



First Presbyterian Church
Covington, CA

Where Our
Treasure Is



OCTOBER 29, 2023
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Prelude in G
Celebration
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

J.S. Bach
Charles Callahan
David Cherwien

Prelude

Foundation

Charles Callahan

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Giocoso
Carillon Handbell Choir*

by Paul A. McKlveen

✠ **Call to Worship**

We come to worship not to escape the world

but to praise the one who made it;

not to turn a blind eye to suffering

but to gaze upon the one who gives us hope;

not to shut out our neighbors

but to remind ourselves to love them.

Holy Christ, in music, prayer, scripture,

renew in us the strength to serve your children.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 301**

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Merciful Lord, we confess to treating our neighbors like an afterthought;

to giving those who suffer most

only the dregs of our time, energy, and resources;

to listing dangerously towards judgment
and withholding compassion.

Break our hearts again for what breaks yours.

Guide us to the hungry, the helpless, and the hurting;
show us how to love with your reckless abandon,
and teach us to be discontent with the world as it is,
striving instead for the wholeness of your kingdom.

We pray in the name of your son, who embodied justice,
loved kindness, and walked humbly with you. Amen.

✠ 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 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

Children's Anthem

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Joyful Noise

I'M GONNA LIVE

Anthem

We Are His Love
Chancel Choir; Perri Walden, alto soloist

by Gary Hallquist

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Hymn 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:31-46

Pew Bible page 29

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Where Our Treasure Is: Serving Our Neighbors

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Response 733

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN WALDVÖGELEIN

✠Affirmation of Faith

Matthew 22:36-40

NRSV

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

**He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'**

**This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

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

Luke Usry



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

*Magic Penny
Hallelujah Kids!*

Malvina Reynolds

✠The Commitment of Our Treasures

You should have received a pledge card and a Time & Talent survey in your worship guide today. We invite you to walk these and/or your offering to the front of the Sanctuary and place it in the offering plate! If you've already submitted your pledge, we invite you to write your prayer for 2024 in the space provided on the back of the pledge card so you can still take part in this symbolic commitment of our time, talents and treasures.

✠Response 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

✠A Litany for Stewardship Sunday

by Sarah Speed

. . . and how do we respond?

We say thank you.

We give what we can.

We let it feel like a joy, not an obligation.

We let it feel like a gift, not a burden.

We show up in this space.

**We believe these gifts can somehow make a difference,
and we refuse to give up on this world.**

Thank goodness for a God that forever outgives.

Thank goodness for the opportunity to say thank you for it all.

Amen.



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 761**

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

Verses 1, 2, 4

✦ **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** *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623



Stories of Stewardship

Jodi and Jonny Atkins

We share our gifts at FPC by being active members in the young adult program, singing in the choir, playing handbells, serving on nominating committees and session, delivering meals on wheels, and being on tech team. In this season of stewardship it is important to focus on all of the gifts we can give the church, not just monetary gifts. Finding ways to serve in different capacities (big and small!) is vital in the life of the church. We do this to glorify God and show our love for our church family.



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Nichole Howell

Acolytes | Palmer Wilson, Kora Howell



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.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014 | fpccov.org | 770.786.7321

SOUL FEAST CHILI COOK-OFF

NOVEMBER 8TH



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

Email Erin to enter
your chili to win!
erin@fpccov.org

RSVP by Monday,
November 6th to
770-786-7321 or
catherine@fpccov.org



CHRISMONS WORKSHOP

Join us before or after Soul
Feast on the far end of the
Fellowship Hall as we make
new Chrismons for our tree!
Check the e-news for more!



We will have a
table at Legion
Field on Halloween!
Join us to help pass
out candy from
4:30-6:30pm. See
Erin for more info!

Community
FRIENDSGIVING
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15TH | 6PM

ALL are invited to join us for the Community Friendsgiving
at the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal!
Partnership between FPC, FUMC, & CGSE

*Where Our
Treasure Is*

It is Commitment Sunday!

Be sure to fill out your pledge
card and Time & Talent so you
can put them in the offering plate
during worship! For more, visit
fpccov.org/stewardship

**Then join us in the Fellowship
Hall for The Varsity Food Truck!**



*November
Lunch*

11:30AM on Wednesday, November 1st

The Village Grille at Ashton Hills

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, October 31st



Sunday, October 29 Twenty-second Sunday

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Commitment Sunday
- 12:00pm Varsity for the Church!
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

Monday, October 30

- 5:30pm Officer Training

Tuesday, October 31

- RSVP deadline for Lunch Bunch
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 4:30pm Trick-or-Treat on the Trail

Wednesday, November 1

- Submit names for All Saints' Day
- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 11:30am Lunch Bunch
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 5:30pm Session Meeting
- 6:00pm Carillon Handbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 2

Bring in pictures for All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 5 All Saints' Sunday

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Confirmation
- 12:00pm CASA Service Project
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

OASIS Movie Field Trip!

Nov. 9 at 3:45pm

Meet us at the AMC
in Conyers!

A Journey to Bethlehem

Showtime 4pm

Cost \$9 for ticket

RSVP to Neeley by Nov. 6

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Ken Fullerton, father of Scott Fullerton - in hospital with pneumonia ✦ Emmy Roth - quick healing from fall ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis ✦ Grant Moss & Chris Mattice, friends of Theodosia Wade - cancer and care ✦ Joyce, sister of Faye Kitchens ✦ Shelvie Belser, grandmother of Neeley Rentz Lane ✦ 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 ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering at home following rehab from car accident | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Karla Enslinger, sister of Perri Walden ✦ 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 ✦ 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 ✦ Marcia McGowan-Thurman, mother of Alicia Taylor - inoperable brain tumor ✦ Rosalia Meadors, friend of Tom Crews - three year old with bone marrow failure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ 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 <h3>Military Service</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy ✦ Clint Williams - Army ✦ Daryl Williams - Army <h3>Independent and Assisted Living</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ 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, November 5th at CASA's office

All are invited to pull out your tools & help us plant flowers!
We'll eat lunch in the Fellowship Hall following worship then head to CASA.

