

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Presbyterian Church

Covington, GA

✠ *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	Sue Mitchell-Wallace
<i>O Love That Will Not Let Me Go</i>	Albert L. Peace
<i>How He Loves, with O, How I Love Jesus</i>	Mary McDonald

Prelude

<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Robert Hebble
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Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

God gathers us together in this space.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

God heals the brokenhearted
And binds up our wounds.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

God lifts the downtrodden
and casts out all wickedness.

Let us sing praise to the Lord.

We sing to God with thanksgiving!

Let us worship God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 610

<i>O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>	AZMON
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✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Restoring God,
Teach us to steal away and pray.
We give thanks that you continue to heal.

**You continue to cast out those things we ought not have in us.
Help us to perceive what you are doing among us,
That we might learn your voice among the many that call for our loyalty
And be better equipped to do the work you have for us.
Restore us to community
And show us how to live in gratitude,
Freed from the bondage of sin.
In the name of Jesus, we pray singing...**

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!
We are free to try again.

✠ Response to God's Grace 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠ Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
Chancel Choir

Text: Albert F. Bayly
Music: Ronald A. Nelson

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Mark 1:29-39

Pew Bible page 35

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Life Rhythm

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Hymn of Response 798

All with Joyful Exultation

YISRAEL V'ORAITA

Ordination and Installation of Officers

✠Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles Creed

**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.**

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering!

Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256 and follow
the link to give online! Or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page!*



Offertory

Make Me a Servant
Chancel Choir

Composed by Benjamin Harlan

✠Response 647

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (repeat)***

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us." (repeat)***

Give thanks. Give thanks.

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 298

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Verses 1, 2, 5

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

✠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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Walter Pelz



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Our worship art this week is provided by Elise Hammond of Southern Heartland Art. The artwork featured on this worship guide cover and on display in the Sanctuary is a painting by Elise Hammond who stated “ It represents ...*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding*, from Philippians 4:7.

On display in the Narthex are five paintings done by students in Elise Hammond’s students in her high school art class. These paintings are the artists’ interpretations of today’s scripture Mark 1:29-39.

Children in Worship—*We have a “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.

Use—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. *Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Pictorial Directory—We are excited to announce that thanks to the hard work of our Welcome Team, volunteers, and our Director of Communications we will have the 2024 pictorial directory available to be handed following worship today! We ask that you only take one per household at this time. Thank you to everyone who makes FPC a place where people can feel a sense of belonging.



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,
Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell
Acolytes | Ruth Ralston, Rose Ralston
Children Ushers | Kora Howell, Audrey Fullerton
Usher Chair | Luke Usry

Sound System—Come and join us to learn how to connect your Bluetooth hearing aids to the sanctuary sound system! After installing our new sound system in November our wonderful tech team has been patiently making adjustments to make sure we are getting the best sound possible in the Sanctuary during worship. We are now familiar enough to invite you to connect your hearing aids to it with Bluetooth. We will have hearing assistance lessons on Wednesday, February 21st at 5:30pm and on Sunday, February 25th immediately following church. We ask that you RSVP to Neeley if you plan to come for the Wednesday session.



fpccov.org | 770.786.7321

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO Organist

Nursery Staff
Hattie Bellinger
Sierra BlackShear
Catrina Crowe
Jahniyah Greene
Laina Lalane

Officers

Reaching Out

Luke Usry	Witness (2026)
Curtis Watson	Witness (2024)

Engaging

Charles Ardis	Faith Formation (2025)
Pat Harper	Worship (2024)
Nichole Howell	Worship (2025)
Mary Catherine Whisnant	Faith Formation (2024)

Belonging

Doug Bolton	Welcome (2025)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome, Worship (2026)
Billy Fortson	Finance, Personnel (2024)

Connecting (Deacons)

Janet Carmichael	Pastoral Care (2026)
Tom Crews	Pastoral Care (2025)
Dana Hall	Faith & Fellowship (2025)
Darcel Tabb	Faith & Fellowship (2024)

More

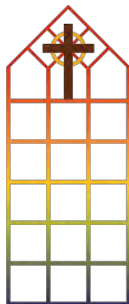
Jodi Atkins	Strategic Planning (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session
Danny Vining	Personnel (2026)



Worship Notes & Doodles

We invite you to fill the space below with the thoughts, reminders, and doodles that you may be blessed with during and after worship.

