

SIXTEENTH
SUNDAY
AFTER
PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER
17, 2023



First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

HOLY MANNA

Charles Callahan

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Marilyn Arison

When in Our Music God is Glorified

Sue Mitchell Wallace

O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping Through Us

ST. CLEMENT

Prelude

Ringin' Victoriously!

Michael Mazzatenta

Carillon Handbell Choir

Chiming of the Hour

Westminster Chimes

Joyful Noise Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

adapted from Psalm 145

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

**Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.**

One generation shall extol God's works to another
and shall declare God's mighty acts.

We recount the glorious splendor of God's majesty,
and on God's wondrous works we meditate.

**We proclaim the might of God's awesome deeds,
and we declare God's greatness.**

**We celebrate the fame of God's abundant goodness
and sing aloud of God's righteousness.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

✠Hymn of Praise 41

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS

✠Call to Confession

✠Community Confession

adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*, ©2004

**God, you asked for our hands,
that you might use them for your purpose.
We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them,
for the work was hard.
You asked for our voice
to speak out against injustice.
We gave you a whisper that we might not be accused.
You asked for our eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
We closed them, for we did not want to see.
You asked for our lives,
that you might work through us.
We gave a small part, that we might not get too involved.
Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you—
only when it is convenient for us to do so,
only in those places where it is safe to do so,
and only with those who make it easy to do so.
God, forgive us,
renew us, send us out
as a usable instrument singing your praises
that we might take seriously
the meaning of your cross. Amen.**

✠ 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

Encourage One Another

Mark Burrows

Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Kids! Choirs

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21

Pew Bible page 61

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Sing Praise!

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 637**

O Sing to the Lord

CANTAI AO SENHOR

✠ **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.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Sing a New Song to the Lord
Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth
Quoting TALLIS CANON
Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)

✠Response 821

My Life Flows On

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

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 625

O Lord My God

HOW GREAT THOU ART

✠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

Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Sellar Lang



Worship Practices

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



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Pat Harper

Acolyte | Kately Lane, Paisley Lane



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | 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

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
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations
Felicia Carson	Seminary Intern
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator

Nursery Staff
Hattie Bellinger
Sierra BlackShear
Jahniyah Greene
Laina Lalane
Anna Merritt

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)*

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
 Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

Children's Class (PreK-4th) Youth Class (5th and up)
 Foundations Adult Class The Wired WORD Class



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!

World COMMUNION Sunday

ALL ARE WELCOME! SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST AT FPC COVINGTON



**Break bread with us at 11:00am in
 this special service with guest
 worship leaders:**

Stillman College Choir

Grief Group

Join Neeley, Erin, and some of
 your FPC family in the Parlor
 for a grief support group.



**One Monday a month at 6:00pm
 Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 13
 Enter through the office door**

WE ARE MAKING A NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

**Couldn't join us for picture day? Submit your photo to
catherine@fpccov.org by Oct. 9 to be included in the photo directory!
 Contact Doug Bolton or the office if you'd like to help put everything together!**

*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

TODAY!

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS

**BELIEF AND
- BEER -**

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

TEXT "@K74G9K" TO 810-10 FOR UPDATES AND REMINDERS!

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 Jammies & Jesus

Monday, September 18

- 6:00pm Grief Group

Tuesday, September 19

- 10:30pm Sandwich Ministry
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Belief & Beer

Wednesday, September 20

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 5:30pm Confirmation Class
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

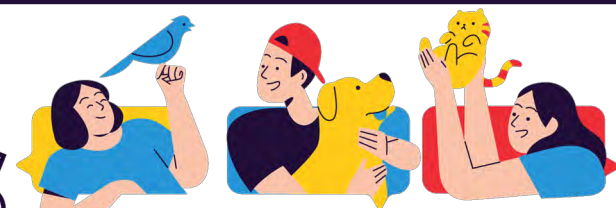
Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 4:00pm Blessing of the Animals
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

**Blessing of the
ANIMALS**

Sunday, September 24th
at 4:00pm on the Playground



Bring all your beloved pets for a special blessing!

ALL ARE WELCOME! BIG OR SMALL!

