

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA



**Second Sunday
after Epiphany**
JANUARY 15, 2023



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

At the Name of Jesus

R. Vaughn Williams

Prelude in B-Flat

J. S. Bach

He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd

G.F. Handel

Prelude

Praises Sweet and Profound

PERSONENT HODIE, Piae Cantiones, 1582

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ Call to Worship

To all searching for grace and truth,

Come and see!

To all searching for meaning and purpose,

Come and see!

To all searching for abundant life,

Come and see!

Let us worship God together.

✦ Hymn of Praise 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

✦ Call to Confession

✦ Community Confession

Merciful God,

**We confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses
of Jesus Christ.**

Forgive us...

...for the times we have stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate,

**...for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs,
...for the times we have hoarded our abundance,
...for the times we have turned away from your children in need.
For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to
come and see, and to abide in your presence so that we may be transformed
and renewed. Empower us to witness, with our words and lives, to the love
and grace we've experienced in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✠ Response 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.***

✠ Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Pew Bible page 667

New Testament Reading

John 1:29-42

Pew Bible page 92

Message

What are you looking for?

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn of Response 443

There Is a Redeemer

GREEN

✦ Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

**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!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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

Offertory

Every Valley
Aubrey Evans, alto

John Ness Beck

✦ **Response 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

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 542** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* GOD BE WITH YOU

✦ **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 *Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound* David Cherwien



Worship Notes

Musical offerings are an act of worship. If you wish to express thanks to God at the conclusion of a musical offering, feel free to offer a hearty "Amen," a Biblical way of saying "so be it!" and affirming spiritual gifts. Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing their use. Written Liturgy provided by © Presbyterian Outlook, 2023. Liturgy written by Stephanie Sorge.

Contact Cards

There are Contact Cards in each pew. Visitors are invited to connect with us by filling out a Contact Card and placing it in the offering plate. Members may also choose to fill out a contact card if their contact information has changed.

Children in Worship

Good news parents! Beginning in the new year during worship, Neeley or Erin will begin taking your children downstairs to the nursery after Wondering with God's Children (only if your children are planning to go to the nursery). This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. We will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! As always, children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary.

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Pat Harper Acolyte | Holden Evans



Worship Music Notes

There Is a Redeemer

Melody Green is probably most loved for the songs she's written. Although Melody was born in Hollywood, California, she came into this world quietly and without fanfare. She grew up in Venice in a funky little apartment facing an alley. With no safe place to play and the beach just a few hundred feet away, the sand became her only playground. As a young girl who always watched the shifting tides, the star patterns, and the sunsets, Melody realized there must be a Creator for such perpetual beauty, universal order, and symmetry to exist.

Melody's father was a WWII Navy Seal Veteran, a hunter and fisherman, and a factory worker by trade. Her mom worked at a CPA firm and was raised in an Orthodox, Jewish family, the child of Russian refugees. Melody's grandfather was a Rabbi, her grandmother, the child of a Grand Rabbi. Escaping Tsarist Russia, her grandparents bundled up their five children and took a train to the shipyard in Odessa. Melody says, "It's a miracle I'm even alive! My family barely escaped death in Odessa, then on the train ride to the port they were ducking bullets shot at them through the windows. My precious grandparents put the kids on the floor and laid on top of them, covered with pillows for protection. They made it to the port and actually escaped on the very last ship that would allow fleeing refugees on board. My mom was their sixth child, but the very first child to be born in America." My family history played a large part in shaping my heart to absolute disdain for all types of persecution, prejudice, and injustice. Some things are just wrong. My spirit told me this long before I even met the Lord."

