



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

November 12, 2023

Twenty-fourth Sunday
after Pentecost

Asking for
a friend...

A sermon series inspired by
your friends' questions!

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Toccata on "A Mighty Fortress
Air from "Water Music Suite"
Holy, Holy, Holy*

Austin C. Lovelace
G.F. Handel
Anna Laura Page

Prelude

Processional Prelude on HYFRYDOL

John G. Barr

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

by Thom Shuman

We don't always know what time it is,
but according to Jesus, it is time to watch.

We're not always sure what we should wear,
**but according to the Spirit,
we should wear garments of Light.**

We're not always sure what we should do,
**But according to God,
We should always seek good for those around us.**

✠ Hymn of Praise 363

Rejoice, The Lord is King

DARWALL'S 148TH

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Edited from *Re-Worship*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come and are coming. You have been here from the beginning, you have been here in time, and now you come to us in this very hour. You remind us about yet another day, and another hour, another coming of which no one knows the moment, except God. You bid us to be ready.

Stir up your power and come.

We bring before you, Holy Spirit, all the other spirits that would rob us of the joy of Jesus' coming. We fearfully invite you to help us rid ourselves of all the temporal and earthly concerns, so that we may truly focus upon God incarnate, God in flesh, God for real, God with us now.

Stir up your power and come.

We yearn for the day when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares. We yearn for the day of peace, when we can all walk in the gentle light of Christ. We look to your Son, who lived another way, taught a different lesson.

Stir up your power and come:

All the earth, seas, and heavens are yours, and we pray these prayers because you have promised to listen to us. Amen.

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ Response to God's Grace 353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* SOLID ROCK

***When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.***

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;

all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

✠ 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

Treasures in Heaven

Joseph W. Clokey

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding *Trust in the Lord* Traditional
Children's Choir

Scripture Reading *Matthew 24:36-44* Pew Bible page 27

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message *Asking for a Friend...When will Jesus come back?* Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 366** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* HYFRYDOL

✦ **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.**

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

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 *Better Is One Day* Matt Redman
Ansley Stewart

***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

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.

Communion Music

Crowded Table

Highwomen

Ansley Stewart

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 839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

✦ **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**

Live Into Hope

Michael Bedford



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Ed Perkerson
Acolytes | Amelia Evans, Holden Evans

Our Mission Statement

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First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

Officers

Curtis Watson	Reaching Out	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Charles Ardis	Engaging	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper		<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell		<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant		<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>
Doug Bolton	Belonging	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp		<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb		<i>Finance (2023)</i>
Tom Crews	Connecting (Deacons)	<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>
Billy Fortson	More	<i>Personnel (2024)</i>
Stan Hall		<i>Facilities (2023)</i>
John McCarthy		<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Ed Perkerson		<i>Strategic Planning (2023)</i>



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.

Sound System—We are excited to announce that the new sound system has been installed in the Sanctuary! The new system is designed to improve the sound in the space, not only in volume but in clarity and includes a Bluetooth hearing aid connectivity option. We are still testing and figuring out the settings and we appreciate your patience during this adjustment period. Once we fully understand the settings and capabilities, we will hold lessons on how to connect with the Bluetooth.

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.

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.

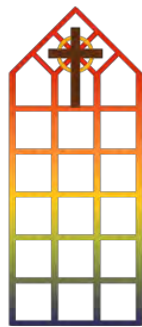


Worship Notes & Doodles

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



A large grid of small grey dots for writing notes and doodles.



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COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

fpccov.org | 770.786.7321



ALL are invited to join us for the Community Friendsgiving at the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal! Partnership between FPC, FUMC, & CGSE This is a free event and includes dinner! Donations collected will go to support Faithworks.



We will be passing out doughnuts for the Lions Club Christmas Parade on December 2nd!

We will have a table in front of the church and will meet at 9:15am to set up before the



parade starts at 10:00am. Please contact Curtis Watson if you are interested in helping!



- Sunday, November 12 Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship—Thornwell Offering 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus Monday, November 13 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 6:00pm Grief Group Tuesday, November 14 12:00pm Lectio Divina 3:30pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Faith Formation Team Meeting Wednesday, November 15 10:00am Coffee Club 5:00pm Children's Choir 5:00pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Community Friendsgiving Thursday, November 16 RSVP for Men's Breakfast Friday, November 17 12:00pm Blood Drive Saturday, November 18 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast Sunday, November 19 Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship—Asking for a Friend...

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF & BEER

DRINKS + DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 28 | 5:30PM LUCKY DAY TACOS CHILDCARE AT FPC

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton - recovering from illness at Westbury rehab
- ✦ Emmy Roth - quick healing from fall
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer and care
- ✦ 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

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Karla Ensminger, sister of Perri Walden
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ 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@fpc cov.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+)
 Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD



Come help decorate the church!

We'll be decorating for Advent and Christmas on **Saturday, December 2nd starting at 2:00pm!** Contact Pat Harper with any questions!

Where Our Treasure Is

Even though Commitment Sunday has passed you still have time to have your pledge included in the 2024 budget!

Be sure to fill out your Pledge Card and Time & Talent so it can help us fund ministries for the coming year!

For more, visit fpc cov.org/stewardship

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

Grief Group

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

One Monday a month at 6:00pm

Next meeting: Nov. 13

Enter through the office door

FPC is hosting a blood drive with the **American Red Cross THIS FRIDAY, November 17th** from 12:00pm-5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall!

To make an appointment visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code *firstprescov* or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

If you need help, contact Curtis Watson and he'll help you!



American Red Cross

Pathways to Prayer



Join us in celebrating



Thornwell

BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES

EMPHASIS MONTH

With a legacy of hope and healing that began in the heart of a young pastor in 1875, Thornwell serves to prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. They offer a Christ-centered continuum of care featuring programs for teen moms, infants, toddlers, preschool children, young kids, teenagers, young adults, and families.

When the ministry started, the first funds came from a young boy. Thornwell Emphasis Month honors this legacy by inviting each of us to contribute what we can, whether this contribution is a donation through Tom the Turkey or a post on social media that raises awareness. We know that we are serving Jesus when we serve others!

Check out the suggestions below for some ideas on how your family can be involved! We can't build tomorrow's families without you.

Check out the suggestions below for some ideas on how your family can be involved! We can't build tomorrow's families without you.

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY

- Read the bible and pray with each other.
- Share your appreciation and gratitude for each other.
- Create quality family time that's "phone-free."

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

- Help your neighbors. Cut a neighbor's grass, bring them dinner, or offer to pick up an extra item at the grocery store!
- Clean up your community. Look for opportunities you and your neighbors can improve your neighborhood by picking up trash, beautifying public spaces, and more!
- Answer the call to be part of a foster family's support system. It's a tough job made easier by people like you who show up and offer support!

WAYS TO SUPPORT THORNWELL

- Prayerfully consider a financial gift to Thornwell.
- Encourage your children to return a full Tom the Turkey this November.
- Raise awareness about Thornwell's programs and services on social media and in your conversations.
- Contact our Community Engagement Coordinator to discover how your gifts can make a difference for children and families:
Jenny Turner: jturner@thornwell.org | 864.923.5127