

First Presbyterian Church

Covington, GA

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

August 7, 2022



RSVP

Stories of Invitation



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Praise Him! Praise Him!
For the Beauty of the Earth
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*

Marilyn Arison
Diane Bish
George G. Webb

Prelude

I Love to Tell the Story

Wilbur Held

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

God of early morning wake up calls,
We are here.
God of seaside breakfast,
We are here.
God of open invitations and open tables,
We are here.
God of resurrection promise,
We are here.
Let us worship the Holy God.

✦ Hymn of Praise 267

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Written by Rev. Nathan Decker

Lord, save us from ourselves.
We continue to do the same things over and over,
expecting different results.
Lord, save us from doing too much.
We go fishing every day,
not noticing you waiting with a meal on the beach.
Lord, save us from doing too little.
We say we love you,
and yet so often we neglect your sheep.
Lord, save us from ourselves.
Help us to hear and respond when you say, "Follow Me." Amen.

✦ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

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

✦ Response to God's Grace 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

Verse 1

✦ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children *Blessing of the Backpacks and Educators*

In the morning when I wake to ready myself for learning,

God, be the light that guides my day.

As I make my way to school by car, bus, bike, wheelchair, or feet,

God, be the light that shines the way.

At the greeting of teachers, friends, administrators, and staff,

God, be the light they see in my eyes.

On the playground at recess or at the stop for the bus,

God, shine through me like the sun so bright.

If see a new face in the school building this year,

God, help me give light and love to each new friend.

When I feel overwhelmed, or sad, or scared,

God, remind me that your light can't ever be dimmed.

With the dawn of each new day comes the chance to start again,
another opportunity to be exactly who you made me to be,

**God, give me confidence to be fully me,
that my light reflects your creative majesty.**

When I go to sleep at night, thankful for another day of learning,

**God, give me rest beneath your stars of night,
surrounded by your love, light, and peace.**

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 21:4-19

Message

You are Invited: Come and Follow

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn of Response 720

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

Acolyte Commissioning

Amelia Evans

Holden Evans

Paisley Lane

Alexander Whisnant

Mary Lindsey Whisnant

Palmer Wilson

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

Offertory

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Traditional Spiritual

Nichole Howell, alto

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

✦ Response 743

O God, You Are My God

STEP BY STEP

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 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

Congregational Meeting

✦ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Manz



Worship Notes

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts.

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License # A-728738 authorizing their use. Liturgy for today's Wondering with God's Children was written by Rev. Katie Barrett Todd.

Special Guests

Today we welcome a guest from Fairview Elementary! Presbyterian Women collaborates with their partner in education Fairview Elementary for programs such as today's backpack drive. If you are interested in tutoring at the school this fall please contact Julie MacKenzie. If you'd like to get involved with Presbyterian Women contact Dana Hall or Julie MacKenzie.

Contact Cards

There are new Contact Cards in each pew. We ask that all visitors sign in each week and place the Contact Card in the offering plate. If you are a visitor or interested in church membership, signing in gives us a way to contact you. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed or if they would like to get more involved in the church. Please indicate if you are open to options or are called to a certain form of involvement.

Worship Bags for Children

The bags are labeled with children's name tags clipped to their bag, and they are invited to use the same bag each time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers, we have bags labeled "Child of God." The bags are available in the narthex.

Nursery for Children

Nursery care is available for children newborn through first grade. Our nursery is located on the lower level. Please ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins,
Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Usher Chair | Trista Hooten-Wilson
Acolyte | Kately Lane



Sermon Notes

Every Sunday morning, I begin with these words: *You are loved. You are valued. You are welcome.* Church, You are invited! You are invited to come for Jesus' ministry is one of radical invitation:

Jesus invites you to eat breakfast on the beach, to take care of his sheep and feed them. (John 21:4-19) Jesus says follow me! Jesus invites you to stay and break bread and dine on fish for there is more than enough. (Matthew 14:13-21) Jesus says come and eat around the table of abundance! Jesus invites you to come to him and lay down your burdens and he will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30) Jesus says come and take a nap and rest in the comfort of the divine. Jesus invites you to abide in him. (John 15:1-11). Jesus says I am the vine, and you are the branches. Stay awhile.

God's invitation is for you! We receive invitations all the time. Will you accept this invitation to experience God's love for you this season at FPC?



Worship Music

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

This text was written by Christian Henry Bateman and published in *Sacred Melodies for Children* (1843). The original first line was "Come, children, join to sing." Bateman was born at Wyke near Halifax, England. He studied for the ministry in the Moravian Church and then became minister of Richmond Place Congregational Church, Edinburgh. After successive Congregational calls, he became a priest in the Church of England.

