



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA



**seeking:**  
*Who are you  
looking for?*

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
11:00AM APRIL 9, 2023

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*The Blessed Christ Is Risen Today*  
*Toccata on DUKE STREET*  
*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*

J.S. Bach  
Arr. Joel Raney  
Mark Sedio

## **Prelude**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Arr. Michael Burkhardt

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Easter Fanfare**

Terry Byte

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Choral Call to Worship**

*Christ Is Risen, O Be Joyful*

Words and Music by Douglas Wagner

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

What are you looking for?

**The light before dawn.**

What are you looking for?

**A reason to hope.**

What are you looking for?

**Joy after grief and flowers after winter.**

What are you looking for?

**A place to belong.**

What are you looking for?

**We are looking for the Messiah.**

Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**Surely God is in this place.**

## ✠ Hymn of Praise

*Alleluia, He Is Risen!*

Traditional Hymn Tunes  
Arranged by Cindy Berry

*Introduction—Choir*

### ***The Day of Resurrection—Choir and Congregation***

***The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.***

*Passion Chorale—Choir only*

### ***The Church's One Foundation—Choir and Congregation***

***Now let the heav'ns be joyful! Let earth her song begin!  
The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;  
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.***

*Ending—Choir only*

## ✠ Call to Confession

### ✠ Community Confession

**God of resurrection,  
We confess, like a dog with a bone, we run aimlessly.  
We chase our tails, looking for things that provide answers  
to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights.  
You meet us in the darkness before dawn,  
but we mistake you for the gardener.  
Forgive us for seeking after worldly things.  
Forgive us for forgetting to seek you.  
Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst.  
With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.**

## ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Family of faith,

No matter how many times we lose sight of God, God never loses sight of us.

We might spend our whole days seeking, but we are always found.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel,  
the good news proclaimed in resurrection:

**What once was lost is found.**

**We are held in God's loving embrace:**

**forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia!**

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠ Hymn of Response 240

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord;***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

## ✠ Passing of the Peace



## *Proclaiming the Word*

### Wondering with God's Children

#### Special Music

*Jesus Loves Me!*

William B. Bradbury

Amelia Evans, piano

#### Anthem

*Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth

Kately Lane, soloist; Aubrey Evans, flute

### Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✦ **Hymn of Response 246**

*Christ is Alive!*

TRURO

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

***Christ is alive! No longer bound;  
to distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.***

***Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.***

### ✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in resurrection—  
**mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,  
like tulips after the snow: real.**

We believe in Easter morning—  
**in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to return to us.**

We believe in Jesus—  
**who calls us by name and asks,  
"Who are you looking for?"**

So we look—

**for justice, for mercy,  
for God in our midst.**

And as we look, we sing,

**"Alleluia!"**

**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**

### **Offertory**

*The Trumpet Shall Sound*

G.F. Handel

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson

## **Easter Prayer**



## *Being the Church in the World*

### **✠ Sending Hymn**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!*

EASTER HYMN

Lyra Davidica, 1708

Setting by Hal H. Hopson

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!***

***All creation, join to say, Alleluia!***

***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***

***Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia  
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!***

## **✠ Charge and Benediction**

### **Choral Response**

*Hallelujah Chorus*

G.F. Handel

### **✠ Postlude**

*Toccata from Symphony V*

Charles-Marie Widor



# *Worship Practices*

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## **Friendship Registers**

Friendship Registers are back! 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.

## **Children in Worship**

Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary. 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. They will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way.

## **Sound System**

Please know we recognize the need for improving our sound system. We have new microphones and we are evaluating new settings while we plan for better solutions. Currently, we encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to move closer to the front near the main speakers.

## **Guest Musicians**

Trumpet I Aiken Del Aguila  
French Horn Michael Wells

Trumpet II Jerry Brooks  
Tuba Russell Day

Trombone Steve Jessup  
Percussion Jeff Macko

## **Serving Today**

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley  
Usher Chair | Curtis Watson  
Acolyte | Kately Lane





# Sermon Notes

Easter is Resurrection Day! It is a high holy day of remembering what God has done, is doing, and will do in Christ Jesus. It is a day of celebrating that we are called to be an Easter People. Easter represents new beginnings, life after death, light in the darkness, and newfound energy in our journeys of discipleship. This Easter we get to ponder John's account of Jesus' resurrection and arrive at the empty tomb with Mary while it is still dark.

Together we will ask ourselves the questions Jesus asks Mary, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" We will hear Mary's eyewitness account of the empty tomb and join her in announcing, "I have seen the Lord!"

