

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 21, 2023

*First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA*



closer and closer

✦ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

My Song Is Love Unknown

Karl Oesterland

I Danced in the Morning

J. Wayne Kerr

I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Arr. Joel Raney

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

David M. Cherwien

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ **Call to Worship**

Gather us, O God.

There is room for us all.

Dwell with us, O God.

Show us the way.

Guide us, O God.

We give thanks and praise for Christ as our way, truth and life.

✦ **Hymn of Praise 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

We confess, O God, that too often we have our head in the clouds. We are more comfortable with dreaming of the world as we wish it would be

instead of working with you to bring that wish to reality. At times, we find it difficult to claim the power you have given us. Surely you have others more capable to be your witnesses? And so, we continue to gaze heavenwards. Jolt us out of our complacency, O God. Remind us to get a move on. Remind us we have work to do with you. Give us your energy, courage, and vision to be your witnesses to the end of the earth.

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ Hymn of Response 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

***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

Dan Walden

Anthem

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

Adoro te devote

Processionale, Paris, 1697

Arranged by K. Lee Scott

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6-14

Pew Bible page 118

Message

Closer and Closer: Bearing Witness

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 260**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

HYFRYDOL

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

John McCarthy

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

John McCarthy

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

John McCarthy

Offertory

There is a Balm in Gilead
Janet Carmichael, soprano

Traditional Spiritual
Arranged by Mark Hayes

✠Response 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNREDTH

***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 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

✠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

Hornpipe from "Water Music"

G.F. Handel



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. Liturgy written by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott of the Presbyterian Outlook.



Sermon Series

Closer and Closer

The Resurrection means deeper relationships with God and one another!

At Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but this is no ghostly apparition. Jesus returns in the flesh to be close once again with his friends and to bring them closer with one another. There is tenderness and physicality highlighted in the resurrection narratives, people coming together to hear and respond to this amazing news. Before Jesus' followers become heroic saints of the church, they are simply a group of friends hearing and telling one another a story for which they can barely find words. Like bedtime stories and old family lore, we share our stories in close and safe relationships so that we will be equipped to boldly share the story of Jesus in the world!

May we grow closer to God and one another as a people of the Resurrection!

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Charles Ardis

Acolyte | Ruth Ralston



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> | Sierra BlackShear |
| Peni Kehoe | <i>Finance Administrator</i> | Laina Lalane |
| | | Kyla White |

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ 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

- ✦ 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.



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

Or scan the QR code to give online.



**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH

We are there

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth build a solid foundation of faith to last a lifetime.

40%

stays with our congregation to support local 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 especially the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10%

is devoted to children at-risk and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.



**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](tel:404.550.1212) at 404.550.1212 to volunteer

**MISSION TRIP WITH
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
TO NEW BERN, NC
JULY 9-13, 2023.**



OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Supporting survivors of
Hurricanes
Florence &
Matthew.

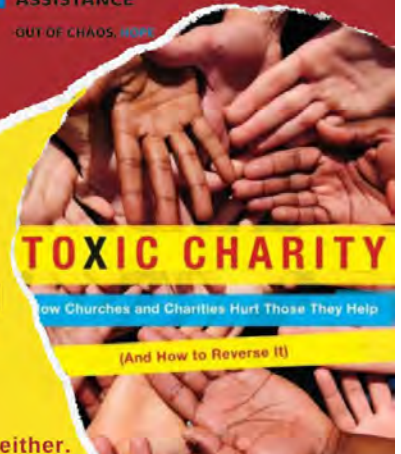


**MISSION TRIP BOOK STUDY:
TOXIC CHARITY** BY ROBERT D. LUPTON

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

FPCCOV.ORG/ZOOM-LINKS

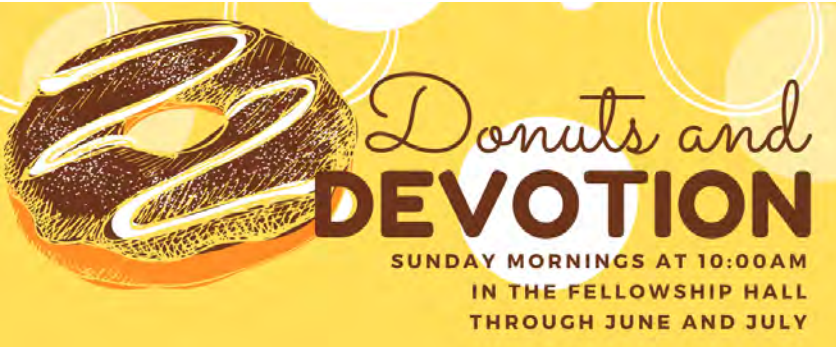
Ask Pastor Erin for more details on either.



TOXIC CHARITY

How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help

(And How to Reverse It)



Donuts and DEVOTION
 SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00AM
 IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
 THROUGH JUNE AND JULY



Thriving Congregations
Listening Sessions

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



FPC Day Trip to PVA!

Tuesday, June 13th
Meet at FPC at 10:00AM

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

Golden-Age Ministry

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE
 ATHENS

We'll have lunch, tour PVA and connect in Fellowship with our FPC members at PVA! Louly Hay has even organized her ping pong group to join us for some fun at 3:00PM!

Sunday, May 21
Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am VBS Volunteer Training
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 5:00pm Thriving Congregations Listening Session B
- 7:00pm FINAL Jammies & Jesus

Monday, May 22

- 6:00pm GriefShare

Tuesday, May 23

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 1:00pm A Novel Bunch Book Club on Zoom

Wednesday, May 24

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir at Benton House
- 5:00pm Makeup VBS Volunteer Training
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

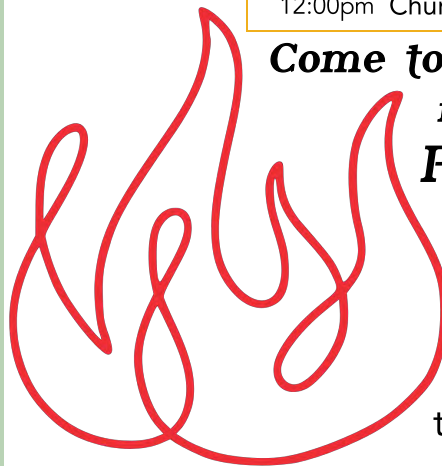
Saturday, May 27

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery

Sunday, May 28
Day of Pentecost

- 11:00am Worship - Pentecost Prayer Stations
- 12:00pm Church Birthday Party

Come to worship on May 28
for our Pentecost Celebration!



Wear red!

Sing happy birthday to the church! (and have cake!)

We will be Pentecost People as we pray for our church and our world!

We will hear about the creative activity of God through an experiential scripture reading and the word proclaimed!

The Church office will be closed on Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day