

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023



First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Adagio Molto

Alexander Guilmant

Let All Together Praise Our God

J.S. Bach

How Firm a Foundation

Janet Linker

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father

Marilyn Arison

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

adapted from Kate Bowler

Blessed are we,

Desiring to drink in the beauty around us,

Full of the love you have given us,

The joy that is before us!

Blessed are we who ask,

For hearts that are soft,

For eyes that are awake,

For ears that are open,

For hands to hold the water that is here, now.

Let us worship the living God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

✠ Call to Confession

Amanda Goddard

✠ Community Confession

Amanda Goddard

Holy God, We love you imperfectly:

We do not always keep your commandments.

We love each other imperfectly:

We hurt those you call us to love through our actions and our inactions.

We love ourselves imperfectly:

**We struggle to believe that we are truly your children, made in your image.
Forgive us. By the power of your Spirit, make us more faithful that we might
live as Christ has shown us, reflecting your love and grace.**

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Because Christ lives, we also live.

Not because of anything we have done, not because of our belief or faithfulness:

We live because Christ lives!

This is the Christ who forgives us. This is the God who is in us.

This is the Spirit who is with us. Alleluia! Praise be to God!

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ Hymn of 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

Recognition of Graduates

written by Rev. Jeremy Smith

God of truth and knowledge,

by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth.

Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

We thank you for those

who taught and worked beside them,

and all who supported them along the way.

Walk with the graduates
as they leave and move forward in life.
Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

**Strengthen their many talents and skills,
instill in them a confidence in the future you plan,
where energies may be gathered up
and used for the good of all people.**

For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings,
a time to remember and move on,
and a time to believe what love is bringing.

**May they always know that
Christ is alive and goes before us,
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings,
our God is making all things new. Amen.**

Anthem

In a Mother's Heart
Hallelujah Kids!

Thomas Keesecker
verse 1 adapted from
The Motherheart of God,
J.S. Cutler, 1852-1930

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Janet Carmichael

Scripture Reading

Acts 17:22-28

Pew Bible page 137
Janet Carmichael

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

Pew Bible page 108

Message

Abiding Love

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

Judy Hooten

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Judy Hooten

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

Judy Hooten

Offertory

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Keith Getty

Jodi Atkins, soprano; Aubrey Evans, alto

and Stuart Townend

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

✠ Hymn of Response 743

O God, You Are My God

STEP BY STEP

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

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 318**

In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

✦ **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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

David Cherwien



Graduates

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

Larkin Anne Arnold—*Heritage High School*

Gracie Bates—*Eastside High School*

Sarah Gregory—*Eastside High School*

Jim Gardner Gregory—*Georgia Southern University*

Sophia Hawley—*Oxford College*

Jack Kennon—*High School in Bethesda, MD*

Kyla White—*Newton College and Career Academy*



Worship Practices

Children in Worship

We have a new "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. 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.

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.

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.

Use

One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. Recognition of Graduates written by Rev. Jeremy Smith of Hackingchristianity.net (<https://hackingchristianity.net/2010/05/graduation-sunday-liturgy.html>)

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Charles Ardis

Acolyte | Amelia Evans

Liturgists | Janet Carmichael, Amanda Goddard, Judy Hooten



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

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 or call: 770-786-7321

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)*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

Thriving Congregations
Listening Sessions

Session A
May 15 at 5pm
 Session B
May 21 at 5pm
RSVP by May 18

*We're here to listen
 to our church.*

Come share your
 hopes, dreams, and passions for
 our church and our community
 so we can know what will help
 us thrive as a congregation.

Held in the Gathering Room
 enter through the office doors.
 RSVP to Dan Walden -
 djwalden@mac.com

VBS at FPC
READY, SET, MOVE!



3 y/o - 5th grade
 To register, visit
fpccov.org/vbs

9:00AM-12:00PM
JUNE 5TH-8TH

Saturday, May 20th
 8:00am at Town House Café
 RSVP to Neeley
 by May 18th

**Men's
 Prayer
 Breakfast**



FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS
**BELIEF AND
 - BEER -**

TEXT "@K74G9K"
 TO 810-10 FOR
 UPDATES AND
 REMINDERS!

