



First Presbyterian Church
Covington, CA

Where Our
Treasure Is



OCTOBER 22, 2023
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

✦ *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Brother James' Air
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Be Thou My Vision

M. Searle Wright
Franklin Ritter
David Cherwien

Prelude

"Fairest Lord Jesus" with "As the Deer"

Anna Laura Page

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ **Call to Worship**

We come to worship God:
within the fellowship of the faithful
friends and neighbors,
siblings and strangers
all who love God
and whom God loves.
As the one people of God,
let us lift our voices together!

✦ **Hymn of Praise 510**

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name

COME, SHARE THE LORD

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

Gracious God, we confess
to all the sins that tear relationships apart:
pride, arrogance, greed,

**gossip, mistrust, jealousy,
assuming the worst of others
and bringing to them the worst of ourselves.
Mend the broken places in our families,
neighborhoods, churches, and communities.
Bind us together as the one loving and beloved body of Christ
committed to remembering that we need each other
as we need you. Hear us as we pray:**

✦ **Hymn 701**

Lord, Prepare Me

SANCTUARY

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.***

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✦ **Response to God's Grace 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

Special Moment

FISHING SURPRISE

Anthem

Valuable
Ansley Stewart

written by Lauren Daigle,
Lori McKenna, & Mike Elizondo

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Pew Bible page 174

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Where Our Treasure Is: Connecting in Fellowship

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✦ Response 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

✦ 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

Judy Hooten

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!*



Offertory

You've Got a Friend

composer: Carole King

Ansley Stewart

You are invited to sing along with the chorus

You just call out my name

And you know wherever I am

I'll come running to see you again

Winter, spring, summer or fall

All you have to do is call

And I'll be there

You've got a friend

✠Response 710

We Lift Our Voices

OFFERING

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.***

***Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;
they are yours: we are an offering.***

***All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.***

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering; we are an offering.***

✠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 306**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

✦ **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**

In Thee Is Gladness

J.S. Bach



Stories of Stewardship

Randy Layton

Stewardship to me is taking care of something entrusted to our care. First Presbyterian is a spiritual gift to me, so I feel I'm required to help take care of our church and give back to it and our community. I have served on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and I presently serve on the Worship Committee. I have volunteered time with Meals on Wheels, Family Promise, and with a local food pantry. I participated in a sandwich ministry during COVID, and I enjoy baking cookies and cakes for church events and treats for the Wired Word Sunday school class that I attend. I serve as an usher and welcome members and guests to our church. And I tithe so we can meet our financial obligations and continue to be able to reach out to the community.

God has richly blessed my family and me, far beyond what I deserve. I can never fully repay all that has been given to me, but the above activities are meaningful and fulfilling ways to make a start. I encourage you to recognize your gifts and see how you can give.



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Nichole Howell
Acolytes | Alexander Whisnant, Mary Lindsey Whisnant



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.

