

First Press



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

In this Issue

A Look Back	2
Neeley's Notions on Easter	3
Thriving Congregations	3
Vacation Bible School	4
Men's Prayer Breakfast	4
Remind Notifications	4
Holy Week Worship	4
Maundy Thursday	4
Flowering of the Cross	4
Soul Feast's Got Talent	5
Blessing of a Skinned Knee	5
Lectio Divina	5
A Novel Bunch Book Club	5
Grief Share Support Group	5
Presbyterian Women	5
Sandwich Ministry	6
Summer Blood Drive	6
PW & Fairview Elementary	6
Meals on Wheels	6
PW Birthday Offering	6
One Great Hour of Sharing	6
Finance Report	7
April at a Glance	8
April Birthdays	8

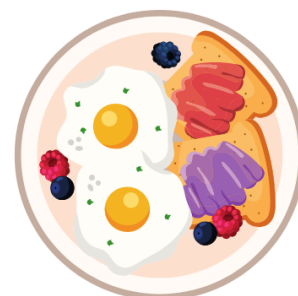
SOUL FEAST



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 or 770-786-7321

Blossoms & Beans



The Ambassador Gardening Club

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

Contact
Jeff MacKenzie
with questions
404.897.3815
Leave a message
and he'll call back!

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

A Look Back

Left: A huge thank you goes out to the congregation for your extremely generous support of the Middle School Youth lunch fundraiser on March 5. Your support enables these youth to attend the Montreat Middle School Conference at a more affordable cost. You can still make donations by making tour check out to FPC, memo - Montreat Youth Conference.

Thank you!



Upper right: We had a great turnout at our Easter Egg Hunt this year! The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all!

Lower right: The church retreat at Hard Labor Creek was wonderful! We were so happy to have the opportunity to come together and spend the day connecting and building relationships.



Below: Our Meals on Wheels delivery team brings meals to friends in the Highrise Apartments on the last Saturday of the month. Let Curtis Watson know if you'd like to help out!



See all the fun we have at FPC by following us on Facebook and Instagram!



Facebook.com /fpcov



Instagram @fpcovington

Messages from FPC

3

Easter is Resurrection Day! It is a high holy day of remembering what God has done in, 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 arrive at the empty tomb while it is still dark. An Easter Sunrise experience gives us an opportunity to participate in Resurrection joy breaking through the darkness. If you have not attended an Easter Sunrise service, I

encourage you to try it this year. Then, I invite you to come back at 11:00am as we raise our voices and sing praises to the Living God!

On Easter morning we will read John's account of Jesus' resurrection. You are encouraged to read our scripture and ponder it in your heart. (John 20:1-18)

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!"**

We will be called by name and sent out to proclaim the good news of the Risen Lord!

Six months ago, at the beginning of the fall of 2022, a group of church members and our pastors took a pilgrimage to Montreat, NC. It is a beautiful place with gorgeous mountain scenery and lots of interesting people from all over the country, all of whom are doing a variety of things, but at the heart of all the things that are happening in Montreat are relationships...**relationships with each another and relationships with our Creator.**

We have just returned from yet another pilgrimage to Montreat to continue our work with the leaders of the Thriving Congregations Initiative. This work has been made available by a grant that Pastor Neeley discovered through a relationship that she had with the staff at Montreat. Relationships are at the heart of who we are as a people and they make opportunities like this one possible!

You are probably aware of the work we have been doing for the past several months if you have experienced a one-on-one conversation with a team member or witnessed a team member sitting quietly in a corner taking notes while the rest of us do what we do as a church. **We are in the process of learning more deeply about who we are, what weighs our hearts, what our community needs** and how we can best deploy our resources to become the church that truly is the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

In the days ahead we will continue having one-on-one conversations so **if you haven't yet enjoyed one of these discussions, contact Dan Walden** at 404-405-3559 and we'll get you hooked up with a team member at your convenience. We will also begin digging into the history of Newton County and Covington so we can understand our historical context. And soon we will begin organizing "House Meetings" to bring folks together over these same topics. So be on the lookout for your opportunity to have your voice heard. We are just 6 months into a two year process, so we have lots to learn from each other.



