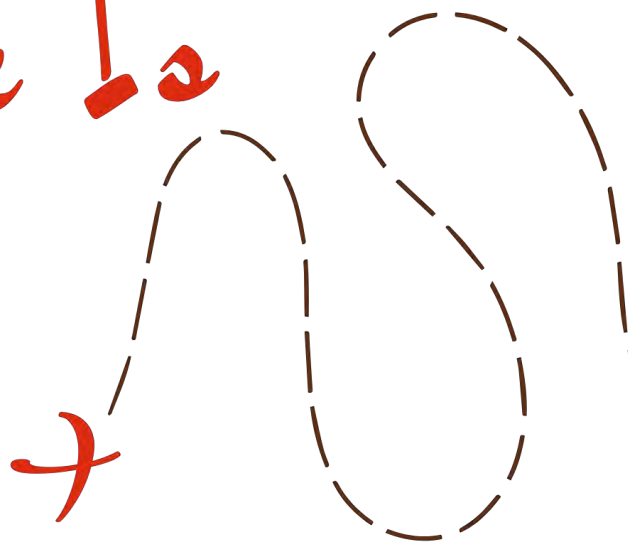


First Presbyterian Church  
Covington, LA

Where Our  
Treasure Is



OCTOBER 8, 2023  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

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



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

Eleanor Whitsett

*Prelude in F*

Dietrich Buxtehude

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!*

David Cherwien

## **Prelude**

*Come, All Christians, Be Committed*

David Lowe

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Choral Introit**

*Praises, Let Us Sing*

JJ Mauret

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

*Psalm 96*

O sing to the Lord a new song;

**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord; bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;**

**he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him;**

**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;**

**bring an offering, and come into his courts,**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

tremble before him, all the earth.

## ✠Hymn of Praise 413

*Come into God's Presence*

COME INTO HIS PRESENCE

## ✠Call to Confession

## ✠Community Confession

I confess, God. I drag my feet to worship.

Sometimes, I would rather stay in bed.

I ask "What will I get out of worship today?"

And then I remember...

Worship is about praising you!

Worship is an expression of our love and adoration for you!

Forgive me. May my life be an offering of worshiping you with gladness.

Hear our prayer as we sing together...

## ✠Hymn 701

*Lord, Prepare Me*

SANCTUARY

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

## ✠Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!

**We are free to try again.**

## ✠Response to God's Grace 1

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

NICAEA

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!*

*God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saint adore thee,*

*casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;*

*cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,*

*who wert, and art, and ever more shalt be.*

## ✠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

*Graves into Gardens*  
Ansley Stewart

Brandon Lake, Chris Brown  
Steven Furtick, and Tiffany Hammer

## Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

### Scripture Reading

*Acts 2:42-46*

Pew Bible page 120

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Message

*Where Our Treasure Is: The Christian Life*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



# Responding to the Word

### ✦ Response 716

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

BEACH SPRING

### ✦ Affirmation of Faith

*PCUSA's Westminster Confession*

Charles Ardis

What is the chief end of man?

**Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Charles Ardis

**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

Pam Stillerman

*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

*What a Beautiful Name It Is*  
Ansley Stewart

Brooke Ligertwood  
and Ben Fielding

## ✦ Response 710

*We Lift Our Voices*

OFFERING

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering.***

***Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;  
they are yours: we are an offering.***

***All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you.***

***We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering; we are an offering.***

## ✦ Prayer of Gratitude

Charles Ardis

*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 700

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE

## ✦ 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

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*

Robert Hebble



# *Serving Today*

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley  
Usher Chair | Nichole Howell      Acolyte | Parker Firkus, Palmer Wilson



## Notions on Stewardship

What does stewardship mean to you? If money came to mind first, you are right! If sharing your spiritual gifts came to mind first, you are right! If caring for our earth came to mind first, you are right! If giving of your time came to mind first, you are right!

*Not guilt, no shame. Stewardship is gratitude for God's mercy, grace, and love!*

Simon Sinek in his book *Start with Why* suggests that we start with our why. When we know our why, our passion is restored. He writes, "Very few people can clearly articulate WHY they do WHAT they do. When I say WHY, I don't mean to make money – that's a result. By WHY I mean what is your purpose, cause or belief? WHY does our church exist? WHY do you get out of bed every morning?"

I give because I vow at every baptism to walk alongside a child in their faith journey. I give because when faith comes alive for a young person, nothing is more beautiful. I give because I get to witness the miracles of God's presence in action through all of you. I give because I love to share family meals with our church. I give because I love to hear the children playing on the playground. I give because I know we need air conditioning in our sanctuary during the hot summer months. I give because I am grateful for our church staff. I give because I want our building to continue to be a beacon of light and safe space to come. I give because I want our elders and deacons to have resources to further our depth and reach as a church in our community. I give because our Food Pantry and the organizations we support do holy work. I give because I desire for us all to continue to be stretched in our understanding of who God calls us to be through study and service. I give because worship art expands my sensory experience of worship. I give because of the energy I feel on Sunday mornings in the narthex!