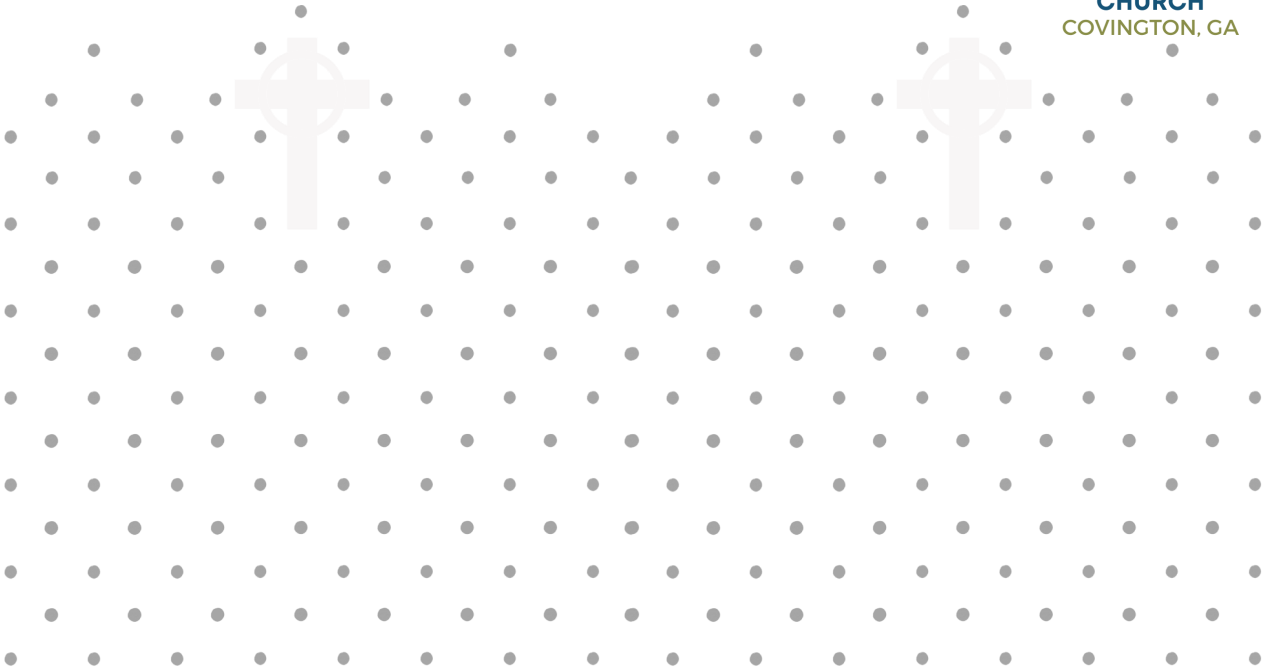
Friendship Registers—In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends! We 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. 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. *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.

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.



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.

Officers

Reaching Out
Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*

Engaging
Charles Ardis *Faith Formation (2025)*
Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*
Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*
Mary Catherine Whisnant *Faith Formation (2024)*

Belonging
Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*
Loully 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>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Sierra BlackShear
	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Peni Kehoe	<i>Interim Choir Director</i>	Laina Lalane
Krista Firkus		

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ Shelvie Belser, grandmother of Neeley Rentz Lane
- ✦ Carolyn Watson - undergoing cancer treatment
- ✦ Bernice Bailey - cancer treatment
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering at home following rehab from car accident
- ✦ Karla Ensminger, sister of Perri Walden
- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

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.

Sunday, November 5th at CASA's office

All are invited to pull out your tools & help us plant flowers!
We'll eat lunch in the Fellowship Hall following worship then head to CASA.

RSVP to erin@fpccov.org by Nov. 2nd
8134 Geiger Street, Suite 15, Covington, GA 30014



FAITHFUL PARENTING WORKSHOP

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.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 5, 2023



Submit names of loved ones who have passed to catherine@fpccov.org by November 1st

Bring in framed photos of your loved ones to Neeley by November 2nd

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering!
Find more details in the worship guide under "Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity."

OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE!

We will be collecting food donations for the Community Food Pantry and for Repairers of the Breach in the bin in the Narthex all month!



Suggested Donation Items

Community Food Pantry:
Family Size boxes of kid-friendly cereal

Repairers of the Breach:
Ramen noodles



ALL are invited to join us for the Community Friendsgiving at the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal!

Partnership between FPC, FUMC, & CGSE



Asking for a friend...

A sermon series inspired by your friends' questions!

Send questions to neeley@fpccov.org by Oct. 26 for the Nov. 12-26 sermon series



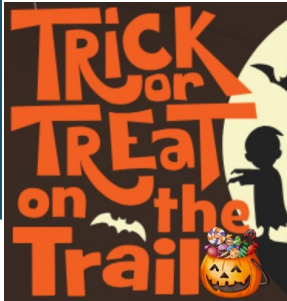
Visit fpccov.org/stewardship

to learn all about "Where Our Treasure Is" and how we are striving to honor the church with our time, talents, and treasures

this stewardship season! **Commitment Sunday is NEXT WEEK October 29th, so be sure to get your pledges in!**

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.
Children's Class (PreK-4th)
Youth Class (5th+)
Foundations Adult Class
The Wired WORD



We will have a table at Legion Field on Halloween! Join us to help pass out candy from 4:30-6:30pm. See Erin for more info!



