



Wandering
Heart *"Here's my heart"*

Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Hymn of Majesty and Power

Swedish Folk Melody

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

DARWELL

The Solid Rock

Michael Burkhardt

Prelude

Festival Voluntary

Michael McCabe

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Jesus said,

"Follow me."

Jesus said,

"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Jesus said,

"Forgive seventy times seven."

Jesus said,

"Feed my sheep."

In response, we say:

"Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

✠ Hymn of Praise 475

Come Thou Fount

NETTLETON

✠ Call to Confession

For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter.

Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes.

He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious. Friends, we're a lot like Peter. Despite our faith, we make mistakes. Despite our belief, we carry unbelief. Despite our love, we can cause hurt. So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

✠ **Community Confession**

Gracious God, Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, Amen.

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

Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter's word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, "I do not know that man." So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love. Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ **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

Make Me a Servant
Chancel Choir

Composed by Benjamin Harlan

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 21:1-19

Pew Bible page 115

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Gone Fishing

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 828**

More Love to Thee, O Christ

MORE LOVE TO THEE

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives— surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God's people— a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh— a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. 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

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! Select "2024 Pledge" if you made a stewardship pledge. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general plate offering.*



Offertory

I Love to Tell the Story
Chancel Choir

by William G. Fischer

✠Response 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

✠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

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Our worship guide cover today is a yarn and paper collage on canvas by Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda titled “Feed My Sheep”. The following is an excerpt from the artist’s statement:

While we interpret the heart as love, it is also a symbol for endurance and patience. Peter gets to this point by maintaining goodwill and faith in the message of Jesus. He stumbled through the journey and at times caused more harm than good, but Christ was also patient with him.

Here’s my heart. Here are the things I care about so deeply. And you—someone who makes mistakes, doesn’t follow directions, and sometimes even betrays me—you are so loved and trusted enough to keep this good work going even after I’m gone.

This is a message to all of us. It doesn’t matter how poorly you may think of yourself or how others may view you. To Christ, you are beautifully and fearfully made. And Christ believes in you in spite of it all.

Accessibility—In an effort to make FPC a welcoming place for ALL of God’s people we have removed a portion of one of our pews in the Sanctuary to make our space more accessible to wheelchair and walker users! We’ve also recently updated our sound system to have Bluetooth capabilities. If you’d like to learn about connecting your Bluetooth hearing aids to our Sanctuary sound system we invite you to talk to Dan Walden on the Tech Team.

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. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way. If your child needs to leave the Sanctuary for whatever reason, please accompany them throughout the building.

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 | Wandering Heart Graphic Design by Lauren Wright Pittman | Art: “Feed My Sheep” by Nicolette Peñaranda | Liturgy by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,

Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | Amelia Evans, Holden Evans

Children Ushers | Paisley Lane, MaryRantz Lane, Valerie Morgan

Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman

First Presbyterian Church Staff		
Neeley Rantz Lane	Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Sierra BlackShear
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Catrina Crowe
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Jahniyah Greene
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO Organist	Laina Lalane

Officers	
Reaching Out	
Luke Usry	Witness (2026)
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)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome, Worship (2026)
Billy Fortson	Finance, Personnel (2024)
Connecting (Deacons)	
Janet Carmichael	Pastoral Care (2026)
Tom Crews	Pastoral Care (2025)
Dana Hall	Faith & Fellowship (2025)
Darcel Tabb	Faith & Fellowship (2024)
More	
Jodi Atkins	Strategic Planning (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session
Danny Vining	Personnel (2026)



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 18 columns and 18 rows of small grey dots, intended for writing notes or doodles.



1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org 770.786.7321

SOUL FEAST

APRIL 10

ON THE MENU:
FRIED CHICKEN

Feed your body and soul in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.
RSVP by Monday, April 8th to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

Accepting donations for our Youth to attend Montreat Middle School Conference!
No minimum charge for dinner



Sunday, April 7
Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship

Monday, April 8

RSVP for Soul Feast

Tuesday, April 9

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 5:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 5:15pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 11

RSVP for Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 13

- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 5:30pm Campfire Church
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

VBS at FPC

COKEBURY'S
HERO HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

9:00AM-12:00PM
JUNE 3RD-6TH
3 y/o - 5th grade

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

Visit fpccov.org/vbs to register

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Visit fpccov.org/vbs or talk to Erin to learn more!

Following Soul Feast we will hear from our friends at **Alcovy CASA!**

OASIS FIELD TRIP

Botanical Gardens

ATLANTA, GA

Join your OASIS friends for a refreshing guided tour of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens

APRIL 24, 2024

Meet at FPC at 10:00am to carpool
Cost \$18 each, plus lunch cost
RSVP to neeley@fpccov.org by Apr. 15

8:00am at Town House Café
Saturday, April 13

Men's Prayer Breakfast



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ Tammy Quick, friend of Donna Weesner - recovering from ankle surgery
- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton & Pawpaw to Audrey - health issues
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Susan Hammond, aunt of Erin Morgan - cancer
- ✦ Christy Blanchford & daughter Samantha, friends of the congregation - mourning loss of husband, Sam Johnson
- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown - cousin for Randy Layton
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty
- ✦ Vonzella Lee, friend of Barbara Martin - gastric cancer
- ✦ Joel Kitchens
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane

- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Jana Carter, aunt of Luke Usry - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Sheree Evans, friend of Cathy & Denny Dobbs, treatment for cancer
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer & care
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer

- ✦ Terry Smith, friend of Denny Dobbs - pneumonia with respiratory rehab
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy Layton and his loved ones as they mourn the loss of his brother-in-law, Larry Cox.

Military Service

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

Mini-mission trips in the Atlanta area with your FPC Family

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

2024 MISSION

Extravaganza

JUNE 10TH-13TH

REGISTER AT FPCCOV.ORG/SIGNUP SEND QUESTIONS TO ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

Children's Class (PreK-4th) Youth Class (5th+)

Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD

 **CAMPFIRE CHURCH**

WITH THE **MULE CREEK EMPORIUM** BLUEGRASS BAND!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH

5:30PM ON THE FPC PLAYGROUND

Join us following worship on **Sunday, April 28th**

Legacy of Love Lunch

ALL ARE WELCOME! No RSVPs needed

with words from the FPC Planned Giving Team