I give because I am grateful for all God has given me, has given my family, and has given us as the body of Christ known as FPC Covington!

What is my why? My why is because I believe in a God of love, mercy, creativity, justice and grace! My why is because I trust in the good and faithful purpose of God's church and I LOVE YOU!

—Neeley Rentz Lane

### 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.



# 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.

**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**—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. Know that you have been heard and you are loved!

**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.

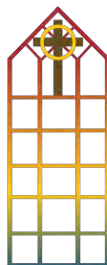
Want to Get Involved?			Officers	
Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing 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>	
			<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>	
First Presbyterian Church Staff				
Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff		
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor			
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO Organist	Hattie Bellinger		
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Sierra BlackShear		
Felicia Carson	Seminary Intern	Jahniyah Greene		
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Laina Lalane		
Krista Firkus	Interim Choir Director			



# 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 dots for writing notes and doodles. In the center of the grid is a faint, light gray Celtic cross. The grid consists of approximately 10 columns and 15 rows of dots.



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | [fpccov.org](http://fpccov.org) | 770.786.7321



**OCTOBER 22  
5:00-6:30PM**

Learn and discuss parenting strategies for positive childhood development and mental health.

Come engage in conversations with professionals and parents for guidance in the busy world of raising a child.

## FAITHFUL PARENTING WORKSHOP

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNCELORS

MENTAL HEALTH

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

COME HEAR & SHARE

## SOUL FEAST

**OCT. 18**

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



**ON THE MENU:  
BREAKFAST  
FOR DINNER**



RSVP by Monday, October 16th  
to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321

## WE ARE MAKING A NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Couldn't join us for picture day?

Submit your photo to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)  
by Oct. 9th to be included in the directory!

Contact Doug Bolton or the office if you'd like to help put it together!

If you'd like prints of your photo, contact the photographer, Sue Ann Kuhn Smith at [sueann.ks.photo@bellsouth.net](mailto:sueann.ks.photo@bellsouth.net)

**Men's  
Prayer  
Breakfast**

Saturday, October 14th  
8:00am at Town House Café  
RSVP by October 12th



**Sunday, October 8**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Stewardship Kickoff

**Monday, October 9**

Deadline to submit directory photos

**Tuesday, October 10**

RSVP for Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, October 11**

10:00am Coffee Club

11:30am Lunch Bunch

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, October 12**

RSVP for Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Friday, October 13**

RSVP for Reverse Trick-or-Treat

**Saturday, October 14**

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Sunday, October 15**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

RSVP for OASIS Apple Orchard Trip

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Stewardship

12:30pm Reverse Trick-or-Treat

7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

OASIS FIELD TRIP

*Apple Orchard*

B.J. REECE ORCHARD IN  
ELLIJAY, GA

Bee Observation | Wagon Ride |  
Apple Picking | Petting Farm |  
Apple Cider Sipper to Take Home

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

Meet at FPC at 10:00am to carpool

Cost \$15 each

RSVP to [neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org) by Oct. 15

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Bernice Bailey - cancer treatment
- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt - mother hit by car in the crosswalk
- ✦ Sam and Melissa Jo Feuer, friends of the Scarboroughs & Fullertons - mourning the passing of Sam's mother
- ✦ Billy Wade - recovering from hip replacement surgery
- ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering at home following rehab from car accident
- ✦ Karla Ensminger, sister of Perri Walden - in the hospital
- ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor
- ✦ Bobbie Vining, sister-in-law of Danny and Beth Vining - in hospital with pancreatitis
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Doris Deadwyler, friend of Judy Davis - hip replacement
- ✦ 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.

# CHANGE THE WORLD

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST 10:00AM-1:00PM**

Come join us for Change the World Day, an annual community event of education, service, fun, food, fall festival and fellowship hosted by FUMC!

Our witness team will have a booth to let us reach out and connect to people in our community of all ages! If you'd like to volunteer **please reach out to Curtis Watson!**

**Join us for Change the World PREP DAY  
on October 18th at 10:00am in  
the Fellowship Hall to put**

You are invited to **"Text to Give"** your offering! Find more details in the worship guide under "Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity."

## Reverse Trick or Treat

Sunday, October 15 at 12:30pm

5th grade and up  
Costumes encouraged!

We'll have lunch in the Fellowship Hall after worship then we will take painted pumpkins to some of our home-bound friends!

RSVP to [erin@fpccov.org](mailto:erin@fpccov.org) by Oct. 13

O.A.S.I.S.

## Lunch Bunch

FPC

October Lunch

11:30AM on Wednesday, October 11th at IHOP

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, October 10th

Order Adults Sharing In Service

O.A.S.I.S.

at FPC

### Sunday School

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