After college, Melody designed clothing in the famed Garment District of Los Angeles. Later, she took a job at a production company. It was there that she met Keith Green, an

aspiring musician who was on a very similar spiritual journey. Within a year, they were married and continued their spiritual search together, experimenting with Buddhism and recreational drugs. Melody designed and made unique clothing for herself and Keith for his nightclub gigs in Hollywood and his record label auditions. In 1975, they were invited to a small Bible study in upscale Bel Air, and their lives were forever changed. Melody finally found the truth she'd been looking for, but in an unexpected package. Both Melody and Keith understood that in Jesus they had found their one and only true Messiah.

Calling herself a Jewish Christian, Melody decided to just read the Bible, do what it said, and Last Days Ministry (LDM) was born. She and Keith opened the doors of their small home and took in kids with drug problems and surprise pregnancies, usually leading them to the Lord. They also held potluck dinners and Bible studies for their entire neighborhood, going door to door to invite people. Before long, more space was needed, so they bought or rented a total of six more homes, built triple bunks, and ate donated mystery food (cans without labels). In 1979, feeling a need to leave "the city" because of the rehab work they were doing, they moved their flourishing ministry to a 120-acre ranch in East Texas. Melody still traveled on Keith's concert tours where she ran the soundboard and sold albums. The couple refused to charge for concerts and only accepted donations for CDs. Back at the ranch, Melody oversaw the women's ministries and took care of their young and growing family.

By 1982, the ministry had a worldwide impact, with nearly 100 people on staff. Keith's music was at the top of the charts, new facilities were being built, and even more were in the planning stages. In July of that year, a tragic accident changed Melody's life forever. Keith and two of their young children, with some visiting friends, went for a short ride in a small plane. It was the LDM weekly fast day, and the ministry pilot had just returned. Keith met the pilot on the runway and everyone jumped into the plane. But the plane did not get the needed lift, and just 20 seconds later it crashed into a neighboring field and burst into flames. There were no survivors. Keith was just 28 years old when he died, Melody's first born, Josiah, was almost four, and Bethany was two years old. At the time, Melody was at home with their 1-year-old daughter, Rebekah Joy, and six weeks pregnant with their fourth child.

Melody says, "The rug was yanked out from under my whole world that day. Without the Lord and the support of my friends and the LDM community, I never would have made it." But she did make it, pressing in to lead LDM through the crisis, while caring for her surviving daughter. In 1983, Melody took some time off to give birth to her new daughter, Rachel Hope. She was a single mom with two little girls...and leading a large international ministry. It was at a time when women leaders were few, and not readily accepted, but the Lord gave

Melody great favor and continued to use both her and LDM in incredible ways

Melody and Keith penned "There Is A Redeemer" in 1977. Made famous by Keith on his concert tours, he wrote the third verse, unaware of the tragic end he would soon suffer. The song first appeared on his 1982 album, *Songs for the Shepherd*, which was the last album he released. Reports of the hymn being sung in villages in Africa and Asia are plentiful, and it can be found in 29 church hymn books around the world.. It has been suggested that this song was intended to be a contemporary take on Job 19:25, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."



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Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other activities. Reach out to the office and we'll point you in the right direction!
Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

Deacons

Day Kennon (2022)
Eleanor Scarborough (2023)
Darcel Tabb (2024)
Alice Walker (2022)

Session

Class of 2022	
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Aubrey Evans	<i>Christian Education</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Worship</i>
Trista Hooten Wilson	<i>Welcome</i>
Class of 2023	
Stan Hall	<i>Facilities</i>
Louly Hay Kapp	<i>Marketing</i>
Ed Perkerson	<i>Strategic Planning</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Finance</i>
Class of 2024	
Billy Fortson	<i>Personnel</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness</i>

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Danielle Schubert
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Samantha Boozer
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Kennedy Lynn
		Amanda Sotolongo
		Kyla White

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Richard, friend of Miriam and Jack Wheeler - Emory Hope House
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great Uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Violet Martin, granddaughter of Chris and Barbara Martin - health issues
- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ Hulda, friend of Judy Davis - breast cancer
- ✦ Jody Harris, friend of Chris, Barbara and Alex Martin
- ✦ Joe Burns, brother of Cathy Dobbs
- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael

- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
 - ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
 - ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
 - ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
 - ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
 - ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
 - ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's
- Military Service**
- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
 - ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Julia Brubaker - Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to:
catherine@fpccov.org
 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

Congregational Meeting

The annual approval congregational meeting will be held following worship on **January 22nd**. In this meeting we will hear about our budget and the pastors' terms of call for 2023.

