



May 12, 2024
Ascension of the Lord Sunday



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

<i>O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing</i>	Daniel Burton
<i>Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart</i>	Frederick C. Atkinson
<i>Rejoice the Lord Is King</i>	Albert L. Travis

Prelude

<i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>	Franz Joseph Hayden
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Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Celebration of Presbyterian Women

Judy Davis, Alice Walker

✦ **Call to Worship**

Psalm 47

Dana Hall

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great King over all the earth.

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

Let us worship the living God!

✦ **Hymn of Praise 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

by Rev. Bryce Calder

Sara Chini

Almighty God,

We come today reminded of your greatness and glory,
your sovereign power and eternal purpose
all expressed so wonderfully in Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Risen and Ascended.

We thank you for the wonder of Ascension,
that marvelous yet mysterious moment

in the life of the Apostles
which left them gazing heavenwards in confusion
yet departing in joy.

We thank you that through his Ascension

Jesus is now set free to be Lord of all:
no longer bound to a particular place or time,
but with us always—able to reach even to the ends of the earth.

**Give us a deeper sense of wonder,
a stronger faith,
and a greater understanding of all you have done.**

God,

**Like the Apostles,
we too will never fully understand all Ascension means.
We accept, but we do not fully understand.
We believe, yet we have many questions.
Help us, despite our uncertainty, to hold firm to the great truth
that the wonder of Christ Jesus
goes far beyond anything we can ever imagine,
and in that faith may we live each day
to his glory and honor. Amen.**

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

Sherri Bolton

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

Recognizing Our Graduates

Children's Anthem

God Bless Families

by Natalie Sleeth

Children's Choir

Anthem

Come Share the Lord

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Janet Carmichael

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Pew Bible page 118

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Are we there yet? ...How much longer?

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 462**

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

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

Fount of Every Blessing

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

✠ **Response 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

***All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!***



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

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 268

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

Verses 1, 2

✠ 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

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



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.

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—Our email service has returned to normal. Thank you for your patience during the authentication updates posted in this space last week.

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.

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.

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 | Ruth Ralston, Rose Ralston

Usher Chair | Doug Bolton

Presbyterian Women in Worship | Sherri Bolton, Janet Carmichael, Sara Chini,
Judy Davis, Dana Hall, Julie MacKenzie, Suzanne Perkerson, Alice Walker



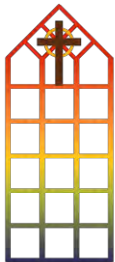
Graduates

This Sunday, we would like to congratulate our graduates
for accomplishing a milestone in their lives.

Allie Hay—Davidson College; Bachelor of Arts in Sociology
Jake McCarthy—Mercer University School of Law; Juris Doctor
Sierra BlackShear—Alcovy High School
Jahniyah Greene—Newton High School

We also congratulate the following graduating loved ones of church members:

Mia Fries, granddaughter of Sara & Robert Chini—*Tucker High School*
Caroline Kennon, granddaughter of Larry & Day Kennon—*University of Georgia*
Dylan Gregory Jones, grandson of Bob & Darcel Tabb—*Eastside High School*



**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	
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)

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
- ✦ Sarah Bates & baby Joey, granddaughter-in-law of Sonny McDonald - premature birth
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown, cousin of Randy Layton
- ✦ Charlie Kennon, brother of Larry Kennon
- ✦ 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

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.

Prayer requests and updates

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

Celebrations

- ✦ Please join us in welcoming our summer seminary youth intern from Columbia Theological Seminary, Jiyeong Seo! Jiyeong will begin her call at FPC on May 15th.
- ✦ 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. 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

VOLUNTEER FOR VBS at FPC

9:00AM-12:00PM

JUNE 3RD-6TH

MANDATORY TRAINING

MAY 20TH AT 5:30PM



Visit
fpccov.org/vbs
to signup

Or email Pastor Erin
erin@fpccov.org

SUMMER 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

Visit fpccov.org/vbs to register campers
3/4 - 5th grade by NEXT SUNDAY, May 19th
to guarantee a shirt in their size!

Sunday School

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

Sunday, May 19th we will be
welcoming NEW MEMBERS to FPC!
Talk to Neeley if you are interested in
joining or learning more about what
membership means!

We welcome everyone
into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you
become an official
MEMBER!

Sunday, May 19th
after worship

Talk to Neeley if you are
interested!

Becoming
a member is a
valuable way to say



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA



pcusa.org
fpccov.org

"I have chosen FPC Covington
as my home to trust in our
Lord, Jesus Christ!"



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

**May
15th**

Book Study on Anne Lamott's

Somehow: Thoughts on Love

Parlor | 5:30pm | Monday, May 13

Childcare is provided.

O.A.S.I.S.
Lunch Bunch
 FPC

May Lunch

11:30AM | May 15th | Social Goat Tavern
1115 Church Street, Covington, GA 30014
 RSVP to FPC by May 14th

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

Sunday, May 12

Ascension Sunday

Celebrating our Graduates

Honoring Presbyterian Women

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

Monday, May 13

RSVP for Soul Feast

5:30pm FINAL *Somehow* book study

Tuesday, May 14

RSVP for Lunch Bunch

12:00pm Lectio Divina

Wednesday, May 15

10:00am Coffee Club

11:30am Lunch Bunch

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:15pm Soul Feast

6:00pm Soul Feast's Got Talent

Thursday, May 16

4:00pm Finance Team Meeting

5:30pm Stained Glass Art Party

6:30pm Preschool Taskforce Meeting

Sunday, May 19

Day of Pentecost

VBS Registration deadline

Special Offering

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm New Member Welcome

12:15pm Session Meeting

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

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF+BEER

DRINKS & DISCUSSION

AT NEELEY'S HOUSE

CHILDCARE AT FPC



GUACAMOLE
- CONTEST
MAY 21ST AT 5:30PM



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



*God, we give you thanks
as we work together to create a world
where children have all the tools they need
to grow, learn and lead.*

AMEN.



JERUSALEN MARTINEZ

Sharing innovative, creative and collaborative ways to bring Presbyterian youth together is one of the primary objectives of the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium — as when youth and adults gathered last April at the Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana de Fayetteville in North Carolina, for a unique daylong conference titled “When Did We See You?” “¿Cuándo te vimos?” [kwan.do te veemos]

Hector Cardenas, a the 17-year-old participant, says, “It is important that Presbyterians and other people give money to support programs like ‘Cuándo te vimos’ through the annual Pentecost Offering. It gives us the opportunity to bring churches together that do not have the capabilities of doing things like this — experiencing new activities, learning and meeting new people.”

We are there

Pentecost celebrates the renewal of the relationship between God and the community of faith.

Through our gifts to the Pentecost Offering, we are there to help build a foundation of faith in our youth which will last a lifetime.

40%

stays with your congregation

to support ministries with children, youth, and young adults.

25%

supports Young Adult Volunteers

(YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

25%

supports Ministries with Youth

including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10%

is devoted to children at-risk

and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.

Won't you join us?

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**



PENTECOST

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



MATTHEW 25

APRIL 1-MAY 19, 2024

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH

established during
childhood through
young adulthood
helps ensure lifelong
faith and service.

When you give to the
Pentecost Offering,
you are helping to
provide opportunities
for young people to
grow and share in
their faith in Christ.



WAYS TO GIVE —



Through your congregation



Text PENTECOST
to 91999 to support
these vital ministries



Give online at
pcusa.org/give/Pentecost



You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by the Pentecost Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700.



The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning and witness, and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.