November Lunch

11:30AM on Wednesday, November 1st

The Village Grille at Ashton Hills

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, October 31st



Sunday, October 22

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Stewardship
- 5:00pm Faithful Parenting Workshop
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Monday, October 23

- 5:30pm Officer Training

Tuesday, October 24

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 4:30pm Thriving Congregation Meeting
- 5:30pm Belief & Beer

Wednesday, October 25

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

Thursday, October 26

- 9:30am Neeley at Merryvale
- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir at Merryvale

Saturday, October 28

- 8:00am Meals on Wheels

Sunday, October 29 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Commitment Sunday
- 12:00pm Church Wide Lunch
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF AND BEER

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION
OCTOBER 24TH | 5:30PM
THE SOCIAL GOAT
CHILDCARE AT FPC

TEXT "@K74G9K" TO 810-10 FOR UPDATES AND REMINDERS!



Narrative Budget 2024



7
*Where Our
Treasure Is
FPC Stewardship*

Introduction

What is a Narrative Budget?

A Narrative Budget tells the story of how our church practices good stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us. It provides a vision of where our church hopes to be in the coming budget cycle.



Included below:

- ◇ FPC Mission Statement and Core Values
- ◇ Organizational Chart of our Servant Leadership
- ◇ Budget for 2023
- ◇ Budget Hopes with Rationale for 2024

Mission:

FPC 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.

Core Values:

1. *Reaching Out:* We believe the work of the church is to "act justly," "love mercy," and "walk humbly" with God. As servants, we care for strangers, heal the sick, feed the hungry, help the oppressed, and share the Gospel.
2. *Engaging:* We believe in the engagement of all of God's children, both inside and outside the church, through their own spiritual gifts as we continue to grow.



3. *Belonging:* We believe in celebrating everyone's journey as we share compassion, acceptance, and love for one another.
4. *Connecting:* We believe that we are part of the church universal that rejoices in all of God's children and celebrates the differences among us.



2023 Big Idea Core Strategies:

1. Grow Membership/Focus on young families
2. Equipping the Saints/Invigorate member participation
3. Enhance Community Outreach
4. Community Inreach/Place of fellowship and Community for current members
5. Nurture Older Adult Ministry

**These Big Idea Core Strategies were developed by our Strategic Planning Team in collaboration with the Session.*

The Church Operating Budget

Listed below is the actual budget for fiscal year 2023 (FY23) and our dream budget for fiscal year 2024 (FY24). The next two pages breakdown our servant leaders with their ministry areas, and a chart illustrating the percentile breakdown of the budget. The following pages look at each ministry area's FY23 budget and their dream budget for FY24.

We submit this information for your prayerful consideration of your 2024 financial pledge. The final 2024 budget must be prepared and approved by the Session and will be based on your generous pledges.

Total Church Budget for FY23: \$521,307

Wish Budget for 2024: \$558,822

overall **7.2% increase**
from 2023 to 2024

2024 Church Organization



Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

FPC Pastors

Senior Pastor
Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane
Associate Pastor
Rev. Erin Morgan

Session

Clerk of Session
John McCarthy



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

Reaching Out

Witness
Curtis Watson
Luke Usry
Staff:
Erin Morgan

Engaging

Worship
Pat Harper
Nichole Howell
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane

Faith Formation
Mary Catherine
Whisnant
Charles Ardis
Staff: Erin Morgan

Belonging

Finance and Stewardship
Billy Fortson
Staff: Peni Kehoe,
Neeley Rentz Lane

Welcome
Doug Bolton
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane,
Catherine Laseter

Connecting Diaconate

Pastoral Care
Tom Crews
Janet Carmichael
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane

Faith & Fellowship
Darcel Tabb
Dana Hall
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane

