



April 14, 2024
Third Sunday of Easter



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

John Darwall/J.S. Bach

Trumpet Tune

Porter Heaps

Crown Him with Many Crowns/O Worship the King

Arr. Susan Caudill

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Callahan

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Come and see the love God has given to us.

Come and see what it means to be children of God.

Come with this hope, that Christ's presence is real.

With joy, we come to see the Lord.

✠ Hymn of Praise 664

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Ever present God,

We confess that it has only been a few Sundays since our early morning experience of hope at the empty tomb and we have already journeyed far from you. We have traveled far from your desire for us to share the good news of the resurrection. We have neglected the stranger in our midst. And we have doubted your presence with us. Help us to see the way you have set for us in Christ. Open our eyes. Open our minds.

Open our doors. Expand our tables. Restore us to a life of love, hope, and discipleship as you call us forth to be your witnesses. In resurrection hope we pray. Amen.

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ Hymn 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end, Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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

Baptism of Braden Henry Woodham and Angela Nicholson Woodham

Elder Donna Weesner

Baptismal Response 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Anthem

In Remembrance of Our Lord
Chancel Choir

Arr. Lee Dengler

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36-48

Pew Bible page 91

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Will you be a Witness?

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ Hymn of Response 749

Come Live in the Light

WE ARE CALLED

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

The Gift of Love

by Hal Hopson

Jon Pascal, Alice Walker

✠ Response 743

O God, You are My God

STEP BY STEP

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Hymn of Invitation 506

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!

COPELAND

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring.

Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.

Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done.

Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised

by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes

when he blesses bread and breaks it— truth and manna from above!—

and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

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! See our Worship Practices section for more details.

Communion Music

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYDY NOS

✦ **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**

Fantasia in G

J.S. Bach



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.

Baptism—Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; Communion is the other. The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world. Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). When we are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's own baptism.

Presbyterians celebrate baptism as a communal act of public worship! Today we, as the body of Christ, will say "YES" to walking alongside Angie and Brayden Woodham as we seek to nurture and love them as their family of faith!

We invite you to speak to Pastors Neeley or Erin if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.

Worship Art—Our worship guide cover today is drawing of our First Presbyterian Church by Elise Hammond.

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



Serving Today

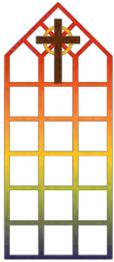
Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Acolytes | Parker Firkus Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman



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.

Large dotted grid area for writing notes and doodles.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz 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 (2025)

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Danny Vining - upcoming kidney stone removal
- ✦ Bob Wheeler, brother-in-law of Miriam Wheeler - dialysis and upcoming surgery
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Susan Hammond, aunt of Erin Morgan - cancer
- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown, cousin of Randy Layton
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Vonzella Lee, friend of Barbara Martin
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane
- ✦ 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

Thank you!

- ✦ FPC Youth ministry would like to thank everyone for their generous donations and support at April's Soul Feast. Your contributions will help our youth attend Middle School Montreat Conference!

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following people and their loved ones as they mourn for those they've lost:

- ✦ Scott Fullerton - mourning his father, Ken Fullerton
- ✦ Jo Anna Fish - mourning her sister, Beth Baarda
- ✦ Randy Layton - mourning 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 - Madison, GA
- ✦ 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.

HERO HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

VBS at FPC 2024

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!

SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT

May 15th



Join us for Soul Feast's Got Talent on May 15th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall!
Submit your talents to Darcel Tabb and show us what you've got!

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

Sunday School

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

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship on

April 28th

Legacy of Love Church Family Lunch

No RSVPs needed!



Hosted by our Endowment team

Come enjoy your favorite comfort foods with your FPC Family: mac & cheese, fried chicken with strawberry shortcake for dessert!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sunday, April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

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

Monday, April 15

RSVP for OASIS Field Trip

Tuesday, April 16

RSVP for Lunch Bunch

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 4:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 17

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 11:30am Lunch Bunch
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 5:30pm Lego & Duplo Building Night
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 18

- 12:00pm Facilities Team Meeting

Sunday, April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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



CAMPFIRE CHURCH

TONIGHT

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
5:30PM ON THE
FPC PLAYGROUND

GRAB YOUR LAWN CHAIR & JOIN US FOR CAMPFIRE CHURCH

WITH THE MULE CREEK EMPORIUM BLUEGRASS BAND!

HOTDOGS & S'MORES
DEVOTION & CAMPFIRE SONGS

FPC KIDS LEGO & DUPLO BUILDING NIGHT

APRIL 17TH
5:30PM-6:30PM
JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Lunch Bunch

FPC

Older Adults Sharing In Service
O.A.S.I.S. at FPC

April Lunch

11:30AM | April 17th | Amici Town Center

13500 Town Center Dr, Covington, GA 30014

RSVP to FPC by April 16th

SPRING
Cleaning Day
SAT. MAY 4
10AM-NOON @FPC

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

6/10 GARDENING
La Armistad Organization

6/11 RECYCLING
Live Thrive Organization

6/12 GRADY FRESH FOOD CART
Hands on Atlanta

6/13 HUNGER RELIEF
Hope Women's
Community Kitchen

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

2024 MISSION

Extravaganza

JUNE 10TH-13TH

VISIT [FPCCOV.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpccov.org/signup)
TO LEARN MORE & TO REGISTER

SEND QUESTIONS TO [ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG](mailto:erin@fpccov.org)

*Register for one or
all of these daily
mission trips*



2024 Mission Extravaganza Interest Form

Fill out this interest form if you would like to learn more about the daily mini-mission trips we will be participating in this summer on June 10-13, 2024! More information and full registration forms are available in the Narthex and at fpccov.org/signup

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

- I would like to be emailed more info
- I would like to be called to learn more info
- I would like help printing the form and/or filling it out online
- Check here as an FYI to let us know you are coming before filling out the registration form!

Registration deadline is Sunday, May 19th