A large grid of green dots for writing notes and doodles.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

SOUL FEAST

FEB. 7

**ON THE MENU:
EL CHARRO**

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

RSVP by Tuesday, Feb. 6th to
catherine@fpccov.org or
770-786-7321

Following Soul Feast we will have a Soul Craft for all ages making "Pal-entine" cards wishing a friendly Valentine's Day to send to our pals at Merryvale

Lenten Devotional Study

Have a Beautiful Terrible Lent!

Based on Kate Bowler's book "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs, and In-Betweens."

Not necessary to read or purchase book to participate.

Kate is a Duke professor, podcaster, and author with a single mission: giving you permission to feel human.

Mondays in Lent at 5:30pm in the Parlor
Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, March 18

Led by Erin and Neeley
Childcare available.

Come explore being human with us!

We will have hearing assistance lessons on Wednesday, February 21st at 5:30pm and on Sunday, February 25th immediately following worship. We ask that you RSVP to Neeley at Neeley@fpccov.org if you plan to come for the Wednesday session.

Sunday, February 4
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Installation of Officers
- 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
- 12:15pm Refreshments and Pictorial Directory

Monday, February 5

RSVP deadline for Soul Feast

- 5:15pm Presbyterianism 101

Tuesday, February 6

- 10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle
- 10:30am Martha Circle
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
- 5:30pm Retreat Planning Team Meeting


Wednesday, February 7

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Children's Choir
- 5:15pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 11
Transfiguration of the Lord

Bring Souper Bowl of Caring Donations

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Worship Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Souper Bowl sorting at the Food Pantry
- 7:00pm Jammie & Jesus



Elizabeth Ann Circle
10:00am on Zoom and in the Fellowship Hall

Martha Circle
10:30am hosted by rotating members

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Beth Vining - diabetes & Afib
- ✦ Terry Smith, friend of Denny Dobbs - pneumonia with respiratory rehab
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Alex Martin, son of Chris & Barbara Martin - hand surgery
- ✦ Jana Carter, aunt of Luke Usry - cancer
- ✦ Norman Wheeler & Bob Wheeler - brothers of Jack Wheeler
- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer and care
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer

- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Carolyn Watson
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Military Service

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

- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

Condolences


- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Rick Gunter as they mourn his passing on January 24, 2024. No service arrangements have been made at this time.

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
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

All **prayer requests** should be sent to:
catherine@fpccov.org
 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

THINK BEYOND THE BOWL!



What if every person watching the Big Game donated just \$1 or 1 can of food to their local charity?

TACKLE HUNGER
with the
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Bring food or monetary donations to worship on February 11th
to benefit the Community Food Pantry on Turner Lake Circle



Requested donations:
 peanut butter,
 grape jelly,
 spaghetti sauce with meat,
 canned fruit

A huge thank you goes out to the congregation for supporting the Youth Luncheon Fundraiser! Your generosity and support of the youth was overwhelming! Your contributions will help send a group of teens to the Montreat Middle School conference this summer. We appreciate your generous hearts!

~The Youth & The Faith Formation Team

February Sunday School for our

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.
 Children's Class (PreK-4th) Youth Class (5th+)
 Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD

Foundations Class!

David H. Jensen's *Living Hope* offers a brighter perspective on the end-time as a time of hope when we will see the full glory of the Kingdom of God and Christ's promised return.

All are invited to join us



Ash Wednesday February 14th



Walk-up Ashes
 Noon-1:00pm
 in the FPC Sanctuary

Our pastors will be offering ashes in the sanctuary! Stop by to receive your ashes and pick up your Lenten devotional material.

Community Worship

6:00pm-7:00pm
 in the FPC Sanctuary
 in partnership with
FUMC

Come receive your ashes and partake in the sacrament of communion as we begin our Lenten journey together. Childcare available.