More

Personnel
Billy Fortson
Danny Vining
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane

Nominating Committee
Louly Hay Kapp
Nichole Howell
Staff: Neeley
Rentz Lane

Strategic Planning
Jodi Atkins
Staff:
Neeley Rentz Lane

Facilities and Technology
Kenny Compton
Staff: Catherine
Laseter, Neeley
Rentz Lane

Staff

Senior Pastor
Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

Associate Pastor
Rev. Erin Morgan

Seminary Intern

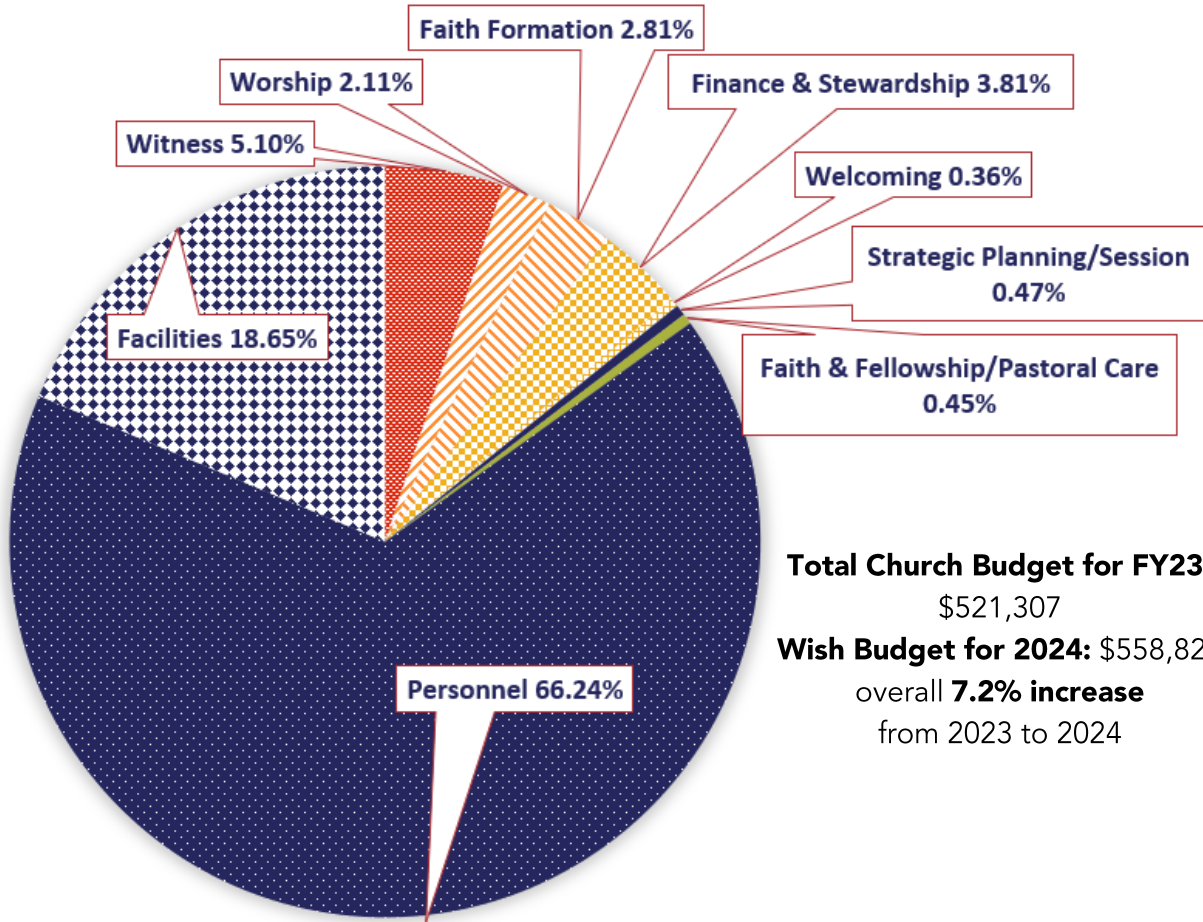
**Music & Worship
Art Director**

**Organist
Ambassador Choir**
Alice Walker

**Communications &
Operations Director**
Catherine Laseter

**Finance
Administrator**
Peni Kehoe

Nursery Workers
Hattie Bellinger
Sierra BlackShear
Jahniyah Greene
Laina Lalane



Total Church Budget for FY23:
\$521,307

Wish Budget for 2024: \$558,822
overall **7.2% increase**
from 2023 to 2024

REACHING OUT

Witness

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$22,860

The Witness Team encourages the church to participate in Christ's work throughout our community by being living examples of God's love and care to all God's children. This team seeks caring people who are working together to promote God's love with forgiveness to others in the community and in doing so, may others see a glimpse of Christ in us.

Budgeted items for this work include: benevolence for Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Columbia Theological Seminary, Community Food Pantry, Faith Works, Missions, Counseling Funds, and Community Outreach.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$28,500 5.10% of FY24 Budget

We have seen an increase in families and individuals participating in the mission and outreach ministries of the church. It has been a gift to see how we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community! We took a group on a mission trip with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in New Bern, NC, where we assisted individuals experiencing loss after recent hurricanes. We also explored the effect of mission efforts through our book study on *Toxic Charity*.

We hope to increase our impact in the community in the future. We aspire to become more involved in building relationships with individuals and partner agencies in the community. We seek to increase our involvement with the Community Food Pantry, Grace United Methodist



Church Children's Summer Program, Street Outreach, and the Warming Center. We will also continue our ministry efforts with the YMCA Trick or Treat, Christmas Angel Trees, Change the World Day, and the Presbytery's New Church Development. We invite you to prayerfully consider how your gifts may be used to further the reach of "thy Kingdom come" to all our neighbors locally and globally.

ENGAGING

Worship

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget – \$8,500