While it was still dark, Mary saw and believed. She then declared this good news of great joy to the disciples. Yes, church even in the darkness and grief... resurrection happens. We will be called by name and sent out to proclaim the good news of the Risen Lord!

## Our Mission Statement

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.

## 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. Contact the office and we'll point you in the right direction!  
Email: [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or call: 770-786-7321

## Officers

	<b>Reaching Out</b>	
Curtis Watson		<i>Witness (2024)</i>
	<b>Engaging</b>	
Charles Ardis		<i>Christian Ed (2025)</i>
Pat Harper		<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell		<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant		<i>Christian Ed (2024)</i>
	<b>Belonging</b>	
Doug Bolton		<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Louly Hay Kapp		<i>Marketing (2023)</i>
Bob Tabb		<i>Finance (2023)</i>
	<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Tom Crews		<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall		<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</i>
Eleanor Scarborough		<i>Pastoral Care (2023)</i>
Darcel Tabb		<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</i>
	<b>More</b>	
Billy Fortson		<i>Personnel (2024)</i>
Stan Hall		<i>Facilities (2023)</i>
John McCarthy		<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Ed Perkerson		<i>Strategic Planning (2023)</i>

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	
Alicia Taylor	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	Laina Lalane
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Amariah Ray
		Kyla White

# Easter Lilies

The flowers are given to the glory of God in witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Donations above the cost of flowers will go to support our witness and outreach programs. Following today's service we ask for those who gave to collect their lilies and enjoy them at home.

## In memory of:

Pete & Pat Arnold, Steve Bozarth

Clayton Bailey, Sr.

William Cobham, Maggie McNeeley,  
Gladys Cornick, Gloria Mims

Ray & Edy Moy; Howard & Madelle Boteler

JoAnn Crews

Michael Dobbs, Joan Wyatt, & Jim Stillerman

Jim & Sandy Elder

Ann Bouchillon

Janet Fraser

Our parents: Lois & S.A. Ginn,  
Dot & Bill Fortson

Bobby Harper, Kenneth & Wilma Pearson

Sam B. Hay, Jr.

Jim Stillerman

Gene & Rita Bilz, John William Howell & Joanne Howell,  
Hugh & Mary Newsome, Bill & Betty Lunsford

Ursula Kaminski

My mom, Jean Carol

Grammie Rentz & Papa Burnside

Guy McGiboney

Lucy Pearl Jones

Jim Stillerman

## Given by:

*The Doug Arnold Family*

*Bernice Bailey*

*Hattie & Angelic Bellinger*

*Gary & Susan Boteler*

*Tom Crews*

*Denny & Cathy Dobbs*

*The Elder Family*

*Bart & Ruth Frankena*

*Amy Fraser*

*Stephanie & Billy Fortson*

*Pat Harper*

*Lauren & Sam Hay*

*Noah & Ada Hicks*

*Nicole & Kraig Howell*

*Leonard, Chrissy, &  
Alex Kaminski*

*Beth & Lonnie Lamb*

*Robert, Neeley, Kately,  
Paisley, & MaryRentz Lane*

*Carol McGiboney*

*Doreatha L. Murrain*

*Kathy & Bill Stillerman*

**In memory of: (cont.)**

Jim Stillerman, T.A. & Evelyn Underwood,  
Hyman & Marguerite Stillerman  
James & Vera Knight, Ken & Rosalie Tabb  
Arnold, Bonnie, & Dale Tingler  
Hazel Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth I. Walker, Sr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Griffin, Sr., Barbara Phillips  
Our parents  
Jack & Barbara Weesner, Guy McGiboney  
Jean Carol Mundy  
Mary Abston

**Given by:**

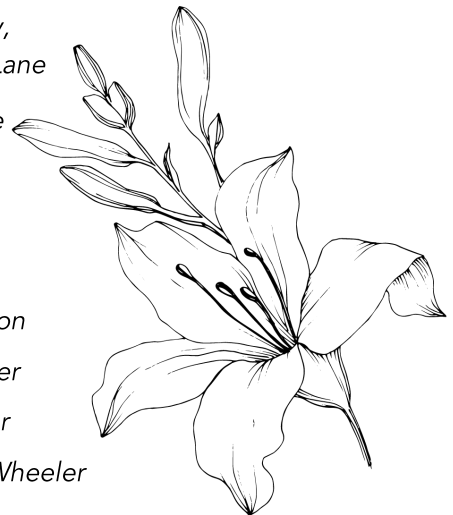
*Pam Stillerman*  
*Bob & Darcel Tabb*  
*Roger & Tootles Tingler*  
*Ken & Alice Walker*  
*Carolyn & Curtis Watson*  
*Chris & Donna Weesner*  
*Jack & Miriam Wheeler*  
*The Whisnant Family*