RSVP to erin@fpccov.org by Nov. 2nd

8134 Geiger Street, Suite 15, Covington, GA 30014



We will be collecting a special offering on
Sunday, November 12th during worship to
support Thornwell Emphasis Month!

BE A PARTNER WITH US to help children and families! **YOU CAN LIVE YOUR FAITH** by blessing hurting children and families through giving, volunteering, and praying for our communities! Learn more or give now at Thornwell.org.

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

Sunday School

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

FPC is hosting a blood drive with the **American**

Red Cross on Friday,

November 17th from 12:00pm-5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall!

To make an appointment visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code *firstprescov* or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

If you need help, contact Curtis Watson and he'll help you!



American Red Cross



Where Our Treasure Is

MONEY, MISSION, AND LIVING OUR VALUES

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

For 2024, I/we will give (choose one):

_____ dollars weekly.

_____ dollars monthly.

_____ dollars annually.

**This pledge may be revised at anytime
by notifying our Finance Administrator**

Thanks to your gift of money,
FPC can continue existing to
glorify God by welcoming all of
God's children through serving,
teaching, praying, eating, crying,
and singing with the Holy Spirit.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

~ Matthew 6:21



Where our hearts are

In 2024, I pray that God will work
through FPC so that together we can...

*For all that you give, and for the person
you are, we give thanks to God!*

+ Time and Talent Survey

Giving our **Time and Talent** is an expression of gratitude for all the gifts God has given us. As God's children we get to participate in God's work as a community and a church.

By Reaching Out, Engaging, Connecting, and Belonging we can reach our goal together!



Name _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Currently at FPCC I am ___a member ___an active visitor ___looking to become a member

Listed below are the various ministry teams of First Presbyterian Church. Please check the areas where you feel called to serve then return this form to the office or offering plate. Where can you use your talents to help make us all faithful stewards of God's church? Check ANY and ALL that call to you!

___ Serve on the Faith and Fellowship Team

___ Campfire Church

___ Lemonade on the lawn

___ Church fellowship meals

___ Coffee Club

___ Men's Prayer Breakfast

___ Singing Ambassadors

___ Presbyterian Women

CONNECTING

___ Serve on the Pastoral Care Team

___ Participate in OASIS day trips

___ Lunch Bunch

___ Assist with pastoral care visits

___ Assist with at home communion

___ Help with funerals

___ Follow up with those on the prayer list

___ Prayer Shawl Team

___ Serve on the Facilities and Grounds Team

___ Help with minor repairs at the church

___ Assist on scheduled work days to cleanup around the building

___ Assist with The Garden (where burials for cremated remains take place)

___ Assist with recycling

___ Serve on the Welcome Team

___ Reach out to visitors

___ Assist with updating of member list and/or pictorial directory

___ Help collect friendship registers after worship

___ Greeter on Sunday mornings

___ Help put together welcome bags

BELONGING

___ **Serve on the Faith Formation Team**

___ Faithful Parenting

___ Participate in Belief and Beer

___ Help plan Young Adult activities

___ Help lead small group study

Topic: _____

___ Lectio Divina: Pastor's Bible Study

___ Novel Bunch Book Club

Soul Feast ___ Set Up ___ Cook ___ Cleanup

___ Jammies & Jesus

___ Assist with Vacation Bible School

___ Organize worship bags for kids

___ Volunteer in the nursery

Sunday School Teacher:

___ Children ___ Youth ___ Adults

___ **Serve on the Witness Team**

___ Blossoms & Beans Ambassador Gardening

___ Clean up Newton Trails

___ Mission Trip

___ Family Promise

___ Special projects (YMCA, school)

___ Newton County Community Food Pantry

___ Christmas Charities & Angel Tree

___ Sandwich Ministry

___ Meals on Wheels

___ Christmas Parade

___ Change the World Day

___ Blood Drive

ENGAGING

**REACHING
OUT**

___ **Serve on the Worship Team**

___ Christmas Decorating

___ Help with Special Worship (Kirkin', Tenebrae)

___ Serve as Usher

___ Chancel Choir

___ Carillon Handbell Choir

Children's Choirs

___ Joyful Noise ___ Hallelujah Kids!

___ Play a musical instrument _____

___ Serve as Liturgists

___ Set up for Communion

___ Serve on the Tech Team

___ Acolyte

___ **Serve on Finance and Stewardship Team**

___ Assist with making church deposits

___ Assist with Stewardship Drive

___ Stewardship Committee

___ Audit Team

___ Endowment Committee

BELONGING

___ **Serve the church as an Elder or Deacon**

___ Serve on the Strategic Planning Team

___ Serve on the Thriving Congregations Team

___ Serve on Nominating Committee

___ Serve on the Personnel Team

Volunteer in the office*

___ Answer phones ___ Prepare mailings

___ Help print and prepare worship guide

We thank you for your interest in serving in the areas you have indicated.

Other ways I wish to volunteer at First Presbyterian Church

Other ways I am involved in the community

Evaluation: What did we miss? We want to celebrate all gifts in our church family!