Worship is central to our Christian Life. The Worship Team is responsible for being faithful stewards of our practice of worship. We

worship God in adoration, praise, confession, and thanksgiving! We celebrate the glory of God through the proclamation of the Word, liturgy, music, and through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

Responsibilities of the Worship Team

include: oversee usher ministry,

communion set up, acolyte ministry, worship art, children's and adult music ministry, and so much more! Our budget allows us to expand our multi sensory experience of worship through worship art and music offerings. The budget includes money for guest musicians, instrument maintenance, tech team, and worship supplies.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$11,800 2.11% of FY24 Budget

We are grateful for God's abundant blessings as our worship attendance and leadership involvement continues to grow! This past year we added a Children and



Youth led worship service that was a gift to our church family!

Because of your generosity we are able to offer special worship offerings such as Blessing of the Animals, Stillman World Communion Sunday, Longest Night service,

Holy Week services, etc. There is a noticeable energy around our worship at FPC! Therefore, we seek to increase our budget to allow for more worship experiences for our church and community.



Faith Formation

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$10,650

The purpose of the Faith Formation Team is to nurture Christian Education and foster spiritual growth for all ages through studying God's word. We provide a variety of opportunities to connect with God and grow in community: Sunday School Classes, Vacation Bible School ministry, Youth activities, Young Adults Ministry, and Family Outreach.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$15,700 2.81% of FY24 Budget

We have seen a significant increase in the number of children and families participating in the life of the church over the past few years.



Therefore, we are seeking to increase the Faith Formation budget for 2024. This

increase in budget will allow more ministry opportunities for all people in our congregation. We have seen an increase in Sunday School class participation for all ages, and we even

added another adult class. We hosted a church-wide day retreat this spring and hope to bring in an outside speaker for next year's event.

Throughout the year, our families participated in a Trail Walk, cheered on runners at the Fuzz Run,

experienced an afternoon of bowling, painted pumpkins for friends at nursing homes and homebound members of FPC, enjoyed a church-wide pool party, and attended Vacation Bible School. We increased the size of our Vacation Bible School program

after our pilot launch last year. We would like to continue to provide opportunities like these for fellowship and outreach for our families.