MADRID was a popular Spanish folk melody that was arranged for pianoforte by Benjamin Carr in 1825. Carr was born in London and studied with Dr. Samuel Arnold and Charles Wesley II. He emigrated to America in 1793 and the following year became a publisher in both Philadelphia and New York. He was organist of St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, and also music director of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Come! Live in the Light!

The thematic and musical center of this hymn on the vocation of all believers is found in the refrain, which is based on the well-known challenge of Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God!"

Jesus Calls Us

As a small girl, Cecil Frances Humphries wrote poetry in her school journal. In 1850, she married Rev. William Alexander, who later became the Anglican primate (chief bishop) of Ireland. She showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to visit the sick and the poor, providing food, warm clothes, and medical supplies. She and her sister also founded a school for the deaf.

Alexander was strongly influenced by the Oxford Movement, and her first book of poetry, *Verses for Seasons*, was a "Christian Year" for children. She wrote hymns based on the Apostles' Creed, baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Ten Commandments, and prayer, writing in simple language for children. Her more than 400 hymn texts were published in *Hymns for Little Children* in 1848.

O God, You Are My God

"Beaker" is a pseudonym for David Strasser, a Christian songwriter and musician well known for his collaborations with artist Rich Mullins. He received his nickname as a young man, when friends said he looked like Beaker the Muppet.

When Beaker was in the seventh grade, his youth pastor introduced him to his friend Rich Mullins, and the two soon became collaborators. Beaker co-wrote, performed, and toured with Rich Mullins for several years. The first song they wrote together was "Boy Like Me, Man Like You," a 1991 hit for Mullins. Beaker is also responsible for writing the modern praise chorus "Step by Step" (O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you...). He was also instrumental in co-founding the Kid Brothers of St. Frank with Rich Mullins, as well as co-writing a musical about Saint Francis of Assisi.

In the mid-90s, Beaker dropped out of the spotlight to focus on family life. He and his wife Julie have three sons - Adrian (for whom Rich Mullins penned his hit song "Let Mercy Lead"), Avery, and Elias, and two daughters, Cora Shea and Isabel.

Will You Come and Follow Me

John Lamberton Bell (b. 1949) is a Scottish hymn-writer and Church of Scotland minister. He is a member of the Iona Community, a broadcaster, and former student activist. He works throughout the world, lecturing in theological colleges in the UK, Canada, and the United States, but is primarily concerned with the renewal of congregational worship at the grass roots level.

John Bell was born in the Scottish town of Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, intending to be a music teacher when he felt the call to the ministry. But in frustration with his classes, he did volunteer work in a deprived neighborhood in London for a time and also served for two years as an associate pastor at the English Reformed Church in Amsterdam. After graduating, he worked for five years as a youth pastor for the Church of Scotland, serving a large region that included about 500 churches. He then took a similar position with the Iona Community, and with his colleague Graham Maule, began to broaden the youth ministry to focus on renewal of the church's worship. His approach soon turned to composing songs within the identifiable traditions of hymnody that began to address concerns missing from the current Scottish hymnal:

"I discovered that seldom did our hymns represent the plight of poor people to God. There was nothing that dealt with unemployment, nothing that dealt with living in a multicultural society and feeling disenfranchised. There was nothing about child abuse ..., that reflected concern for the developing world, nothing that helped see ourselves as brothers and sisters to those who are suffering from poverty or persecution." That concern not only led to writing many songs, but increasingly to introducing them internationally in many conferences, while also gathering songs from around the world.



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 our witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or any number of activities.

Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!

Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)
 Eleanor Scarborough (2023)
 Darcel Tabb (2024)
 Alice Walker (2022)

Session

Class of 2022
 Aubrey Evans
 John McCarthy
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Trista Hooten Wilson

Class of 2023
 Stan Hall
 Louly Hay Kapp
 Ed Perkerson
 Bob Tabb

Class of 2024
 Billy Fortson
 Pat Harper
 Curtis Watson

Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church 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.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane
 Erin Morgan
 Alicia Taylor
 Alice Walker
 Catherine Laseter
 Peni Kehoe

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Director of Music & Worship Arts
 CAGO, AAGO Organist/Ambassador Choir
Dir. of Communications & Operations
 Finance Administrator

*Caring for Our Children
 in the Nursery*
 Danielle Schubert
 Beverley Beasley
 Kennedy Lynn

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Tony Taylor, brother of Alicia Taylor - recovering at home from heart attack
- ✦ Martha Young, grandmother of Cotton Young - lung cancer
- ✦ Lonnie Lamb - chemotherapy
- ✦ Emalee Green, granddaughter of Roger and Tootles Tingler - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Joe Burckel, nephew of Danny and Beth Vining - brain cancer
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack Wheeler - bladder cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems

- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Melissa, friend of congregation - cancer
- ✦ Tootles Tingler
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - lung cancer
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Jean Elder who turns 85 next week. Her daughter invites FPC to send birthday cards to their home in Florida since she cannot celebrate with us in person.

