



The Resurrection of the Lord
6:45am March 31, 2024

*Easter
Sunday* 

 **FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*We Shall Behold Him
Blessed Assurance*

Mark Hayes
Robert Sterling

Welcome and Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen today.

✠ Hymn of Praise

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation, join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

The stone is rolled away!

We assume it is a mistake.

The angels say, "He is not here!"

We assume their news is fake.

The women tell the story,

but we do not want to hear it.

Peter runs to the tomb,

but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb

is nothing more than a prank.

Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths

and still holding tight to death.

Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope

when you are alive and well in the world.

Teach us to see what you see.

Unravel the threads of our unbelief.

Amen.

✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

The angels tell the women, "Remember what Jesus told you."

So, church, remember this:

You are seen.

You are forgiven.

You are held in God's grace.

All of this is true.

Grace and mercy abound for you.

Remember this.

Amen!

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord;

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.



Proclaiming the Word

Special Music

By the Mark

Gillian Welch

Dan and Perri Walden

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them, "why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other woman with them who told this to the apostles.

But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Living Hope

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Hymn of Response

Christ Is Alive!

TRURO

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound;

to distant years in Palestine,

But saving, healing, here and now,

and touching every place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news

to this and every age,

Till earth and sky and ocean ring

with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

✦ Affirmation of Faith

We may weep through the longest nights.

We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.

We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.

But today, we are a people of hope.

We believe in new beginnings.

We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.

We believe that Jesus abides among us,

healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.

We believe that a tomb could not hold him.

We believe that the sun does rise.

We believe that Peter was there

with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.

We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us.

Today we are a people of hope.



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

EASTER HYMN

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

✦ **Charge and Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Lift High the Cross

Stephen Nielsen



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton,

Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley, Kraig Howell

Usher Chair | Curtis Watson



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Our worship guide cover today is an acrylic painting on canvas by Jen Norton titled “Easter Morning”. The following is an excerpt from the artist’s statement:

In this painting, the lamp held by the women represents our man-made light. Ego, inventions, hard work... anything we seek to control and call our own. In the distance is the sunrise, God’s gift to divide our earthly days between work and rest. And finally, the light of the Resurrection, shining brightest of all... the light that we cannot extinguish.

Use—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. | Graphic Design-Lauren Wright Pittman | Liturgy-Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org | Art: “Easter Morning” by Jen Norton | jennortonartstudio.com



fpc cov.org 770.786.7321
1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	
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Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Catrina Crowe
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	Jahniyah Greene
		Laina Lalane

Officers

Reaching Out	
Luke Usry	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Curtis Watson	<i>Witness (2024)</i>
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Pat Harper	<i>Worship (2024)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Mary Catherine Whisnant	<i>Faith Formation (2024)</i>
Belonging	
Doug Bolton	<i>Welcome (2025)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome, Worship (2026)</i>
Billy Fortson	<i>Finance, Personnel (2024)</i>
Connecting (Deacons)	
Janet Carmichael	<i>Pastoral Care (2026)</i>
Tom Crews	<i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2024)</i>
More	
Jodi Atkins	<i>Strategic Planning (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2026)</i>

Our Mission Statement

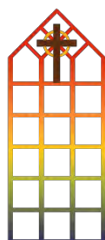
First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God’s children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God’s presence in our church, lives, and community.

Easter Lilies

The flowers are given to the glory of God in witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Donations above the cost of flowers will go to aid our FPC Youth on their journey to the Montreat Middle School Conference this summer.

Following today's 11:00am service we ask for those who gave to collect their lilies and enjoy them at home.

In honor of	Given by
Miriam Wheeler	Mike & Tamra Crews
FPC Staff	Stan & Dana Hall
My grandchildren	Pat Harper
Memama & Bamma	Robert & Neeley Lane
Laura Todd, Dickie Knox-Dick, Steve Kaasa	Jeff & Julie MacKenzie
Penelope Blakeney	Cynthia & David Noble
Our children, grandchildren, & great-grandchild	Carolyn & Curtis Watson
Miriam G. Wheeler	Miriam Witherspoon- Wheeler



