



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023



*First Presbyterian Church*  
*Covington, GA*



✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Canon in D*

Johann Pachelbel

*Tell Me the Stories of Jesus/Jesus Loves Me*

Matthew H. Corl

*Be Thou My Vision*

Dale Wood

## **Prelude**

*When Morning Gilds the Skies/Trumpet Voluntary*

Barnby/Clark/Caudill

## **Chiming of the Hour**

*Westminster Chimes*

Hallelujah Kids! Chime Choir

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

*For a Little Boost in the Morning*

by Kate Bowler

Today is new, oh God,  
The light is gathering and spilling into everything.  
The sleeping and the sleepy.  
The trees brushing the window.  
Even the unwashed dishes know it's time.

**What a gift. Unopened.**

The gratitude rises up within

**Lift our eyes and settle our souls.**

**Resurrection has happened again today.**

**God made the sun rise,**

**and brought love to the world already,**

**in the shape of a cross.**

Let us worship the living God!

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 664**

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

## ✠Community Confession

Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love. Love one another.  
Owe one another nothing but love. Do no wrong to a neighbor.  
But we have not mastered what it is to love.  
We have fallen short, causing harm to others through careless action and  
thoughtless lack of action. Forgive us. Teach us how to love more fully, more  
perfectly, as generously as you, following your law and fulfilling your will.

## ✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Christ does not judge us harshly,  
but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.  
**We will not take this forgiveness for granted,  
but will let it transform how we live and love.**  
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**

*For Where Love Is, There Is God*

Douglas E. Wagner

BEACH SPRING

### **Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding**

#### **Scripture Reading**

*Romans 13:8-14*

Pew Bible page 162

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Message**

*Wake up!*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

#### **✠Response 693**

*Though I May Speak*

GIFT OF LOVE

#### **✠Affirmation of Faith**

excerpts from *Confession of Belhar*

PCUSA

**We believe:**

**That this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; In that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and mind; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another. Amen.**

# Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

## Offertory

*As We Gather at Your Table*  
Jodi Atkins, soprano; Alicia Taylor, alto

Music by Lloyd Larson

## ✠ 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.***



# *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

## Invitation to the Table

## Response 515

*I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

***Verses 1 and 2***

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**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.**

## Words of Institution

*Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words “The gifts of God for the people of God.” We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!*

*See our Worship Practices section for more details.*

## Prayer After Communion



# Being the Church in the World

### ✠ Sending Hymn 515

*I Come with Joy*

DOVE OF PEACE

**Verses 3 - 5**

### ✠ 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

*Toccata in D Minor*

J.S. Bach



# Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Pat Harper

Acolyte | Kora Howell, Palmer Wilson



# Worship Practices

## Communion

All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

## 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.

## Sound System

We are excited to announce that Session has approved updating the sound system in our Sanctuary! Our sound system has not been updated in several years and we believe this is a valuable way to make our church welcoming and accessible for all of God's people. The new system is designed to improve the sound in the space, not only in volume but in clarity and it will include a Bluetooth hearing aid connectivity option.

Due to supply chain delays we do not have a firm timeline for installation, so we still encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to sit close to the front near the main speakers. Currently we expect to have the equipment by October and have it installed in time for Advent! Know that you have been heard and you are loved!

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.



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | [fpccov.org](http://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?	Officers	
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	<b>Reaching Out</b> Curtis Watson <i>Witness (2024)</i>	
	<b>Engaging</b> Charles Ardis <i>Christian Ed (2025)</i> Pat Harper <i>Worship (2024)</i> Nichole Howell <i>Worship (2025)</i> Mary Catherine Whisnant <i>Christian Ed (2024)</i>	
First Presbyterian Church Staff	<b>Belonging</b> Doug Bolton <i>Welcome (2025)</i> Louly Hay Kapp <i>Marketing (2023)</i> Bob Tabb <i>Finance (2023)</i>	
	<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b> Tom Crews <i>Pastoral Care (2025)</i> Dana Hall <i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2025)</i> Eleanor Scarborough <i>Pastoral Care (2023)</i> Darcel Tabb <i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2024)</i>	
	<b>More</b> Billy Fortson <i>Personnel (2024)</i> Stan Hall <i>Facilities (2023)</i> John McCarthy <i>Clerk of Session</i> Ed Perkerson <i>Strategic Planning (2023)</i>	
Neeley Rentz Lane Erin Morgan Alicia Taylor Alice Walker Catherine Laseter Felicia Carson Peni Kehoe	<i>Senior Pastor</i> <i>Associate Pastor</i> <i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i> <i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i> <i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i> <i>Seminary Intern</i> <i>Finance Administrator</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i> Hattie Bellinger Sierra BlackShear Jahniyah Greene Laina Lalane Anna Merritt