—Your Thriving Congregations Team



VBS Monday-Thursday June 5-8

Register at fpccov.org/vbs for Ready, Set, Move Vacation Bible School!

Want to volunteer? Let Erin know at erin@fpccov.org

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

**Men's
Prayer
Breakfast**



PALM SUNDAY
WITH A CHILDREN'S
PALM PARADE
April 2nd 11:00am

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
TENEBRAE**
A SERVICE OF DARKNESS
April 6th 7:00pm
Communion will be served. Childcare provided.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY
April 7th 12:00pm
in the Sanctuary of
First Presbyterian Church Covington
Lunch in the Fellowship Hall to follow

EASTER SUNDAY
April 9th
SUNRISE SERVICE 6:30AM FRONT LAWN
TRADITIONAL 11:00AM SANCTUARY

Remind

Connect with us on Remind!

We have "classes" set up for our Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries.

Text the class code below to 810-10 and follow the prompts to get text reminders for your ministry areas!

Stay tuned, we may add more classes for different recurring activities!

Children's Ministry class code: @h82haa

Youth Ministry class code: @7g3fg6

Belief & Beer class code: @k74g9k



SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT



May 10th Fellowship Hall



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

Showcase your hidden talent!

- Always wanted to try your hand as a stand-up comedian?
 - Is tap dancing your thing? Are you a magician?
 - Can you play a jazz standard on the sax?
 - Do you love to sing or play the piano?
- Come show it off 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

Lectio Divina
 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS
 WITH NEELEY AND ERIN
 TUESDAYS AT 12:00PM IN THE PARLOR

A Novel Bunch

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 25th at 1:00pm on Zoom to discuss this month's book. Join at fpccov.org/zoom-links

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

Based on the book by Wendy Mogel, Ph.D.
RSVP to order the book for \$10 through Erin or Neeley

GRIEF SHARE
 Led by Pastors Erin and Neeley
 Open to the community
 WEEKLY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
Mondays, from April 17 - May 22
at 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Parlor
 Cost for class: \$20
 (includes personal workbook)
 Register by April 3 by contacting Neeley
neeley@fpccov.org

Presbyterian Women

PW Circles meet on the first Tuesday of the month! All are welcome to join!
Upcoming meeting dates are: April 4th May 9th

Martha Circle will meet on April 4th at 10:30am in the Library.

Elizabeth Ann Circle will meet on April 4th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. Check the website or e-news for the Zoom link.

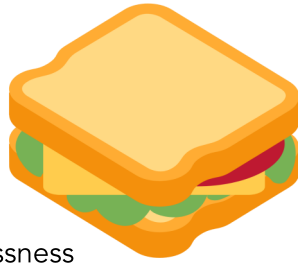
April's lesson from "Celebrating Sabbath" is Lesson Eight: Sabbath and Justice.



Mission Opportunities

Sandwich Ministry!

On **Tuesday, April 18th at 10:00am** in the Fellowship Hall, we will be making sandwiches for our neighbors in Christ experiencing homelessness in collaboration with Street Outreach! Please contact Curtis Watson with any questions.



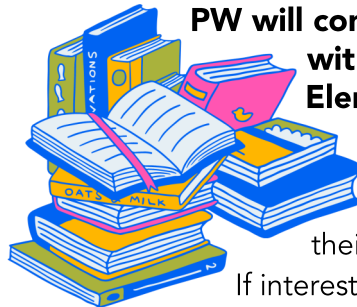
American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save the Date!
Thursday, June 29th
12:00pm-5:00pm

We need both volunteers and donors.
Donors sign-up online at American Red Cross.
Contact Curtis Watson to volunteer or to ask any questions.
404-550-1212 or wats1818@bellsouth.net

2023 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Something about the record breaking PW Birthday Offering?



PW will continue its affiliation with Fairview Elementary School.

Currently a mentoring/ tutoring program is available to help and encourage students with their homework.

