

MAY 19, 2024



DAY OF PENTECOST

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Jubilation

Jason D. Payne

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Arr. Joel Raney

O Worship the King

Johann M. Haydn

Prelude

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Pounds

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Introduction of Summer Seminary Youth Intern

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Summer Choir

Mark Fiddie

✦ **Call to Worship**

Come! Let us speak plainly and boldly about our faith.

**The Spirit of God descends upon us,
And Christ's promise to us is fulfilled.**

The expression of the Spirit's power in our community is a wonder to behold.

**We each have a different voice,
yet we witness God's joy together! Amen!**

✦ **Hymn of Praise 290**

O Day of Joy and Wonder!

JONATHAN'S TUNE

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

by Rev. Scott Cervas

Spirit of God,

**you move around us and we wave you away
as if you are a fly getting too close to our heads.**

**You move among us, but we all have different ideas...
different ways of doing things...
and so your perfectly chilling harmonics
are drowned out by our chaotic dissonance.**

**You move within us,
but sometimes we just aren't willing to risk our own reputations
to embrace your radical vision.**

**But, deep down, we know that we need to move beyond ourselves...
we know that the church needs to move beyond itself.**

**So keep moving...keep moving around us, among us, and within us...
keep moving us so that we can be creators of movement in the world...
Amen.**

✠ Assurance of God's Love & 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

*For our passing of the peace today our children will be handing out doves. The dove is
a symbol of peace. The dove represents the presence of the Holy Spirit with us!*
**May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you!**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

On The Day of Pentecost
Chancel Choir

by Douglas Nolan

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:1-21

Pew Bible page 119

Liturgists: Patrick Carmichael, English; Bill Clary, German;

Pat Harper, Japanese; Jay Lanners, Portuguese; Jiyeong Seo, Korean

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

The Divine Dance of Discernment

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Hymn of Response 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SPIRIT

✠Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

PCUSA

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles

**rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer Amelia Evans, Audrey Fullerton

**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

Holy Spirit, Rain Down
Mark Fiddie

by Russell Frager

✠ **Response 286**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

***Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do,
Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with they fire divine.***

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 539**

We Will Go Out with Joy

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

Verse 1: soloist

Verses 2, 3: ALL

✠ **Charge & 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**

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

David Cherwien



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,

Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Acolyte | Parker Firkus

Usher Chair | Doug Bolton



Worship Practices

Offering—The offering is an act of worship! We encourage you to place something in the offering plate as it come to you. Pens and notecards are available at the end of the pews if you would like to place a prayer of how you plan to be a good steward this week. You are invited to offer you prayer, tithes, and talents through the offering plate!

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.

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. Art: “Pentecost” by Jen Norton, jennortonartstudio.com



Worship Art

Today's worship guide cover is an acrylic painting on wood titled "Pentecost" by Jen Norton. The following is an excerpt from her artist's statement:

My life has offered many moments of inspiration, some obvious and some obscure. Yours probably has too. Sometimes it's about art, but not always. Maybe I'm inspired to call a friend, only to find out they had been thinking of calling me. Maybe I've felt a desire to exercise more, attend mass, or I've been part of healing a soul. And sometimes it's just an overwhelming sense of calm and love that seems to come out of nowhere. These are all movements of the Holy Spirit.

What would it have been like to be in that upper room when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples? How powerful of a force was it that caused them to leave their hiding spot and risk everything to evangelize in a dangerous world? And why don't most of us experience the spirit in such an unwavering way?



**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	
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor	Nursery Staff
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Hattie Bellinger
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Catrina Crowe
Jiyeong Seo	Seminary Youth Intern	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)



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

2024 MISSION Extravaganza

JUNE 10TH-13TH

6/10 GARDENING
La Armistad Organization

6/11 COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Grace United Methodist

6/12 GRADY FRESH FOOD CART
Hands on Atlanta

6/13 HUNGER RELIEF
Hope Women's Community Kitchen

REGISTER AT [FPCCOV.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpccov.org/signup)
Register for one or all of these daily mission trips
SEND QUESTIONS TO [ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG](mailto:erin@fpccov.org)

NEW LOCAL TUESDAY MISSION!