Jean Elder

2836 Aintree Ln Apt J201

Naples, FL 34112

- ✦ Congratulations to Don and Robin Hillman on the birth of their new grandbaby, Carter Hillman Kolshak, to parents Laura and Michael Kolshak.

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:

catherine@fpccov.org

Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated. Please specify if you want the request listed or for only the confidential prayer circle.



JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom

for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.

SUNDAYS 7 PM  BEGINNING AUG 21

Sunday School

Regular Sunday School classes will begin on August 14 at 9:45am.

Children's class (PreK-4th grade)

Youth Class (5th grade and up)

Adult class

Interested in teaching? Email erin@fpccov.org

You are invited to
"Text to Give"
your offering.



Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256

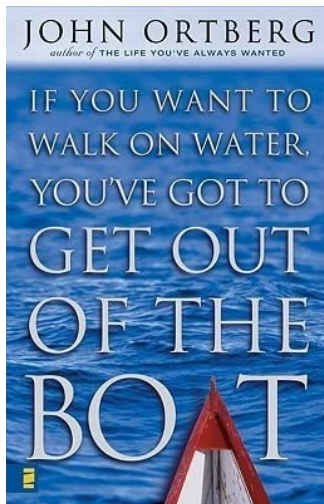
Or point your camera at the QR code and follow the link to give online.

People's Potluck of Ideas: A Sermon Series inspired by YOU



Neeley and Erin invite you to consider what YOU would like to hear US discuss in a sermon. We will only be able to cover a few for this series, but we'd love to hear all of your ideas! What is a faith topic you'd like to learn more about? What Bible story might you want highlighted? What do you want to hear us preach on? We invite you to send us your ideas and faith questions as we prepare for this upcoming sermon series!

Series begins September 4th Email your ideas to Neeley at neeley@fpccov.org by August 10th



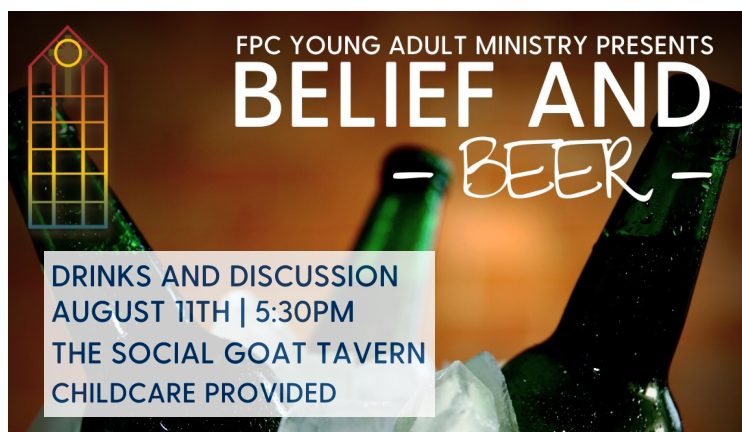
**Enjoyed our water sermon series?
Want to dive deeper?**

*If You Want to Walk on Water,
You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*
by John Ortberg

Neeley will be leading this five part book study on Wednesdays in August from 6:00pm-7:00pm on Zoom.

Come one, come all!
Invite friends from in or outside the church!
You don't need to have read the book to enjoy the discussion!

Want us to order a book for you? (\$11) Call the church office today.



**Sunday, August 7
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

11:00am Worship

Monday, August 8

5:30pm Christian Education Meeting

Tuesday, August 9

12:00pm Lectio Divina

2:15pm Office Staff Meeting

5:30pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 10

People's Potluck of Ideas Deadline

6:00pm *Get Out of the Boat* Book Study

Thursday, August 11

12:00pm Strategic Planning Meeting

5:30pm Belief and Beer

Sunday, August 14

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:45am Regular Sunday School

11:00am Worship

6:00pm Ice Cream Social

6:30pm Classic Hymn Sing



**CHANCEL CHOIR &
CARILLON HANDBELL CHOIR**

Starting back August 17th!

Join us on Wednesdays for some marvelous music ministry!
Handbells at 6:00pm | Chancel Choir at 7:00pm

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CLASSIC HYMN SING

Sunday, August 14th | Fellowship Hall
Ice Cream served at 6:00pm | Singing starts at 6:30pm

What better way to beat the heat of August than ice cream! Join us in the Fellowship Hall to build your own sundae. Choose your toppings!

Then we will have an old-fashioned hymn sing-along. Is there a hymn near and dear to your heart? This is an event for all ages. Make plans now to gather together with your church family for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Make sure we have all of your favorites ready to sing by sending your hymn requests to Alicia Taylor at alicia@fpc cov.org!