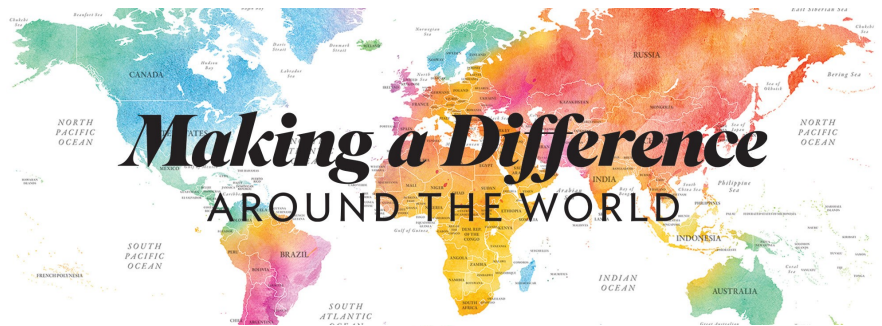
If interested in tutoring please contact: Julie



The next date for Meals on Wheels distribution is **April 29, 2023.**

Please consider adding Meals on Wheels distribution to your 2023 calendar "to do" list. Pencil us in on the last Saturday of the month. All help will be

sincerely appreciated. **Contact Curtis Watson at 404-550-1212 or wats1818@bellsouth.net** if you wish to participate in this great community service ministry.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

At FPC we will take up an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday. Envelopes for this special offering will be provided. If you give online, choose the fund "One Great Hour."



Visit pcusa.org/oghsmap for more information on One Great Hour of Sharing and their projects around the world.

Upcoming Meetings

Welcome	Tuesday, April 4	at 4:30pm
Worship	Monday, April 10	at 5:00pm
Witness	Tuesday, April 11	at 5:30pm
Faith Formation	Tuesday, April 18	at 5:00pm
Session	Wednesday, April 26	at 5:30pm

Usher Chair

April 2023 - Curtis Watson

Monthly Financial Report

2023 February	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income/ Expenses
Pledged Income	36,238	57,599
Non-Pledge Income	4,265	11,826
Other Income	57	116
Total Income	40,560	69,542
Expenses	40,484	85,433
Net Totals	75.94	14,947



You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering. Text FPCCOV followed by the amount to 73256 Or scan the QR code to give online.

Mission Statement

Covington First Presbyterian Church 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.

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are at 9:45am on Sunday mornings.

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

Interested in teaching?
Email Erin
erin@fpccov.org

Officers

Reaching Out

Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*

Engaging

Charles Ardis *Christian Ed (2025)*
Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*
Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*
Mary Catherine Whisnant
Christian Ed (2024)

Belonging

Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*
Louly Hay Kapp *Marketing (2023)*
Bob Tabb *Finance (2023)*

Connecting (Deacons)

Tom Crews *Pastoral Care (2025)*
Dana Hall *Faith & Fellowship (2025)*
Eleanor Scarborough
Pastoral Care (2023)

Darcel Tabb
Faith & Fellowship (2024)

More

Billy Fortson *Personnel (2024)*
Stan Hall *Facilities (2023)*
John McCarthy *Clerk of Session*
Ed Perkerson
Strategic Planning (2023)

Phone Extensions

Office Phone: 770.786.7321
Neeley Rentz Lane: 1013
Erin Morgan: 1012
Catherine Laseter: 1010
Alicia Taylor: 1017
Peni Kehoe: 1011

First Presbyterian Church
 1169 Clark Street, SW
 Covington, GA 30014



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2023						1
Worship with us! Sundays at 11:00am						
2 Palm Sunday	3	4 PW Circles	5	6 Maundy Thursday	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter Sunday	10 Office Closed	11	12 Soul Feast	13 Blossoms & Beans	14	15 Men's Prayer Breakfast
16	17 Grief Share	18 Sandwich Ministry	19 Blessed Parenting	20	21	22
23	24 Grief Share	25 A Novel Bunch	26	27	28	29 Meals on Wheels
30						

April Birthdays!



Billy Fortson 01
 Joe Moon 01
 Wayne Scarborough 10
 Matthew Howell 17
 Kent Compton 17
 Neeley Rentz Lane 17
 Laurie Bunn 19
 Phyllis Pruner 23
 Elizabeth Pope 28

Did we miss your birthday?

Call the office or email
 catherine@fpccov.org
 and we'll make sure all
 your info is up to date
 in our system!