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION
 MAY 16TH | 5:30PM
 AT NEELEY'S HOUSE
 CHILDCARE PROVIDED
 AT THE CHURCH

The Presbyterian Women of FPC Covington
 invite you to join us for our
 2022-2023
**END-OF-THE-YEAR
 CELEBRATION**

Tuesday, May 30th at 5:15pm in the FPC Fellowship Hall



- Sunday, May, 14**
Sixth Sunday of Easter
- 9:45am Sunday School
 - 11:00am Worship - Graduates Sunday
 NO Jammies and Jesus
- Monday, May 15**
- 5:00pm Thriving Congregations
 Listening Session A
 - 6:00pm GriefShare
- Tuesday, May 16**
- 10:00am Sandwich Ministry
 - 12:00pm Lectio Divina
 - 2:15pm Staff Meeting
 - 5:30pm Belief & Beer
- Wednesday, May 17**
- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
 - 4:30pm Faithful Parenting Class
 - 5:00pm FINAL Hallelujah Kids!
 - 5:30pm Mission Trip Book Study on Zoom
 - 7:00pm Chancel Choir
- Thursday, May 18**
- RSVP deadline for Men's Breakfast
 - RSVP deadline for Listening Session B
- Friday, May 19**
- VBS Registration
- Saturday, May 20**
- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday, May 21**
Seventh Sunday of Easter
- 9:45am VBS Training
 - 9:45am Sunday School
 - 11:00am Worship
 - 5:00pm Thriving Congregations
 Listening Session B
 - 7:00pm FINAL Jammies and Jesus

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Blair Weaver - hospice care at Magnolia Senior Living in Loganville.
- ✦ Lucas, Morgan, and baby Nate, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - baby going through dialysis
- ✦ Taylor Waters, great-niece of Gene Wallace
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis
- ✦ Joe Milner, brother of Day Kennon
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of congregation
- ✦ Jennifer Idrobo, friend of Jonny Atkins - bone marrow biopsy

- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ 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.

MISSION TRIP WITH PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO NEW BERN, NC

JULY 9-13, 2023.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OUT OF CHAOS. HOME.

Supporting survivors of Hurricanes Florence & Matthew.

MISSION TRIP BOOK STUDY: TOXIC CHARITY

BY ROBERT D. LUPTON


ON ZOOM from 5:30-6:30PM
May 17 | June 7 | June 14

FPCCOV.ORG/ZOOM-LINKS

Ask Pastor Erin for more details on either.



How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help
(And How to Reverse It)



American Red Cross at FPC Covington

BLOOD DRIVE

June 29, 2023

12:00pm-5:00pm

in the FPC Fellowship Hall

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Visit RedCrossBlood.org to register
 Call [Curtis Watson at 404.550.1212](tel:404.550.1212) to volunteer



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.

FPC Day Trip to PVA!

Tuesday, June 13th

Meet at FPC at 10:00AM



RSVP to the office by
Thursday, June 1st.
Space limited.



PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE
ATHENS



Your caring heart . . . together our Caring Hands.

God's commands to love one another and to live lives of service are daily tasks that we strive to embody at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia.

Our *Caring Hands* need your caring heart to continue to support our mission and to serve our mighty God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please show you care and consider a one-time gift or an annual giving commitment to the *Caring Hands Fund* now through May 31.

To make a donation online:
www.PHGAinc.org/CaringHands



With your caring heart and our *Caring Hands* together, we live out our calling to serve God and one another. Please consider expressing your caring heart with a gift to the *Caring Hands Fund* now through May 31.

Scan the QR code to make a donation.



www.PHGAinc.org/CaringHands



**Presbyterian Homes of Georgia is a Christian ministry
providing exceptional services to enhance
the quality of life for senior adults.**

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia has served senior adults from all religious denominations and financial situations, offering a full range of programs and accommodations. We have six communities:

Three are Life Plan/Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs):

- Presbyterian Home and Retirement Community in Quitman
- Presbyterian Village in Austell
- Presbyterian Village in Athens

Three are affordable senior living apartment communities:

- Philips Tower in Decatur
- Calvin Court in Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood
- Swainsboro Presbyterian Apartments in Emanuel County

Together, the six Presbyterian Homes communities serve more than 1,300 residents.

The Caring Hands Fund

Caring Hands is the heart of our ministry at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia and benefits our most vulnerable residents.

Caring Hands helps with:

- Meal assistance to address food insecurities
- Rides to appointments to ensure the medical, mental spiritual health of our residents
- Help with medical bills or devices that they might otherwise be unable to afford

The purpose of these funds is to add to the quality of life and overall well-being of our residents. Whenever we see a need, we seek to fill it.



Caring Hands

Thanks to our donors, gifts to *Caring Hands* ensure that we keep the promise that we at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia have been making for 74 years, that no resident will ever be asked to leave due to outliving their financial means.

- More than one-third of our 1300 residents at our six communities benefit from some form of charitable care through *Caring Hands*.
- We provide the following without any federal assistance for our HUD residents, wellness, food, transportation, or chaplaincy programs.
- Residents stay healthy and active longer. But as more residents live longer before needing nursing care, we have seen more outliving their financial means.