



Day of Pentecost

MAY 28, 2023

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**



✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost
The Spacious Firmament on High
Come, All Christians, Be Committed*

J.S. Bach
CREATION
BEACH SPRING

Prelude

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

Flor Peeters

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

By AnnMarie Kneebone

Come, sing a new song of worship.

Come, sing a new song of praise.

Today is a day of a promise fulfilled.

With joy we celebrate Pentecost.

Pentecost – a day when power and comfort flowed.

Pentecost – a day of hope and inspiration.

A day when the Holy Spirit was revealed in flaming glory

and the glory was given to the people.

The fire of the Holy Spirit lives on in us.

Sing praises!

We sing praises, indeed!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 280**

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENEZER

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠Community Confession

Infinite God, You come to us in many colors, shapes, and languages. You speak to each of us in the way we can understand. You reach out to us and meet us where we are. But we are quick to limit you to what we can understand and control. Forgive us, and set Your Spirit loose among us. Challenge us, surprise us, and open us to your power, that we might know You more deeply, follow You more faithfully, and love You more fully. Amen.

✠Hymn of Response 288

Spirit of the Living God

LIVING GOD

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠Passing of the Peace



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

A Mighty Wind

Chancel Choir

Text by Stanbrook Abbey

Tallis Canon

Arranged by Simon Andrews

Prayer for God’s Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-13 Pew Bible page 174

Interactive Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-21 Pew Bible page 119

Foreign language liturgists -
 Krista Firkus (French), Erin Morgan (Spanish), Bill Clary (German)

Reflection *The Creative Activity of God* Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Hymn of Response 291 *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* SPIRIT

Prayers of the People Pentecost Prayer Stations Adapted from Theresa Cho

<i>Station 1: Flame</i>	Pat Harper
<i>Station 2: Wind</i>	Carolyn Watson
<i>Station 3: Dove</i>	Angelic Bellinger
<i>Station 4: Breath</i>	Miriam Wheeler
<i>Station 5: Reflection</i>	<i>Turn page to Worship Art section</i>

Offering Our Gifts

Offertory	<i>I’m Gonna Sing with Swing Low</i>	African American Spirituals
	Ladies Quartet	Arranged by Russell Robinson

✠ **Response 606**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

***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 543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

✠ **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

Thou, Whose Almighty Word

ITALIAN HYMN



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. This week's worship guide cover is a composite artwork provided by PCUSA Special Offerings.



Sermon Notions

On this day especially, we as the church get to participate in the creative activity of God! This Pentecost, we will use our imaginations as we wonder together how the Spirit might be moving in our midst! We will affirm as one body that through the gift of the holy spirit we have been given gifts to use for the glory of God!



Worship Art

How do you understand the Holy Spirit? Consider how the Holy Spirit might be igniting in you to join in the divine dance of God's creativity.

Do you have a burning for justice? Do you feel the winds of creation moving you to speak with compassion and gentleness? Does the divine breath of God desire to breathe hope through you? What gifts do you feel you have been given to share with the church and our community?

Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Charles Ardis **Acolyte** | Ruth Ralston

Women's Quartet | Jodi Atkins, Krista Firkus, Perri Walden, Alicia Taylor

Other Worship Leaders | Lori Ardis, Angelic Bellinger, Bill Clary, Krista Firkus, Pat Harper, Theodosia Wade, Carolyn Watson, Donna Weesner, Miriam Wheeler



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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 *Senior Pastor*
Erin Morgan *Associate Pastor*
Alicia Taylor *Dir. of Music & Worship Arts*
Alice Walker *CAGO, AAGO Organist/
Ambassador Choir*
Catherine Laseter *Dir. of Communications
& Operations*
Peni Kehoe *Finance Administrator*