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

Monday, May 20

5:30pm VBS volunteer training

Tuesday, May 21

12:00pm LAST Lectio Divina

5:30pm Belief & Beer

Wednesday, May 22

10:00am Coffee Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Makeup VBS training

Saturday, May 25

8:00am Meals on Wheels delivery

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

11:00am Worship

Monday, May 27

Office CLOSED for Memorial Day

Summer Sunday School

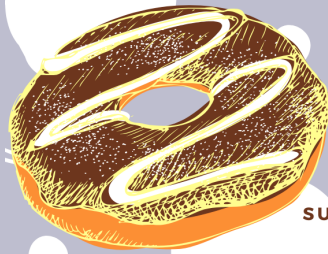
During the summer, Sunday School classes are held at 10:00am.

Children (PreK-4th) -

Playground Time

Youth Class (5th+) -

Hang in Youth Room



BEGINNING JUNE 2ND

Donuts & DEVO

COMBINED ADULT
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM

GUACAMOLE - CONTEST

MAY 21ST AT 5:30PM

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

BELIEF+BEER

DRINKS & DISCUSSION
AT NEELEY'S HOUSE
CHILDCARE AT FPC



TODAY is the LAST DAY to register or volunteer for VBS!
Check the Narthex for forms or visit fpccov.org/vbs



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 or volunteer



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Bruce & Olympia Bynum, friends of Curtis & Carolyn Watson - cancer treatment
- ✦ Bernice Bailey - fall
- ✦ Sarah Bates & baby Joey, granddaughter-in-law of Sonny McDonald - premature birth
- ✦ Charlie Kennon, brother of Larry Kennon
- ✦ Martha Young, grandmother of Cotton Young - cancer

Ongoing prayer requests

Requests will be removed after six 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
- ✦ 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 thought and prayers are with Randy Layton and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his cousin, Jeanelle Brown.
- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Travis Moss as they mourn her passing on May 2, 2024.

Celebrations

- ✦ Please join us in welcoming our summer seminary youth intern from Columbia Theological Seminary, Jiyeong Seo!

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

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

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

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

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

**JUNE
4TH**

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

*The King Center &
Ebenezer Baptist*
ATLANTA, GA

Join your OASIS friends for a tour of the King Center and The Rev. Martin Luther King's home church, Ebenezer Baptist

JUNE 20, 2024

Meet at FPC at 9:30am to carpool
Cost: FREE admission, plus lunch
at Marcus Bar & Grill
RSVP to Neeley by June 10th

Sunday, May 19th we will be JOIN US TODAY!
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!



pcusa.org
fpccov.org

Becoming
a member is a
valuable way to say

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



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

“I am coming to you.”

—JOHN 14:18b

*Uniting Presbyterians in support of young people sharing
their faith, ideas and gifts with the Church and the world.*



“When donors give generously to the Pentecost Offering, it proves that our church and its members really want to empower young people and bring them into the church.”

Maggie Collins

Young Adult Volunteer from Winston-Salem, North Carolina



DREAM

DREAAM, a ministry of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, Illinois, stands for Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males. DREAAM is designed to reach, teach and invest in African American boys at risk and to walk alongside them and their families beginning at the early age of three until they reach the age of 24. Tracy Dace, DREAAM's founder and CEO, calls gifts to the Pentecost Offering “hope in action.”



PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Young Adult Volunteer program is a faith-based year of service in sites across the U.S. and around the world that has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for nearly three decades. Maggie Collins, who served at Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, said, “My home church has always put an important focus on social justice and the church’s obligation to serve the greater community. This had a large impact on me and my conception of what it means to be a Christian.”



“I am coming to you.”

Christ shared these simple but powerful words to assure us that He will always be at our side. This is the hope and inspiration that carries us forward, and is fundamental to our faith.

Instilling this understanding is a gift we pass to our children. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start in the years from childhood through young adulthood that 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.