



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*O Worship the King
Simple Gifts
He Leadeth Me*

David Cherwien
Joseph M. Martin
Thomas Bliss

Prelude

Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Charles Callahan

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Ministry

2024 Mission Extravaganza

Curtis Watson

✦ **Call to Worship**

by Joanna Harader

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be
spiritually vibrant, alive, and productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

✦ **Hymn of Praise 22**

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

✦ **Call to Confession**

✠Community Confession

Broken, tired, weathered by the storm, we come to you. We tried to go out in the storm all by ourselves. We have relied on our own understanding and clung to empty promises. We take pride in our independence and yet we long for connection to the true vine and one another. Cleanse us of our wayward ways. Abide in us, that we may abide in you. 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

Children's Music

Come With a Grateful Heart
Children's Choir

by Lynn Shaw Bailey
and Beck Slagle Mayo

Anthem

I Am The Vine
Chancel Choir

by Stephen DeCesare

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-18

Pew Bible page 109

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Jesus is... The True Vine

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response** *You Are The Vine; We Are The Branches* by Danny Daniels

*First time: soloist; **Second time; ALL***

You are the vine; we are the branches. Keep us abiding in you. (repeat)

And we'll go, in your love.

And we'll go, in your name.

That the world, will surely know,

that you have the power to heal and to save.

You are the vine; we are the branches. Keep us abiding in you. (repeat)

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

God Will Make a Way
Chancel Choir

by Don Moen

✠Response 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HYDY NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

***For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.***

In the just rewards of labor, God's will be done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.

***In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.***

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 543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

Verses 1, 4, 5

✦ **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**

Toccata in D

Albert Renaud



Worship Practices

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 | Audrey Fullerton, Paisley Lane
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)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
following worship
TODAY!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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!



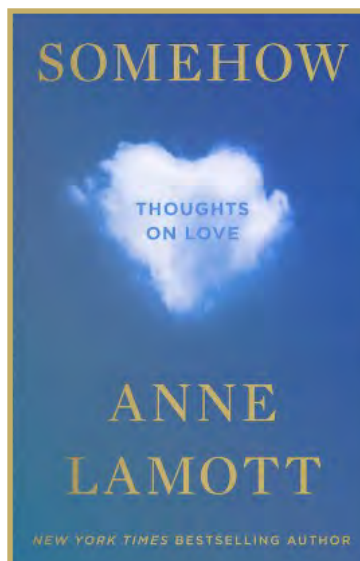
All adults are invited to a

**Stained Glass
Art Party**

**Thursday, May 16th
at 5:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

Come make some Stained
Glass art with "Greta's Glass"
and your FPC Family!

Cost: \$12
RSVP required by May 8
RSVP to erin@fpccov.org



Book Study

Somehow: Thoughts on Love

by Anne Lamott

Join us in the parlor | 5:30pm |
Mondays, April 29, May 6, May 13

Childcare is provided.

Send questions to Erin!

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

Monday, April 29

5:30pm Thoughts on Love book study

Tuesday, April 30

12:00pm Lectio Divina

5:30pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, May 1

3:30pm Staff meeting

5:00pm Children's Choir

6:00pm Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Friday, May 3

RSVP deadline for Is It Time

Saturday, May 4

10:00am Spring Cleaning Day

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Caring Hands Special Offering

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

**Do you have a
soon-to-be
graduate
you'd like to
celebrate?**



We'd like to recognize our FPC graduates as they move into a new chapter of life! We will list the names and schools of graduates in the worship guide announcements on May 12th. You may also choose to submit a picture and/or a short bio about your graduate (three sentences max) to be included in the e-news on May 9th.

The deadline to submit your graduate to catherine@fpccov.org is Monday, May 6th by 5:00pm.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Bob Wheeler, brother-in-law of Miriam Wheeler - dialysis, recovering from surgery
- ✦ Bernice Bailey - fall
- ✦ Charlie Kennon, brother of Larry Kennon
- ✦ Danny Vining - recovering from kidney stone removal
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown, cousin of Randy Layton

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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

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

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

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

- Children's Class (PreK-4th)
- Youth Class (5th+)
- Foundations Adult Class
- The Wired WORD

SPRING SAT. MAY 4
Cleaning Day 10AM-NOON

Enter through sanctuary doors.
Childcare available.

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, finances, assisted living, and more. RSVP to Neeley Lane by May 3, 2024
neeley@fpccov.org
770-786-7321 ext. 1013

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!



Fill out a **Nominating Committee** form to share who you see within the church that has the gifts to serve as an officer of First Presbyterian Church. **All nominations are due by NEXT MONDAY, May 6, 2024.** Forms are in the Narthex and in the e-news. Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, turned in to the church office, or emailed to Nominating Committee chair Billy Fortson at the email listed on the form.