Our Youth delivered pumpkins and treats to friends at nursing homes and homebound members of FPC, spread Christmas joy through caroling, attended a Gwinnett Stripers baseball game, created turquoise tables for community outreach, participated in Confirmation classes, attended the Montreat Youth Conference, and participated in Youth Hang events for meaningful fellowship. Our youth plan to continue Youth Hang events, to participate in Montreat Youth



Conference again, and to participate in meaningful fellowship and outreach endeavors.

Our Young Adults participated in monthly Belief and Beer sessions and have plans to attend a conference in the winter.

Therefore, we are seeking to increase the Faith Formation budget for 2024. This increase in the budget will allow more ministry opportunities for all people in our congregation. Your giving will directly impact the faith formation of our church family! We are life-long learners!

BELONGING

Welcoming

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget – \$1,300

The primary task of the Welcome Team is to ensure that new visitors are welcomed with a positive impact on the first visit, and to connect with other members in the congregation. Specifically, the ministry of the Welcome Team hopes that everyone who visits FPC will experience the warmth and joy of being a part of our church family. The budget expenses are targeted to new member activities. We have celebrated so many new members in our congregation that we might have to get a bigger board! This year we have also put together our first church directory in nine years to further enhance the sense of belonging in our FPC family!



Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$2,000 0.36% of FY24 Budget

Our Welcome Team and its impact are growing! We are grateful to be a thriving ministry team at FPC! We are called to care for all who walk through the doors at FPC. We serve as greeters on Sunday mornings, provide welcome bags to visitors, treat visitors to a welcome lunch, and walk alongside active visitors in becoming official members. The ministry of the Welcome Team hopes that everyone who visits FPC knows they are loved, valued, and welcome! All budget expenses go to extending our reach in the community to welcome all and to provide radical hospitality to all who gather here.

Finance & Stewardship

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget – \$21,041

The Finance Team values the prudent and compassionate use of the church's funds and encouragement of our members' use of their time, talents, and gifts. The team desires to provide good stewardship of our

church's financial funds. This includes conducting the annual Stewardship Campaign and preparing the annual budget. The Finance Team meets monthly to review the FPC actual income and expenses in comparison to the budget.

The budget for Finance includes the per capita fees assessed by the Presbytery and General Assembly, stewardship expenses, office supplies, payroll fees, copier/computer expenses, and web communication fees.

The Finance Team is also responsible for overseeing our endowment fund which is largely comprised of planned gifts from the Legacy of Love Community (anyone who informs us of their planned gift) and funds big projects for generations to come. We are grateful we have received several grants through the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to supplement our budget.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$21,317 3.81% of FY24 Budget

CONNECTING

Faith & Fellowship

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$800

The focus of the Faith & Fellowship Team is to offer multiple opportunities for the church participants to socially engage with one another outside of Sunday worship. This team also helps with funerals and supports bereavement meal services for the grieving families. The budget includes: Campfire Church, Rally Day, Lemonade of the Lawn, Prayer Breakfasts, Coffee Club, and Funeral meal expenses.



Faith and Fellowship is the hub of breaking bread as a community. Through this ministry team we celebrate well! We have recently added Men's Prayer Breakfast.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$2,000 0.36% of FY24 Budget

Pastoral Care

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$200

The focus of the Pastoral Care Team is to care for our church family through pastoral touch points. The budget includes the need to provide faithful pastoral care for our church and our community.

*Where are we going?
0.09% of FY24 Budget*

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$500

Our Pastoral Care Team continues to grow!

Some pastoral care offerings include: grief group, at home communion, Older Adults Sharing In Service (OASIS), Blessing of the Animals, reaching out to support our teachers, college students, and those who are in the hospital and/or assisted living. This team meets once a month to pray for our congregation!



MORE

Strategic Planning

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget – \$2,000

The Strategic Planning Team is appointed by the Session to envision the long-range planning needed that will support our ministry and the needs of the church. Furthermore, this team meets quarterly to monitor

the progress on the yearly growth plan that are aligned to our approved Core Values and on proposing future needs as our church family grows.



Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$2,000

0.36% of FY24 Budget

The Strategic Planning Team has participated in hard and holy work as we imagine the church of tomorrow. Over the past three years we

have developed a strategic plan including a new mission statement, core values, and action items you can see at the beginning of this report.

Our budget remains the same as we are grateful to participate in Thriving Congregations' offering through Black Mountain School of Theology and Montreat Conference Center. Our FPC team has been working to hear the voices of our congregation through one on ones and listening sessions. We will continue this process for another year. We did add as one of



our goals for 2023 to enhance older adult ministry. This ministry (OASIS) now falls under Pastoral Care. Strategic Planning has also been working on additional grants for our church.

Session Expenses

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$400

Through Session development we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and our calling to be ordained and installed officers of the Presbyterian Church. Experiences include: Officer training, Session education material, Session retreat.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$600 0.10% of FY24 Budget

We hope to increase our budget for Session expenses. This allows for us to develop servant leaders for our congregation and equip all for service.

Personnel

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$351,901

The Personnel Team has the leadership of guiding Session in regard to the church staff and others hired by the church. Salaries, housing allotments, group health insurance, continuing education, pensions, annual reviews of staff, and negotiations of contracts are responsibilities of the Personnel Team. The personnel budget also allows for us to host interns from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$370,187 66.24% of FY24 Budget

The increase is reflective of our sincere gratitude for our staff at FPC! We are grateful for the energy, creativity, imagination, compassion, and joy they bring to FPC.

In 2024 we hope to have in place a new Director of Music and Worship Arts. We celebrate two ordained clergy, our Director of



Operations and

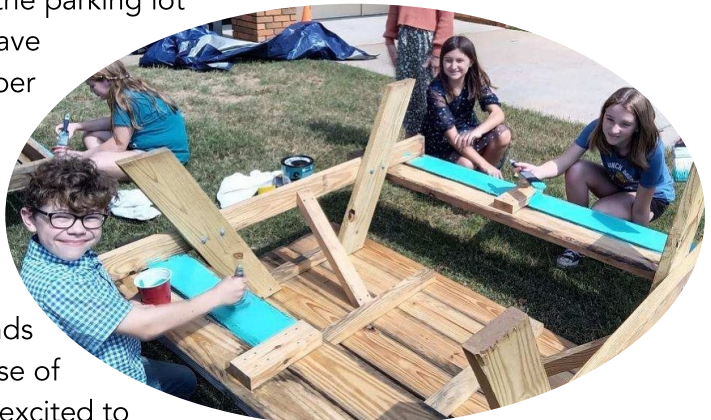
Communications, our CAGO Organist, our Finance Administrator, our nursery staff, and all who have stepped in to help with our vibrant music ministry in a time of transition.

Facilities

Where are we currently? FY23 Budget - \$101,655

The members of the Facilities & Grounds Team are stewards of all our buildings, grounds, and technology that aid our church life and ministry. There are varied duties, responsibilities and related expenses which include but are not limited to: utilities; church maintenance of buildings; health supplies; insurance premiums; grounds maintenance; telephone & internet services; and cleaning services. The church campus includes the Community Park on the corner of Brown St. & Clark St as well as the parking lot that we own and have allowed the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Center to use.

This year we have continued to maintain our grounds and enhance the use of our space. We are excited to



soon install a new sound system in the sanctuary. We have a new projector in the fellowship hall. Our memorial prayer garden is now part of our regular lawn maintenance.

Where are we going?

Proposed 2024 Budget - \$104,218

18.65% of FY24 Budget



Conclusion

In closing we remind you of our mission at First Presbyterian Church Covington, and we pray that you will be reminded of all that has been laid out in this narrative budget and how it serves to glorify God while you make you Pledge for 2024.

Mission

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.



Scan the QR code or visit fpccov.org/stewardship to learn how to contribute to our "Where Our Treasure Is" Stewardship Campaign and help us reach our goals laid out in this narrative budget!



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