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA



In memory of	Given by
Steve Bozarth,	Doug & Debra Arnold
Elmer & Maxine Blankenship	Trent Blankenship
Howard & Madelle Boteler, Ray & Edy Moy	Gary & Susan Boteler
Jack Wheeler	Mike & Tamra Crews
JoAnn Crews	Tom Crews
Lois & S.A. Ginn, Dot & Bill Fortson	Stephanie & Billy Fortson
Our Grandparents	Kraig & Nichole Howell
Harry & Laura Craddock, James & Lucy Kratz	Beverly & Dan Kratz
Papa & Grammie	Robert & Neeley Lane
Jay & Steve Milton, Jack Wheeler	Jeff & Julie MacKenzie
Leon Savage	Anne Savage
Jim Stillerman	Pam Stillerman
Arnold & Bonnie Tingler	Roger & Tootles Tingler
David Finney	Meghan Finney Usry
John Michael Hall	The Usrys
Our Parents	Carolyn & Curtis Watson
Grady Daugherty, Guy McGiboney, Jack & Barbara Weesner	Chris & Donna Weesner
Jack F. Wheeler, James S. Gardner Jr. & Miriam A. Gardner	Miriam Witherspoon- Wheeler

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness and Strife

- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ Tammy Quick, friend of Donna Weesner - recovering from ankle surgery
- ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton & Pawpaw to Audrey - health issues
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Susan Hammond, aunt of Erin Morgan - cancer
- ✦ Christy Blanchford & daughter Samantha, friends of the congregation - mourning loss of husband, Sam Johnson
- ✦ Brian, brother of Adriane Ivey
- ✦ Jeanelle Brown - cousin of Randy Layton
- ✦ Armondo Castro, friend of Mark Fogarty
- ✦ Vonzella Lee, friend of Barbara Martin - gastric cancer
- ✦ Joel Kitchens
- ✦ Sheree Evans, friend of Cathy & Denny Dobbs - treatment for cancer
- ✦ Memama, great-grandma of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Bernice Bailey
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew

- ✦ Katherine Carey, mother of Erin Stillerman
- ✦ Jana Carter, aunt of Luke Usry - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, family of Louly Fowler Hay - cancer & care
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer
- ✦ Terry Smith, friend of Denny Dobbs - pneumonia with respiratory rehab
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss

Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Curtis & Carolyn Watson on the birth of their first great-grandchild, Ford!

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy Layton and his loved ones as they mourn the loss of his brother-in-law, Larry Cox.
- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Jack Wheeler as they mourn his passing on March 3rd, 2024. A funeral was held on Friday, March 8th.

Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Clint Williams - Army
- ✦ Daryl Williams - Army

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher
- ✦ 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.

8:00am at Town House Café

Saturday, April 13

Men's
Prayer
Breakfast



Sunday School

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



CAMPFIRE CHURCH

WITH THE
MULE CREEK
EMPORIUM
BLUEGRASS BAND!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH
5:30PM ON THE
FPC PLAYGROUND

Mini-mission trips in the Atlanta
area with your FPC Family


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

2024 MISSION

Extravaganza

JUNE 10TH-13TH

REGISTER AT FPCCOV.ORG/SIGNUP SEND QUESTIONS TO ERIN@FPCCOV.ORG



Elizabeth Ann
Circle

10:00am on Zoom
and in the
Fellowship Hall

Martha Circle

10:30am hosted
by rotating
members

Tuesday, April 2nd

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

SOUL FEAST

APRIL 10

**ON THE MENU:
FRIED CHICKEN**




Feed your body and soul in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15pm.
RSVP by Monday, April 8th to catherine@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

Accepting donations for our Youth to attend Montreat Middle School Conference!
No minimum charge for dinner



- Sunday, March 31**
Easter Sunday
Flowering of the Cross
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
6:45am Sunrise Service in the Garden
10:00am Resurrection Breakfast
11:00am Worship—Resurrection of the Lord
- Monday, April 1**
Church Office Closed
- Tuesday, April 2**
10:00am Elizabeth Ann Circle
10:30am Martha Circle
12:00pm Lectio Divina
- Wednesday, April 3**
10:00am Coffee Club
- Friday, April 5**
Church Office Closed
- Sunday, April 7**
Second Sunday of Easter
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Following Soul Feast we will hear from our friends at **Alcovy CASA!**

Save the Date:
Sunday, April 28th
Legacy of Love
Lunch
ALL ARE WELCOME!

There will be NO Music Ministry this Wednesday, April 3rd.

Older Adults Sharing In Service
O.A.S.I.S. at FPC

Botanical Gardens

ATLANTA, GA

Join your OASIS friends for a refreshing guided tour of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens
APRIL 24, 2024
Meet at FPC at 10:00am to carpool
Cost \$18 each, plus lunch cost
RSVP to neeley@fpccov.org by Apr. 15

VBS at FPC

COKEBURY'S
HERO HOTLINE
Called Together to Serve God!

9:00AM-12:00PM
JUNE 3RD-6TH
3 y/o - 5th grade

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!

Visit fpccov.org/vbs to register

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Visit fpccov.org/vbs or talk to Erin to learn more!