**In honor of:**

Our church leaders  
Pam Stillerman  
FPC Staff & FPC Choirs  
Douglas & Sherri Bolton  
Sam & Loucy Hay, Reverend Louly F. Hay  
Pam Stillerman  
My mom, Arnetta  
Our church family  
  
Family & friends  
All who mourn loss of loved ones  
Penny Blakeney, my sister  
All nine of our precious grandchildren  
Our children & grandchildren  
Carol McGiboney  
Janet Carmichael, Alicia Taylor  
Jack & Miriam Wheeler

**Given by:**

*Anonymous*  
*All of us*  
*Doug & Sherri Bolton*  
*Patrick & Janet Carmichael*  
*Lauren & Sam Hay*  
*Noah & Ada Hicks*  
*Lonnie & Beth Lamb*  
*Robert, Neeley, Kately,  
Paisley, & MaryRantz Lane*  
*Jeff & Julie MacKenzie*  
*Doreatha L. Murrain*  
*Dave Noble*  
*Bob & Darcel Tabb*  
*Carolyn & Curtis Watson*  
*Chris & Donna Weesner*  
*Jack & Miriam Wheeler*  
*Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler*





**1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014**  
**fpccov.org | 770.786.7321**

# SOUL FEAST



## APRIL 12



### ON THE MENU: BREAKFAST FOR DINNER

Feed your body and soul with FPC in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.

RSVP by Tuesday, April 11th at 12:00pm to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321



Our April Soul Class:  
**Thriving Congregations**  
Join us following Soul Feast at 6:00pm to hear from our Thriving Congregations Cohort!

VBS June 5-8

Register at [fpccov.org/vbs](http://fpccov.org/vbs) for Ready, Set, Move Vacation Bible School!



### Sunday, April 9

#### Easter Sunday

- 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service
- 10:00am Refreshments in the Narthex Hallway
- 11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord

### Monday, April 10

Office Closed

### Tuesday, April 11

RSVP deadline for Soul Feast

- 2:15pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

### Wednesday, April 12

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 4:30pm Blessed Parenting Class
- 5:15pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Soul Class: Thriving Congregations

### Thursday, April 13

RSVP deadline for Men's Breakfast

- 6:00pm Blossoms & Beans

### Saturday, April 15

- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

### Sunday, April 16 Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

## BELIEF AND - BEER -

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION  
APRIL 20TH | 5:30PM | AT LUCKY DAY  
CHILDCARE PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH

## BLESSING OF A SKINNED KNEE

BLESSED PARENTING CLASS

Twice a month on Wednesdays  
4:30-5:30pm in the Gathering Room  
Childcare provided.  
April 12 | April 19

## Blossoms & Beans



The Ambassador  
Gardening Club

Meeting on Thursday,  
April 13th from 6:00pm to  
7:30pm in the FPC  
Fellowship Hall

Remember Earth Day is this month! Take some time to think about the Earth and visit with other gardeners at the Ambassador Gardening Club!

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Mary Annese, mother of Barbara Martin - shingles
- ✦ Richard, friend of Jack and Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack and Miriam Wheeler - awaiting bladder cancer test results
- ✦ Megan Almond, granddaughter of Pat Harper
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of congregation
- ✦ Lucas and Morgan, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - complicated pregnancy issues
- ✦ Terri Sherril, friend of Beth and Danny Vining - shoulder surgery
- ✦ Dan Walden - knee surgery
- ✦ Jennifer Idrobo, friend of Jonny Atkins - bone marrow biopsy
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia

- ✦ Beverly Beasley, friend of Jean Elder - caring for husband who has leukemia
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Darcel and Bob Tabb on the birth of their ninth grandchild, Leo Alan Tabb!

### Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Beth Lamb and her family as they mourn the passing of her mother on March 31st. A funeral will be held at Northwest Presbyterian Church in Atlanta on April 29th at 4:00pm.

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Prayer Requests

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

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 to give online.*



Saturday, April 15th  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP to Neeley by April 13th

# Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Our playground is temporarily  
CLOSED  
for safety maintenance.**

# SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT



**May 10th Fellowship Hall**



Everyone come and enjoy the fun! All ages are welcome!

## Showcase your hidden talent in Soul Feast's Got Talent!

We'll be holding a talent show in the Fellowship Hall following Soul Feast on May 10th. Email Darcel Tabb if you are interested in participating. Email your name, talent, and the approximate length of your act to [darceltabb@yahoo.com](mailto:darceltabb@yahoo.com)