New Sunday School Class

The Wired WORD starts on January 22

**in the Gathering Room
between the offices and the robe room
AKA "the old choir room"**



You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering.
Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256

Or point your camera at the QR code and follow the link to give online.

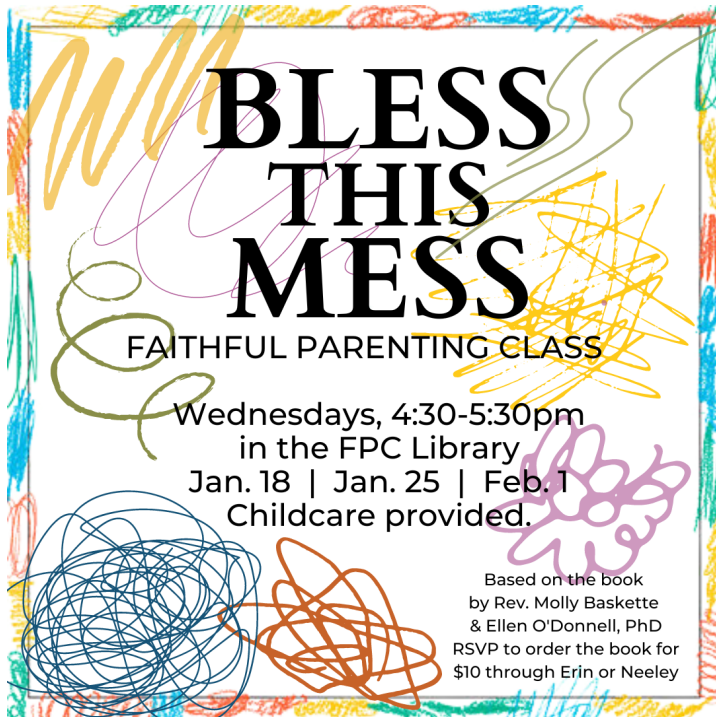


We get to host Presbytery!!!

What an honor to host the February Presbytery meeting for Greater Atlanta on February 11th!

What is presbytery? Presbytery is a ruling body in presbyterian churches consisting of the ministers and representative elders from congregations.

How can you help? We need volunteers for greeters, parking assistance, general set up, etc! If you are willing and able to help at anytime on Feb. 11 from 8am - 2pm please email Catherine and we will have a spot for you! Childcare is available! We ask that you sign up by January 23!



Presbyterianism 101

Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:00pm | Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Mar. 1

Have you been "visiting" for a while?

Come learn what it means to be presbyterian on a spiritual level **and** a functional one! Find out what it means to be a member vs. a regular visitor, and learn about the practices and beliefs held by the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUSA) in this class taught by Neeley and Erin. You will not be required to join FPC after taking the class but know that the offer is given.

We'd love to have you!
Childcare provided.



Sunday, January 15
Second Sunday after Epiphany

11:00am Worship

Monday, January 16

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 17

12:00pm Lectio Divina

2:15pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 18

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

4:30pm Joyful Noise

4:30pm Bless this Mess

5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 19

7:00pm Blossoms and Beans

Saturday, January 21

9:00am Officer Retreat

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am The Wired Word

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Congregational Meeting

Save the Date: March 11th
Church Wide Day Retreat
10:00am-4:00pm
More details to follow!

January 19th at 7:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Join our new Garden Club: Blossoms and Beans!

7:00pm-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Ask Jeff MacKenzie for details.

Questions about plant problems, seedlings, compost issues, and all things botanical are welcome!