



May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Meditation on WONDROUS LOVE
Standing in the Need of Prayer
Improvisation on HIGHER GROUND

Wayne L. Wold
Marilyn Thompson
Charles H. Gabriel

Prelude

Siyahamba

Vicki Collinsworth

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

And It is Love

written by Luke Usry

Fear not, beloved

(and know that you are not fallen, but beloved)

There is order in this chaos

An end to these mysterious means

A heading beyond the harrowed horizon

And it is Love.

Yes, beloved it is love.

It is difficult, **and it is Love.**

It is uncomfortable, **and it is Love.**

It is inconvenient, **and it is Love.**

It is messy, **and it is Love.**

It is illogical, **and it is Love.**

It is exhausting, **and it is Love.**

It is earth-shattering, **and it is Love.**

And it is wider than we could ever view

And deeper than we could ever dive

And higher than we could ever climb

And this Love - it is in you

And it is in me.

✠ Hymn of Praise 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

Verses 1, 4, 5

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Tender God, forgive us for our half-hearted faith that loves only when it is easy, and reaches out only to those who are like us, that ignores your less convenient commandments and fails to bear fruit anyone would rejoice in. How can a faith like that conquer the world? Nourish us again, to blossom with whole-hearted faith that abides in your love and shines forth with joy. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, 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

Anthem

O God of Love, O King of Peace
Chancel Choir

Arr. by Andrew Bruhn

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 15:9-17

Pew Bible page 109

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Jesus says... Love

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 729** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Verses 2, 4

Affirmation of Faith

Matthew 22:37-40

Our Lord Jesus said:

You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And the second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Readers: Angelic Bellinger, Kenny Compton,
Holden Evans, Amanda Goddard, Ruby Wells

**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

Thank You, God, For Loving Me
Chancel Choir; Aubrey Evans, flute

Arr. by Brad Nix

✠ Response 693

The Gift of Love

GIFT OF LOVE

***Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all aspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.***

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 137**

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

✦ **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 de Westminster

Louis Vierne



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | Amelia Evans, Holden Evans

Children Ushers | Thornton Holder, Greer Holder, William Whisnant

Usher Chair | Doug Bolton

We'd like to say thank you to Aubrey Evans
for sharing her gifts with the flute in this morning's worship.



Worship Practices

Facility Update—Great news! We are updating our building with a new sprinkler and fire security system. Please be aware of work areas throughout the church building during the month of May. We will be sure to communicate all space changes if needed.

Communication Notice—Due to an update in authentication requirements, emails from individual staff members at FPC are being blocked by certain email providers. Until this problem is resolved messages from staff using our "name@fpccov.org" accounts are being blocked by the following email providers:

@yahoo.com, @ymail.com, @bellsouth.net, @aol.com

This will not affect your ability to email us, only our ability to respond. You are invited to continue to send us your messages and we will do our best to respond with a phone call. Thank you for your patience during this time as we work to resolve this issue.

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.



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

Officers

Reaching Out		
Luke Usry		<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson		<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Engaging		
Charles Ardis		<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper		<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell		<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant		<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>
Belonging		
Doug Bolton		<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Pam Stillerman		<i>Welcome, Worship (2026)</i>
Billy Fortson		<i>Finance, Personnel (2024)</i>
Connecting (Deacons)		
Janet Carmichael		<i>Pastoral Care (2026)</i>
Tom Crews		<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall		<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb		<i>Faith & Fellowship (2024)</i>
More		
Jodi Atkins		<i>Strategic Planning (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton		<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
John McCarthy		<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining		<i>Personnel (2025)</i>

All adults are invited to a

Stained Glass Art Party

Thursday, May 16th at 5:30pm

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

8:00am at Town House Café

Saturday, May 11

Men's Prayer Breakfast



FPC KIDS PLAYGROUND, PIZZA, AND POPSCICLES

on the FPC Playground

May 8th 5:30pm-6:30pm



GAGA BALL YOUTH HANG

MAY 8 5:30PM-6:30PM

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join your FPC Youth friends for dinner and gaga ball!




Elizabeth Ann Circle

10:00am on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall

Martha Circle

10:30am hosted by rotating members

Tuesday, May 7th

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF+BEER

DRINKS & DISCUSSION AT NEELEY'S HOUSE

CHILDCARE AT FPC

COOK-OUT+

Guacamole Contest

MAY 21ST AT 5:30PM



SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT

ON THE MENU:

HAMBURGERS ON THE GRILL WITH BAKED BEANS, CHIPS, SLAW POTATO SALAD, & DESSERT

RSVP for dinner by Monday, May 13th

5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

Adults: \$5 Kids: \$2 Fam max: \$20

Submit your talents to Darcel Tabb!

May 15th



- Sunday, May 5**
Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Caring Hands Special Offering
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Worship Team meeting
- Monday, May 6**
- Officer Nomination deadline
- Graduate submittal deadline
- 5:30pm *Somehow* book study
- Tuesday, May 7**
- 10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle
- 10:30am Martha Circle
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 5:30pm Is It Time? OASIS Workshop
- Wednesday, May 8**
- RSVP for Stained Glass Art Party
- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm FINAL Children's Choir
- 5:00pm Nominating Committee meeting
- 5:30pm Playground, Pizza, & Popsicles
- 5:30pm Gaga Ball Youth Hang
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir
- Thursday, May 9**
- RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Saturday, May 11**
- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, May 12**
Seventh Sunday of Easter
- Celebrating our Graduates
- Honoring Presbyterian Women
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Book Study on Anne Lamott's *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*

Parlor | 5:30pm | Mondays, May 6, May 13

Childcare is provided. Send Erin questions!

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Sarah Bates & baby Joey, granddaughter-in-law of Sonny McDonald - premature birth
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown, cousin of Randy Layton
- ✦ Charlie Kennon, brother of Larry Kennon
- ✦ Danny Vining - stent removal
- ✦ Martha Young, grandmother of Cotton Young - cancer
- ✦ 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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Sheree Evans, friend of Cathy & Denny Dobbs - treatment for cancer

- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Travis Moss as they mourn her passing on May 2, 2024. A funeral service will be held at J.C. Harwell Funeral Home on Monday, May 6 at 11:00am..

Celebrations

- ✦ The FPC Presbyterian Women's Tutoring at Fairview Elementary School was chosen as Fairview's 2023-24 Partner in Education for our service to students ensuring that learning groups are happening and that student growth is #1. Thank you to our volunteers who give of their time weekly to support Newton County's children!

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
- ✦ Jon Paschal - Annandale Village, Suwanee
- ✦ 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

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am

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

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!



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

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 tomorrow Monday, May 6th by 5:00pm.**



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 TOMORROW 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.



Caring Hands



Your gift makes sure that every resident has access to the exceptional services we provide that enhance the quality of life for senior adults.

Caring Hands provides financial security to residents of Presbyterian Homes senior living communities. Will you consider making a financial gift to provide peace of mind and a place to call home forever for our residents? We and they will be eternally grateful.

Your gift to *Caring Hands* helps us:

- offer the pinnacle of care for senior adults
- provide financial assistance for medical care, transportation, food, and other needs
- serve more than 1,200 senior adults in six communities around the state

Standing on decades of excellence in serving residents while also evolving and growing with the best in modern care, we strive for the highest standards in all that we do.

Your gifts are expressions of generosity which ensure that our residents never face financial insecurity. Thank you for the caring hands you extend to our residents.