Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 17
9:00 Handbell Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:00 Youth Connection

Tuesday, December 19
4:00 Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 20
6:00 Joy Gift Dinner
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Saturday, December 23
8:00 Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 24
10:00 Worship Service, Communion
6:00 Christmas Eve service

Opportunity for Giving

Blanket and Coat Collection: coats and blankets will be collected at FPC during December. They will be taken to the Garden of Gethsemane Shelter the first week of January.

Christmas Joy Dinner

Tis the season for carols, fun, and fellowship! Join us for our annual Christmas Joy Dinner on **Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

We will provide fried chicken and beverage and we ask you to bring a salad or dessert. Dig up one of your Christmas sweaters or vests to add to the merriment. A little entertainment, one mixer game, good food, and good friends will make for a fun evening. If you would like to decorate one of the tables, please call Cheryl Meichsner at 541-290-1462.

Please make reservations by calling the church office at 770-786-7321 so that we can make sure to have enough food for everyone.

Christmas Eve Worship

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, our regular schedule will be modified a bit with **no Sunday School classes** meeting that day and **morning worship moved to 10:00am.** Here are some details:

- **10:00am** - a casual celebration of the **Lord's Supper** around the table in the sanctuary.

* **6:00pm** - the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will consist of Scripture readings, short commentaries on the Scriptures, special music, and Christmas carols. The service concludes with the lighting of the Christ candle, the lighting of candles around the sanctuary and the singing of "Silent Night". It is a great time to see old friends and former members of the church

Several people have asked for Mary's new address:

Mary Bollinger
Apartment A-102
51 Bird Song Way

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to the pastor as you leave or call the church office.
Telephone: 770-786-7321; Fax: 770-786-6596

Staff E-mail Addresses:
Pastor, Billy Wade: wbwade75@gmail.com
Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com
Church Office/Peni Kehoe: penihaug@gmail.com
Website: www.fpccov.org
Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, Georgia 30014

You may listen to recent sermons by visiting our website (www.fpccov.org) and clicking on "Media."

The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 1:30 (***New hours).*** Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

December suggested donations are:
cake and brownie mixes

Baby Love: This is our program to collect diapers and wipes, or donations toward them, to give to local organizations which distribute them to parents in need. Place diapers in the cradle in the narthex. Donations should be designated to "Baby Love".

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

December
Gary Boteler

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2017
Adriane Ivey
Michael Thompson
Danny Vining
Jean Wolverton
Jake McCarthy
Koen Ardis

Class of 2018
Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Scarlett McCurry
Stephanie Scarborough
Tom Stillerman

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
John McCarthy
Teresa McCurry
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr. — *Pastor*
Dan Walden — *Director of Youth and Children's Ministry*
Peni Kehoe — *Secretary-Treasurer*
Jim Patrick — *Interim Choir Director*
Alice Walker — CAGO, AAGO, *Organist/Ambassador Choir*
Shaun and Aubrey Evans — *Nursery*
Kara Sugg — *Director of the Early Learning Center*

The Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE — *Angel Medley* — TERRY OSMAN
Handbell Choir

Andante from Sonata II — G. F. HANDEL
Meditation from Thais — J. MASSENET
Marcus Van Ameringen, violin — Alice Walker, piano

INTROIT — *Of the Father's Love Begotten* — *WINFRED DOUGLAS*
Sanctuary Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
The Bates Family

God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing!
Now is the advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.
We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.
We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.
We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.
At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin.
Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire. Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.
For God so loved the world that a child was given. A Savior was made in the form of love incarnate. We gather, then, in Christian love.
We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Advent season. May this candle of love give light to the world!
Listen to the words of John chapter 3:16-17...
I now light the candle of love.

