



April 21, 2024

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA**

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>My Heart Ever Faithful</i> | J.S. Bach |
| <i>Blessed Assurance</i> | Dan Miller |
| <i>The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want</i> | Marilyn Arison |

Prelude

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| <i>Sheep May Safely Graze with Day by Day</i> | J.S. Bach/Susan Caudill |
|---|-------------------------|

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Ministry

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Thriving Congregations</i> | Dan Walden |
|-------------------------------|------------|

✦ Call to Worship

We come to God, our holy Shepherd,
As we come to a green meadow.

**God prepares a place for us,
And we give glory in God's presence.**

How excellent is thy dwelling place
Under the eyes of God's care.

**We turn to God in joy.
Our good Shepherd provides for all our needs.
Let us worship the living God!**

✦ Hymn of Praise 610

| | |
|---|-------|
| <i>O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i> | AZMON |
|---|-------|

✦ Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

✦ Community Confession

**Savior God, you guide us, but we are slow to follow and stubborn.
You welcome us to your fold, but we make others feel as if they don't
belong. Forgive our life-alienating ways, our exclusion and judgment;**

**the way we evaluate and compare, demean and degrade. Redeem us.
Restore us. Help us be faithful as your flock. Amen.**

✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

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

Anthem

The Lord Is Shepherd to Me
Chancel Choir

Russell Nagy

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 10:10-18

Pew Bible page 103

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 187**

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

Affirmation of Faith

Psalm 23

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.**

**He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

**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

Give Thanks
Chancel Choir

by Ken Barker

✠Response 658

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good; God is so good;

God is so good; God's so good to me.

God cares for me; God cares for me;

God cares for me; God's so good to me.

God loves me so; God loves me so;

God loves me so; God's so good to me.

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 840

When Peace like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

✠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

Overture from Occasional Oratorio

G.F. Handel



Worship Practices

Special Guest—We welcome guest artist Scott Fuss as he paints an interpretation of our scripture today.

Ever grateful for the opportunity to share the Good News, Scott Fuss uses artwork created from materials that have a story, to tell a story.

Using salvaged cardboard, packing crates, discarded paint and pallets, Scott reveals artwork with a message that we, like these overlooked materials, can be repurposed and used to make something of beauty. Artwork that is like us “Imperfectly Perfect”.

Along with fellow musicians, Scott has performed “Cardboard Art & Music” for churches, coffee houses, prisoners, and judges... anywhere someone needs to hear the transforming message of Christ.

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
Acolyte | Kora Howell
Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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!

SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT May 15th



Submit your talents
to Darcel Tabb and
show us what
you've got!

SOMEHOW

THOUGHTS
ON LOVE

**ANNE
LAMOTT**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

New book study!

Somehow: Thoughts on Love

by Anne Lamott

Join us in the parlor, Mondays at 5:30pm
starting April 22nd for a study on Anne
Lamott's latest

book

"*Somehow:
Thoughts on
Love*"

Childcare is
provided.

Send questions
to Erin!

Sunday, April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

Monday, April 22

5:30pm Thoughts on Love book study

6:30pm Strategic Planning Team

6:30pm Thriving Congregations Team

Tuesday, April 23

12:00pm Lectio Divina

6:00pm Neeley's Nook book club

Wednesday, April 24

10:00am OASIS Field Trip

3:30pm Staff meeting

5:00pm Children's Choir

6:00pm Youth Karaoke Hang

6:00pm Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 25

10:00am Pastor at Merryvale

4:00pm Finance Team Meeting

Saturday, April 27

9:00am Meals on Wheels delivery

Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Legacy of Love Lunch

6:00pm Community on our Knees

IS IT TIME?

A workshop by
FPC OASIS

Tuesday, May 7 at
5:30pm in the
Fellowship Hall

Is it time to ask the hard questions?

We will hear from
a panelist of
professionals in
counseling, assisted
living, finances, and
more.

RSVP to Neeley Lane
by May 1, 2024

neeley@fpccov.org

770-786-7321 ext. 1013

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

Requests will be moved to "ongoing" after three weeks unless the office is notified

- ✦ Bernice Bailey - fall
- ✦ Charlie Kennon, brother of Day Kennon
- ✦ Mike Crews, step-son-in-law of Miriam Wheeler - Piedmont Newton Hospital
- ✦ Danny Vining - recovering from 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
- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown, cousin of Randy Layton
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty

Ongoing prayer requests

Requests will be removed from "ongoing" after six weeks unless the office is notified.

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Susan Hammond, aunt of Erin Morgan - cancer
- ✦ 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

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

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

Prayer requests and updates may be given to either of our pastors, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

MONTHLY TUESDAYS
6:00PM-7:00PM ON ZOOM

VISIT [FPCCOV.ORG/ZOOM-LINKS TO JOIN!](https://fpccov.org/zoom-links-to-join)

**PURSuing GOD'S WILL
TOGETHER: A DISCERNMENT
PRACTICE FOR LEADERSHIP
BY RUTH HALEY BARTON**

**APR.
23rd**

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!

SPRING
Cleaning Day
SAT. MAY 4
10AM-NOON

Sunday School

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



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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR VBS IS MAY 19TH
to guarantee a shirt in your size!

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



A summary from the Thriving Congregations branch of
FPC Strategic Planning

What we've done:

Learning from

- One-on-ones
- Listening Sessions with
 - Members
 - Visitors
 - Nursery Workers
- Observations of our space, events & community
- Examen with Session
- Neeley's Nook - book club on discernment

Gathering Data



Easy Fixes

Accessibility:

- Sound & video system updates
- Pew removal

Activities for specific groups

- Men's Prayer Breakfast
- O.A.S.I.S. - older adult ministry

Worship

- Chairs: Pat Harper & Judy Davis
- Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane

Welcoming (internal)

- Chairs: Debra Arnold & Dan Walden
- Staff: Erin Morgan

Welcoming (external)

- Chair: Jay Lanners
- Staff: Catherine Laseter

Leadership



What we've learned from YOUR feedback so far:

Worship

Music

- Traditional, casual, contemporary, and more variety
- Movement (even clapping!)

Worship experiences

- Contemporary
- Community with other local churches
- Breakfast on special Sundays

Welcoming (external)

Inviting

- Personal invitation to friends & neighbors
- Mail invitations to new residents
- Reach out to those without a church home
- Community concerts
- Embrace greater diversity

Welcoming (internal)

Accessibility

- Bathrooms
- Elevator Door Entrance
- Handicapped Parking
- Assistance for the hearing impaired

Participation

- Maps throughout the building
- Personal invitation to members & visitors to events
- Sunday morning coffee station

Ministries

- Active older adult ministry
- Vibrant ministries for children & youth
- Have younger families "adopt" older couples
- Host families for visitors

What is next?



Discerning together

Research Action Task Force for worship,
welcome (internal), & welcome (external)