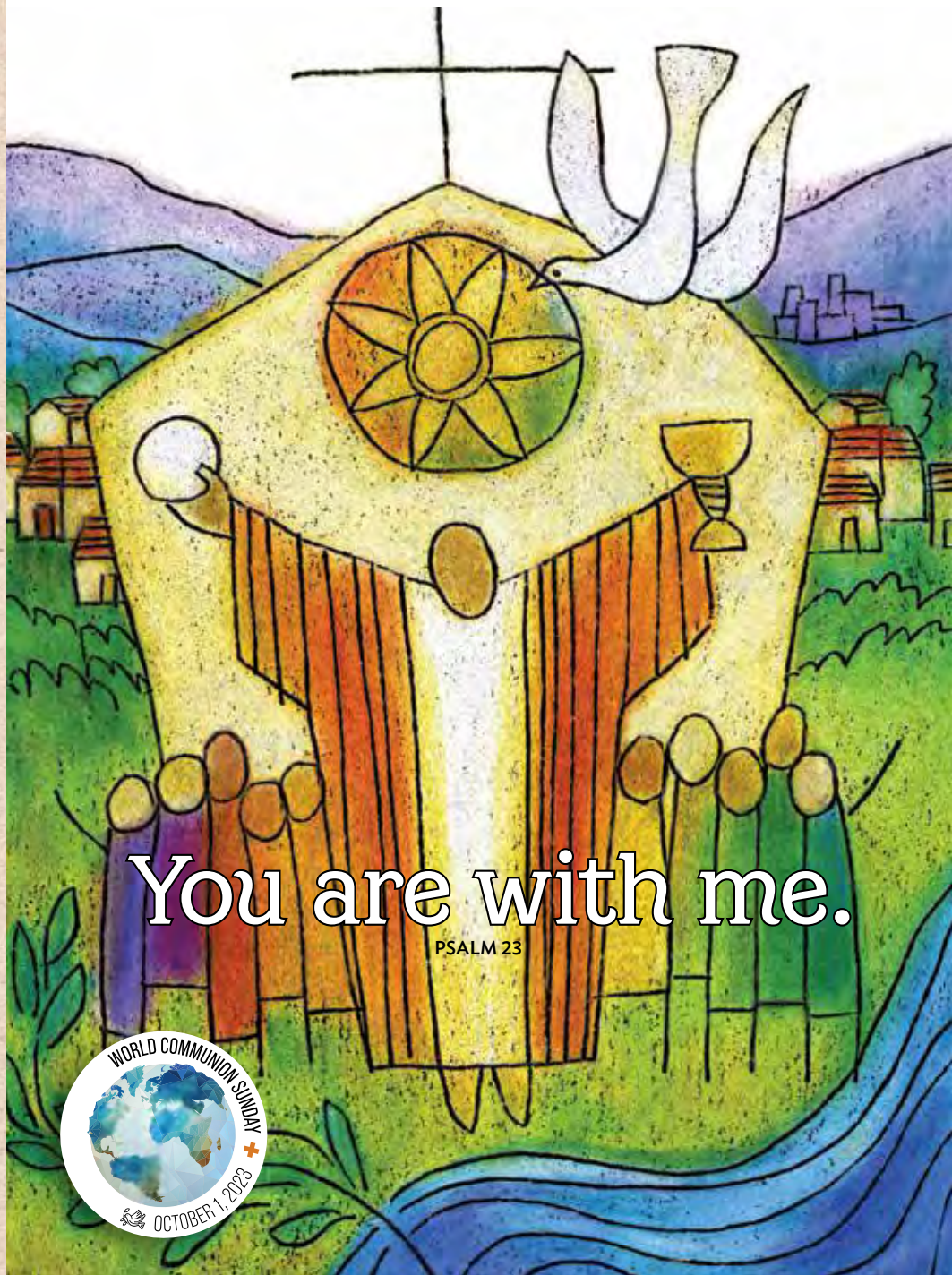
FURRY, FEATHERED, SCALED,
COTTON, OR IMAGINARY!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



You are with me.

PSALM 23





God's presence empowers us
to bring peace to all people.

*Thanks to your gifts to the
Peace & Global Witness Offering:*

*Maina Talia, a former
International Peacemaker for
the Presbyterian Peacemaking
Program, works to address the
effects of climate change for
families on the South Pacific
island of Tuvalu, who have been
displaced by the devastating
series of cyclones.*



*In Madagascar, Rev. Helivao
Poget, director of ministry to
marginalized people for the
Church of Jesus Christ in
Madagascar, a Presbyterian
World Mission partner, works
to prevent human trafficking
and to stop children from
being exploited.*

*Rev. Stephen Herring
works as a peacemaker
by pursuing pathways
of peace to address
structural racism and
the catastrophic effects
of climate change in
North Carolina.*



Visit pcusa.org/peace-global/resources for more information.

We are there.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering
offers light to those in the shadows
and guides us all into the ways of peace.
We come together to promote the peace of Christ
by addressing systems of injustice in our own
communities and around the world.

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.



Please give what you can.

IF 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.

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

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



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

