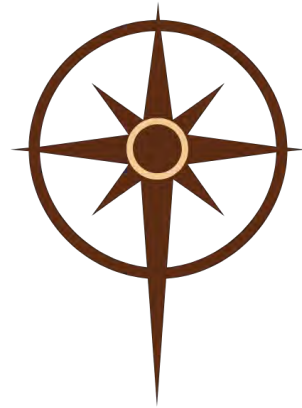


First Presbyterian Church  
Covington, CA

Where Our  
Treasure Is  
→



OCTOBER 15, 2023  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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



# ***Gathering As God's Beloved People***

**Gathering Music**   *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*   Sue Mitchel Wallace  
                                  *Toccata-Prelude on HYFRYDOL*                                    Edward L. Good  
                                  *Prelude on "Fairest Lord Jesus"*                                    SCHLEISCHE VOLKSLIEDER, 1842

**Prelude**                                    *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*                                    Peter Scholtes

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

✠ **Call to Worship**                                    *Psalm 86*

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.**

For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.

**Teach me your way, O Lord,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.**

**I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
and I will glorify your name forever.**

**For great is your steadfast love toward me.**

Let us worship the living God!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 20**                                    *All Things Bright and Beautiful*                                    ROYAL OAK

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

**God, you call us to be stewards of all we have been given. We confess we  
fall short of recognizing the need to be stewards of our faith. We fail to**

nurture the seed of faith. Help us to grow closer to you through prayer, study, worship, and fellowship. We ask your Word to take root in our hearts. We seek to be life-long learners of your wisdom, truth, justice and love. 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 581** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, 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**

*Feed My Lambs*

Natalie Sleeth

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

**Scripture Reading**

*Proverbs 1:1-7  
Matthew 28:16-20*

Pew Bible page 584  
Pew Bible page 33

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

*Where Our Treasure Is: Life-long Learners*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



# Responding to the Word

## ✦ Response 738

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

MARYTON

## ✦ Affirmation of Faith

*excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith*

PCUSA

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.  
The same Spirit  
who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.  
In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

## Recognition of Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger

Sierra BlackShear

Jahniyah Greene

Laina Lalane

## 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

*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!*

Pat Harper



## Offertory

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Dan Miller

## ✦ 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

*This week we would love to lift up our Sunday school teachers in this prayer!  
For our one-word prayer of gratitude today - we invite you to name one person  
who has impacted your life or faith journey by teaching you, nurturing you, and  
showing you the love of God.*



## *Being the Church in the World*

## ✦ Sending Hymn 757

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

KINGSFOLD

## ✦ **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**

*Fugue in G Minor*

J.S. Bach



## *Serving Today*

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Nichole Howell

Acolyte | Thorton Holder, Greer Holder



## *Stories of Stewardship*

### ***Miriam Wheeler***

I come from a long line of Christian stewards who were active from the inception of the First Presbyterian Church in Covington to the present. My grandparents Jim and Lois Gardner held many positions over the years. My grandfather was an elder, and my grandmother taught Sunday school for a long while. In addition, my parents were active in many positions in the church.

I learned early on from my grandparents and parents how important stewardship is in keeping the church up and running. I have enjoyed spending my time volunteering for various ministry opportunities to include serving as a session member and also helping with church functions. We must always remember that stewardship incorporates all that we do with the resources God puts in our care.

Some church members think the stewardship only applies to monetary gifts. However, that couldn't be farther from the truth. There are always opportunities to serve on our church family. I try to turn my thoughts to 1 Peter 4:10-11, as a scriptural basis for my opportunities for stewardship. "Each of you should use whatever you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

During the past I have served as (*Presbyterian Women*) Women of the Church President, Circle Chairman and taught the bible study lesson. When my children were young, I helped start the 3 and 4 year old Sunday School class by teaching it. About 50 years ago, I suggested

the idea of the Chrismons for the tree. It was well accepted and is still used today. The advent wreath was an idea I borrowed from another church. It is still being used today but with some different ideas. I enjoy greeting families in the Narthex and in the Sanctuary. My gift of gab makes it easy for me to welcome strangers and folks on Sunday morning.

In conclusion, over the years, I have tried to turn my attention towards how I can serve in our faith community and how I can help motivate others to give their time, treasure, and talent.



## *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.

# 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.***



**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.

## First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist</i>	
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; Operations</i>	
Felicia Carson	<i>Seminary Intern</i>	
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	
Krista Firkus	<i>Interim Choir Director</i>	

*Nursery Staff*  
Hattie Bellinger  
Sierra BlackShear  
Jahnayah Greene  
Laina Lalane

## 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

- ✦ Carolyn Watson - undergoing cancer treatment
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure

- ✦ 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 THIS WEDNESDAY for Change the World  
PREP DAY on October 18th at 10:00am in the  
Fellowship Hall to put everything together!**

## 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**  
**Upcoming dates: Oct. 16, Nov. 13**  
**Enter through the office door**

### Sunday School

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

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

# OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE!

We will be collecting food donations for the Community Food Pantry and for Repairers of the Breach in the bin in the Narthex all month!



# 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



Join us  
after  
Soul Feast for  
**BINGO!**

**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  
COUNSELORS

MENTAL HEALTH

CHILDHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT

COME HEAR & SHARE



Asking for  
a friend...

Send your  
questions to  
[neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org)  
by October 26  
to possibly be a  
sermon Nov. 12-26!

A sermon series inspired by  
~~your~~ your friends' questions!



Visit [fpccov.org/stewardship](http://fpccov.org/stewardship)

to learn all about

"Where Our Treasure Is" and how we are striving to honor the church with our time, talents, and treasures this stewardship season! Commitment Sunday is October 29th, so be sure to get your pledges in!

**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

**Monday, October 16**

RSVP Deadline for Soul Feast

6:00pm Officer Training

6:00pm Grief Group

**Tuesday, October 17**

10:30am Sandwich Ministry

4:00pm Pastoral Care Meeting

5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

**Wednesday, October 18**

10:00am Coffee Club

10:00am Change the World Day Prep

4:30pm Joyful Noise

5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!

5:15pm Soul Feast

6:00pm Soul Activity—Bingo

6:00pm Confirmation Class

6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, October 19**

10:00am OASIS Apple Orchard Trip

**Saturday, October 21**

10:00am Change the World Day

**Sunday, October 22**

**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Stewardship

5:00pm Faithful Parenting Workshop

7:00pm Jammies & Jesus