Let us pray: **Almighty God, prepare our hearts so that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Fill us with his love for you and for your people everywhere; for we pray in his name. Amen.**

✠HYMN 93 — *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* — TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess to you those places in our hearts where we have refused your entrance. There are people we have refused to love, bad habits we never get around to changing, good things we have left undone. Come to us in the light of your Christ and shine on those places we have tried to hide from you. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts and show us faithful ways to live.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, stanza 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

✝CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE IN DULCI JUBILO

Hymn 132, stanza 3

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave. Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

✝THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *I Wonder as I Wander* *NILES & HORTON*
Janet Carmichel

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children. Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 52:7-8
Luke 2:1-7

SERMON *Making Room* William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✝HYMN 104 VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

✝AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Nicene Creed*
p. 34 in front of hymnal

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *O Holy Night!* *Arr. David T. Clydesdale*
Marcus Van Ameringen, violin Alice Walker, piano

✝CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE BESANÇON

Hymn 105, stanza 1

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way.

✝PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, help us to watch and listen, that we might not miss your coming; for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✝HYMN 146 TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

✝CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✝CHORAL RESPONSE
Go Tell It on the Mountain SPIRITUAL

✝POSTLUDE *"Allegro" from Sonata II* G. F. HANDEL
Marcus Van Ameringen, violin Alice Walker, piano

✝ Please stand if you are able.

Guest Musician

Marcus Van Ameringen has been engaged in musical pursuits since his youth, performing with the New Zealand Youth Orchestra, graduating with a BA in Music (Auckland University) and a Master's in Music from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory where he studied violin with Tiberius Klausner. While at UMKC he received two Ford Foundation Fellowships and performed with a String Quartet throughout Kansas and Missouri. As an Assistant Professor of Music, Marcus taught music History and performed with faculty ensembles. He enjoys playing sacred hymn arrangements in worship services and for a Men's Fraternity every Friday morning. He received an MBA (Vanderbilt University) and currently works in commercial real estate with Colliers International. He and his wife and two adult daughters live in the Atlanta area.

Worship Notes

✝**Dan Walden**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with leading worship today.
✝Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** when you leave.
✝Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: www.fpccov.org.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Chuck Brasher-pacemaker upgrade, Piedmont
†Jim Patrick-shoulder surgery, Dec 18
†Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher
†Clynton Byer-heart surgery (friend of the Ardis family)
†Dave Gregory-home, recovering from heart surgery
†the Bryant Family- friends of Warren and Jeanie Liem
†Danny Vining-recovering from Mohs surgery
†Adriane Ivey-home, recovering from surgery
†Pat Patrick-home
†Steve Bozarth-ill (father of Debra Arnold)
†Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis)
†Ethan Lassiter (8)-brain tumor (grandson of E. G. and Maryanne Lassiter
†Rick Gunter-Glory Personal Care
†Nat Allen Long-foot amputation (step-son of Alice Walker)
†Katherine Bouchillon-heart problems (friend of Maxine Blankenship)
†Pat Harper-heart surgery, home
†Matthew Howell-home, recovering from motorcycle accident,
†David Cooper-chemotherapy (father of Rebecca Bates)
†Anderson Krieger-chemotherapy at home
†Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
†Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
†Ron Swatty-heart problems, brother-in-law of Charles Ardis)
†Mitchell Jessup -cancer (father of Nick Jessup)
†Sophia Hawley-Cystic Fibrosis
†Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant
†Teresa McCurry--tests
†Chuck Hodges--treatment for lymphoma (friend of Patti Lanford)

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:
†Bill Taylor-Bentley Assisted Living, Jefferson, GA
†Russ Cole-Manor House, Social Circle
†J. L. Johnson- Dogwood Forest, Alpharetta, GA
†Jeanne Cannon-St. Simon's Island, GA

Riverside
†Martha Borders
†George Stamps

Merryvale
†Guy McGiboney
†Betty Robinson
†Louise White
†Alice Gadilhe
†Hughie Hudson
†Patricia McGuire

Home
†Jan Coulon
†Debi (Dee) Selin--home

Peace Corps Volunteer
†Patti Lanford stationed in Zambia

We extend our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Louise Strickland** who died last Friday, for **Milton Patton** and **Ken Compton,** whose mothers both recently died, and to **Cathy Dobbs** in the death of her great niece.

Hospital Visitor:
Day Kennon