Nursery Staff
Hattie Bellinger
Laina Lalane
Kyla White



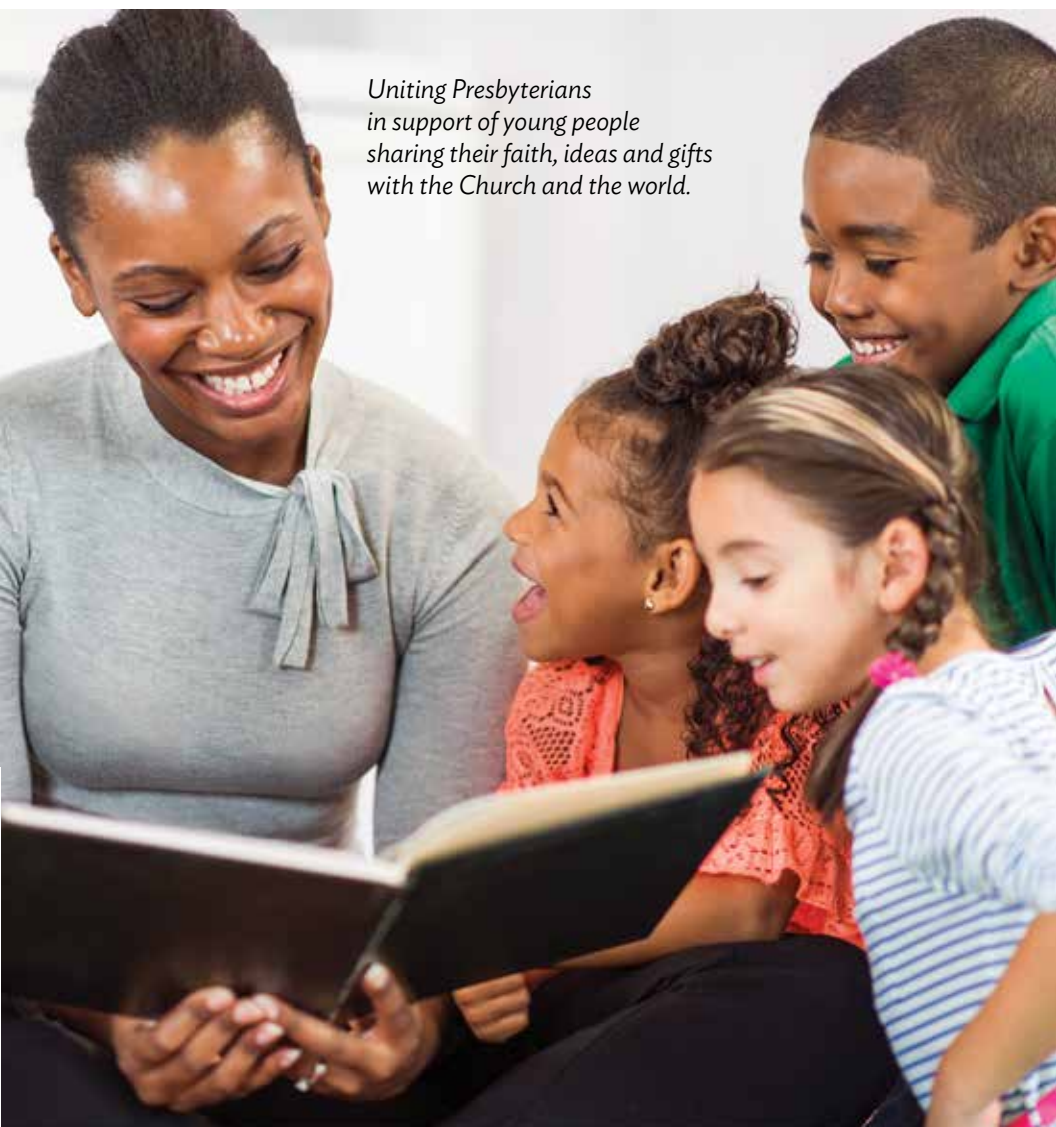
PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.

— EPH. 4:12, CEB

*Uniting Presbyterians
in support of young people
sharing their faith, ideas and gifts
with the Church and the world.*



“The Pentecost Offering enables young people to be included in some beautiful formation adventures that allow them to shine as well as helps them lead us as a church.”

Gina Yeager-Buckley

Associate for the Presbyterian Youth and Triennium Office



Rev. Allen Shelton was determined not to watch promising youth like Tariq fall through the cracks of an increasingly broken educational system. He wanted to ensure the future success of primarily urban, adolescent young people; so in 2010 he founded Good Success Academies. Since its founding, the once-local initiative — in partnership with Montclair State University and Rutgers University — now impacts youth in surrounding communities, readying them for college, work and the world.



The Young Adult Volunteer program is a faith-based year of service in sites across the U.S. and around the world that has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for nearly three decades. The YAV experience emphasizes living in intentional Christian community, spiritual formation and vocational discernment. Peru site coordinator Jenny Valle says, “If we all had the opportunity to have experiences like the YAV program offers, I believe that we would all be more empathetic, more just and more supportive of one other.”



WE ARE THERE

The Pentecost Offering helps guide young people in Christian formation from their earliest years to young adulthood. With our gifts, we are there to help build these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become.

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.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

Please give generously...
for if we all do a little,
it adds up to a lot.



PENTECOST

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



MATTHEW 25

APRIL 10-MAY 28, 2023

A FOUNDATION OF FAITH

established during
childhood through
young adulthood
helps ensure lifelong
faith and service.

When you give to the
Pentecost Offering,
you are helping to
provide opportunities
for young people to
grow and share in
their faith in Christ.



WAYS TO GIVE —



Through your congregation



Text PENTECOST
to 91999 to support
these vital ministries



Give online at
pcusa.org/donatepentecost



You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by the Pentecost Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA.



The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning and witness, and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

Life at FPC

June Lunch

**Wednesday, June 14th
at 11:30AM**

Café Milano in Conyers

RSVP to the office by Tuesday, June 13th at 12:00PM.

Lunch Bunch is a new lunch outing that will meet one Wednesday of the month at different local restaurants!

FPC
Lunch Bunch
EST. 2023

Golden-Age Ministry



**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
FOR MISSION TRIP IS JUNE 1ST!**

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

Supporting survivors of Hurricanes Florence & Matthew.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
OUT OF CHAOS, NOW

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

**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](http://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!)

**Sunday, May 28
Day of Pentecost**

11:00am Worship - Pentecost Prayer Stations

12:00pm Church Birthday Party

Monday, May 29

Office Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 30

12:00pm FINAL Lectio Divina

2:15pm Staff Meeting

5:15pm PW End-of-the-Year Celebration

Wednesday, May 31

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

6:00pm FINAL Carillon Handbell Choir

Thursday, June 1

Registration Deadline for Mission Trip

RSVP Deadline for PVA Day Trip

5:00pm VBS Setup

Sunday, June 4

Trinity Sunday

10:00am Donuts and Devo

11:00am Worship - Handbell Dedication

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](mailto:Curtis.Watson@fpc-cov.org) at 404.550.1212 to volunteer

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Bill Loeble - recovering from kidney removal surgery
- ✦ 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-in-law 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.

FPC Day Trip to PVA!

Tuesday, June 13th

Meet at FPC at 10:00AM

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



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!