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ Bobbie Vining, sister-in-law of Danny and Beth Vining - in hospital with pancreatitis
- ✦ Brenda Howell - rehab from car accident
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure
- ✦ Gabby Daugherty
- ✦ Caroline Harper, daughter of Pat Harper - cervical cancer
- ✦ Ken Walker - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Doris Deadwyler, friend of Judy Davis - hip replacement
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV kidney cancer

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

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



**WE ARE MAKING A NEW  
CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!**

**Ask Doug Bolton what timeslots are still available for TODAY and TOMORROW!**

Dear Church family,

As you may know, Alicia Taylor has resigned from her position as Director of Music and Worship Arts effective September 17, 2023. We are grateful for the joy, passion, and dedication she has given to our church family.

Therefore, we want to acknowledge her contributions to our church family on Sunday, September 17, during and following worship. We will share in a reception immediately following worship to offer our gratitude! We would also like to **extend to Alicia a "love gift"** which we will present to her in worship on September 17.

#### **Please contribute by September 12 in one of two ways:**

- ◆ Send cash or check to the Church Office at 1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014
- ◆ Text-to-Give\* your donation to the phone number 73256 and type FPCCOV as the message or click here. Follow the prompts and label your contribution: "Love Gift" as the fund.

With gratitude,  
 John McCarthy  
 Clerk of Session

Neeley Lane  
 Senior Pastor



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!

\*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.



Lopez  
Tabor  
Duo

in Concert

SEPTEMBER 17  
AT 3:00PM

Violin Piano Concert

featuring European and  
Latin American Works

Performance by:

Alfonso Lopez, violin  
Michell Tabor, piano

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON  
ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

# SOUL FEAST

SEPT. 13

ON THE MENU:  
EL CHARRO  
TACO BAR



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

RSVP by Monday, September 11th  
to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321



After Soul Feast join **Sustainable Newton** and **GA**

**Interfaith Power & Light** for a

presentation about how we can

take advantage of incentives for

energy efficiency upgrades and

retrofits through the Inflation

Reduction Act, GIPL grants,

tax credits, and

utility rebates.

Contact Theodosia

Wade for any questions.



Saturday, September 16th  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP to Neeley  
by September 14th

**Men's  
Prayer  
Breakfast**



O.A.S.I.S.  
**Lunch  
Bunch**  
FPC

*Order Adults Sharing In Service*  
**O.A.S.I.S.**

September  
Lunch

**11:30AM on Wednesday, September 13th at Amici**  
RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, September 12th

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

**BELIEF AND  
- BEER -**

DRINKS AND DISCUSSION  
SEPTEMBER 19TH | 5:30PM  
AMICI COVINGTON  
CHILDCARE AT FPC



*2023-2024 Kick-off  
Presbyterian Women  
Meeting*

September 14, 2023 at 5:00pm  
in the Fellowship Hall  
and on Zoom!

**Sunday, September 10**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Thriving Congregations Visit

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Communion

12:30pm Directory Photo Shoot

7:00pm Jammie & Jesus

**Monday, September 11**

RSVP for Soul Feast

3:30pm Directory Photo Shoot

**Tuesday, September 12**

Final Donations for Alicia Love Gift

RSVP for Lunch Bunch

12:00pm Lectio Divina

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

**Wednesday, September 13**

10:00am Coffee Club

11:30pm Lunch Bunch

4:30pm Joyful Noise

5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!

5:15pm Soul Feast

6:00pm Confirmation Class

6:00pm Soul Class—Sustainable Newton

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, September 14**

RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast

5:00pm PW Kick-off Dinner

**Friday, September 15**

Office CLOSED

**Saturday, September 16**

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Sunday, September 17**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Peace & Global Witness

12:00pm Celebration for Alicia Taylor

12:30pm Turquoise Table Painting

3:00pm Lopez Tabor Duo Concert

7:00pm Jammie & Jesus





# PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Every time the world is troubled,  
and we dare to wake and see;  
every time our neighbors call us,  
and we stand with those in need;  
and every time we are peacemakers,  
and the fearful are set free,

*In our living,  
in our giving,  
we are there.*





## **“YOU ARE WITH ME”**

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

~ Teresa of Ávila





Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

*Thank you!*



# PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

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Thank you for  
your participation in the  
Peace & Global Witness Offering.

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IF WE ALL  
DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP  
TO A LOT!



The Peace & Global Witness 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.



## WAYS TO GIVE



Through your  
congregation



Donate by  
credit card online at  
[pcusa.org/peace-global](https://pcusa.org/peace-global)



Text PCUSAPEACE  
to 41444  
or scan this QR code  
for more information.

