

First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 14, 2022



RSVP

Stories of Invitation



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee
Sing Glory to the Name of God
On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand*

J.S. Bach
Charles Callahan
Adam Mason

Prelude

For the Bread Which Thou Hast Broken

David Cherwien

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

God of compassion and abundance,

Feed us, Lord.

God of park benches for lunch with friends

Feed us, Lord.

God of casseroles, meal trains, and baskets full

Feed us, Lord.

God of hungry hearts and full bellies

Feed us, Lord.

Let us worship Holy God.

✦ Hymn of Praise 509

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Written by Katherine Hawker

We come believing in our emptiness, believing that we will never have enough, believing that what we have is unworthy. We come fearful of sharing, fearful of losing our tenuous grip on security, fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others. We come overwhelmed by the hunger, overwhelmed by the suffering of children near and far, overwhelmed by the endless tales of senseless violence, greed, and death. We come aching from the weight of the responsibility, aching from the chilling challenge of knowing our abundance, aching from the gnawing awareness that we have much to share. We come clinging to our meager lunches; bless them and us, break them and us, share them and us. 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

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Hymn 511, Verses 1, 2, 4

Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven

LLANFAIR

Scripture Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Message

You are Invited: Come and Eat

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 516**

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

KINGDOM

Affirmation of Faith

An excerpt from PCUSA's *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Prayers of the People

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory

Bread of Life

William Fiske Sherwin and John Hughes

Krista Firkus, Aubrey Evans, and Alicia Taylor

Arr. by Mary Faith Williams

✠Response 743

O God, You Are My God

STEP BY STEP



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.

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!

Instructions for in-person communion are provided for you with your individual communion elements.

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✠Sending Hymn 498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

BEACH SPRING

✠Charge and Benediction

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

James H. Johnson



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 and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing their use.

Contact Cards

There are 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.

Wiggles and Giggles

Children are invited to wiggle and giggle in the pews during worship! Included in worship is a time of "Wondering with God's Children" where children are invited to come forward for a message. Afterward, they are invited to remain in worship or go downstairs with the nursery workers for the remainder of service. Worship Bags are available for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary 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 | Paisley 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

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

After a brief, arduous battle with liver cancer, Canadian Sylvia Dunstan died in 1993 at the age of 38. For thirteen years, Dunstan had served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister and prison chaplain. She is remembered by those who knew her for her passion for those in need, her gift of writing, and her love of liturgy.

HOLY MANNA first appeared as the setting for "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" in William Moore's collection, *The Columbian Harmony* (1825). All that is known of Moore is that he lived in Wilson County in the District of West Tennessee. He claimed this tune as well as seventeen others as his own. The harmonization was added by Charles Anders in 1929.

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!"

Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven

The text of this hymn, full of scriptural allusions, is the work of the writer John F. Underwood (b. 1946). The hymn tune LLANFAIR, by the noted Welsh singer/composer, Robert Williams (d. 1821), was harmonized by the eminent Welsh musician and scholar, David Evans (d. 1948). This hymn appears only in one hymnal - *Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal*.

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.

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Rev. Dr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., died in 2007 after a long illness. Born in Clarion in 1923, he was the son of the late Herman G. and Helen (Wolfe) Stuempfle, Sr. Stuempfle lived most of his life in Gettysburg, PA. He served as President of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. He retired in 1989. Stuempfle was the author of several books and numerous articles and lectures on preaching, history, and theology. He was also among the most honored and respected hymn writers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Always taking an active stance on social issues, he participated in the creation of daycare centers, served on the Gettysburg interchurch social action committee, helped create and support prison ministries and a homeless shelter, and tutored young people in the afterschool program of Christ Lutheran Church, where he was a longtime member. This hymn appears only in one hymnal - *Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal*.



Worship Art Notes

The idea of bread as a symbol of God's provision and life was a well-developed concept in the Old Testament. Early on, when God established the wilderness tabernacle for worship among the people of Israel, he gave instructions to build a table called "the table of the showbread." Every Sabbath, the priests of the tabernacle (and later, in the temple), would arrange twelve loaves of bread called "the bread of the presence" on the table near God's presence in the holy place.

This presentation of the bread symbolized God's eternal covenant relationship with his people and his constant care and provision for the tribes of Israel, represented by the twelve loaves of bread. When Jesus preached his sermon about being the Bread of Life, discerning Jews in the crowd would have connected the dots to this long-practiced aspect of their worship.

God also provided manna in the wilderness - a miraculous daily provision of food sent from heaven - to save the Jews from dying of starvation in the desert. Unlike the Bread of Life that Jesus offered, manna was food that spoiled by the end of the day. Believing in Jesus Christ as the source of our spiritual existence is how we gain eternal life. When we put our faith in him, he gives us spiritual bread that will not spoil and abundant life that will never end.



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)

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.

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

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

- ✦ Tom Crews - COVID
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack Wheeler - bladder cancer treatment
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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

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

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.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CLASSIC HYMN SING

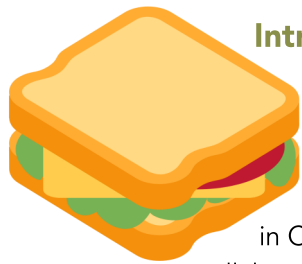
Sunday, August 14th | Fellowship Hall
Ice Cream served at 6:00pm | Singing starts at 6:30pm

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@fpccov.org!





Introducing Sandwich Ministry!

You are invited to join us for a new ministry starting THIS Tuesday at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall, we will be making sandwiches for our neighbors in Christ experiencing homelessness in collaboration with Street Outreach!

It should not take longer that 45 minutes out of our day but will help better the day of those who receive the fruit of our efforts. Sandwich Ministry will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 11:00am for the rest of the year! If you are not able to participate on Tuesdays but would like to be a part of operation sandwich please contact Curtis Watson.

Learn The Doctrine of the Trinity Following Soul Feast!

We are holding a new monthly class on Wednesday nights following Soul Feast! Join us in the adult Sunday School classroom starting September 7th at 6:00pm to learn all about the Trinity.

Class 1 - Understanding God

Class 2 - Who is Jesus Christ?

Class 3 - What in the world is the Holy Spirit?

Contact Erin at erin@fpccov.org with any questions.



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

Sunday, August 14 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

- 11:00am Worship
- 6:00pm Ice Cream Social
- 6:30pm Classic Hymn Sing

Tuesday, August 16

- 9:00am Presbytery Meeting
- 11:00am Sandwich Ministry
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:45pm Office Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 17

- 6:00pm *Get Out of the Boat* Book Study on Zoom
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir Starts Back
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Starts Back

Thursday, August 18

- Heavenly Prep RSVP Deadline
- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir

Sunday, August 21 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jesus and Jammies on Zoom

Heavenly Prep:

A Workshop for End of Life Planning

August 23, 2022
5:30pm | Fellowship Hall

All are invited to join our pastors for a time of conversation about funeral planning in advance. We'll hear from panelists with expertise in End of Life planning. Practical tools will be provided including Funeral Planning and End of Life guides for you to complete and put on file at the church. *Heavenly Prep is not about making sure your loved ones do the right thing when you are gone, it is about ensuring your loved ones don't have to stress about what the right thing is.*

Dinner will be provided so please RSVP by August 18 at 12:00pm. A stream on Zoom is also available. As always, invite a friend! This is open to the community!

Speakers will include:

Tommy Davis - J.C. Harwell and Sons Funeral Home/Coroner

Loy Turner - Longleaf Hospice

Frank Turner - Greer, Stansfield, & Turner, LLP

Judy Davis - FPC Member