken Walker - upcoming surgery
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Doris Deadwyler, friend of Judy Davis - hip replacement
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis

- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

All **prayer requests** should be sent to: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)  
Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

## Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

- Children's Class (PreK-4th)
- Youth Class (5th and up)
- Foundations Adult Class
- The Wired WORD Class

# World COMMUNION Sunday

## ALL ARE WELCOME! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST AT FPC COVINGTON



On Sunday, Oct. 1 we will be collecting a Love Gift for to Stillman College Choir for the time they've spent with us. Donate cash or check with the memos "Stillman" or "Love Gift" or give online choosing the "Love Gift" fund from the dropdown menu.



You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering!  
Text\* FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to:  
73256 and follow the link to give online!

\*Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.