

OCTOBER 1, 2023
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

World Communion Sunday

*First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA & Stillman College Choir*



✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Go Down, Moses and I Want to be Ready
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Evan Uppercue
Charles Callahan
Paul Taylor

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

Diane Bish

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Choral Introit

An Exaltation to Praise

Robert J. Fryson

✠ **Call to Worship**

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

We gather with them in heart and mind.

Around the world the broken body is made whole.

As part of that body we join in its unity.

Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.

Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 401**

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠Community Confession

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty, claiming that debt forgiveness is unfair. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world for jubilee. Re-order our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive. Amen.

✠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

Achieved is the Glorious Work

Joseph Haydn

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-17

Pew Bible page 197

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Tom Fetteke

I Know I Been Changed

Roy L. Belfield

Somebody's Praying

John G. Elliot



Responding to the Word

✦ Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

PCUSA

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

**But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

Today's plate offering goes to Stillman College Concert Choir! We are grateful for their gifts of worship leadership through song.

Offertory

Ev'ry Time I Fele the Spirit
DaVontay Brown

H.T. Burleigh

✠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.***



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

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.

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 765

May the God of Hope Go with Us

ARGENTINA

Sing through twice

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

✦ 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.

Benediction Response

In This Very Room

Ron and Carol Harris

✦ Postlude

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens



Guest Worship Leaders

Under the direction of Dr. Jocqueline K. Richardson, the Stillman College Choir is a choral ensemble composed of students who are music and non-music majors. The Choir's repertoire consists of a variety of sacred and secular choral literature from the Renaissance to the Contemporary periods. The choir performs at college events, local and regional churches, and special events throughout the academic year. The Stillman College Choir has performed in several major cities, including San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Nashville, Atlanta, Detroit, Washington D.C., and in Tuscaloosa's sister city, Schorndorf, Germany.

As a token of our appreciation of the Stillman College Concert Choir leading us in worship today, you are invited to contribute to a Love Gift. This offering will go to directly to Stillman College Choir and their ministry!

You may give to the love gift online under the fund "Love Gift" (see the insert for instructions to give online), check (memo line Stillman), or contributing to today's cash plate.



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

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!

Use

One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. This week's worship guide cover art was provided by PCUSA Special Offerings with the following credit: *Body of Christ* - art by Julie Lonneman



World Communion Sunday

As people of faith the table is central to our worship. The Lord's table is where we gather as a broken and beloved community of faith to celebrate the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Sinners and Saints, doubters, and believers, broken and beloved. Christ welcomes us all. The Lord's table is a table of thanksgiving, remembrance, and celebration. It is the joyful feast of the people of God!

On World Communion Sunday, we get to imagine Christ's body all around the world breaking bread and drinking from the cup. One Body – one bread, one cup! Church, can you imagine a table so big? We would need more chairs! Can you imagine the flawed family of God all together around one big table? How might we build a bigger table in our homes, our hearts, our church on this day?

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

As we gather around the table today, I encourage you to prepare your hearts to receive the expansive love and grace of God. And as you do so, who might you need to invite to the table? Jesus says, come, the table is ready!



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Nichole Howell

Kids' Ushers | Kora Howell, Audrey Fullerton

Acolytes | Ruth Ralston, Rose 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

Senior Pastor

Erin Morgan

Associate Pastor

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO Organist

Catherine Laseter

Dir. of Communications

Felicia Carson

Seminary Intern

Peni Kehoe

Finance Administrator

Krista Firkus

Interim Choir Director

Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger

Sierra BlackShear

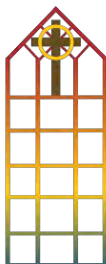
Jahnyiah Greene

Laina Lalane



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 | 770.786.7321

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt - mother hit by car in the crosswalk
- ✦ Sam and Melissa Jo Feuer, friends of the Scarboroughs & Fullertons - mourning the passing of Sam's mother
- ✦ 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

- ✦ 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 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

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 **please reach out to Curtis Watson!**

Join us for Change the World PREP DAY on October 18th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall to put everything together!

OCTOBER 22
5:00-6:30PM

Learn and discuss parenting strategies for positive childhood development and mental health.

Come engage in conversations with professionals and parents for guidance in the busy world of raising a child.

FAITHFUL PARENTING WORKSHOP

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
COUNCELORS

MENTAL HEALTH

CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT

COME HEAR & SHARE

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

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! Or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page!

To give to Stillman College Choir, select the "Love Gift" fund from the drop down menu.



*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.

SOUL FEAST

OCT. 18

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



**ON THE MENU:
BREAKFAST
FOR DINNER**



RSVP by Monday, October 16th
to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

WE ARE MAKING A NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Couldn't join us for picture day?

**Submit your photo to catherine@fpccov.org
by Oct. 9th to be included in the 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

Sunday, October 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—World Communion Sunday
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Tuesday, October 3

- 10:00am PW Combined Circles Meeting
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, October 4

Thriving Congregations Conference

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 5:30pm Pizza & Pumpkins Paint Party
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 5

Thriving Congregations Conference

- 5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

Sunday, October 8

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Stewardship Kickoff



Pizza & Pumpkins Paint Party

Wednesday, October 4th
at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall



Apple Orchard

B.J. REECE ORCHARD IN
ELLIJAY, GA

- Bee Observation | Wagon Ride |
- Apple Picking | Petting Farm |
- Apple Cider Sipper to Take Home

OCTOBER 19 2023

Meet at FPC at 10:00am to carpool
Cost \$15 each
RSVP to neeley@fpccov.org by Oct. 15