

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 10 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Session Meeting 5:00 Youth Connection	Wednesday, December 13 6:45 Sanctuary Choir
Tuesday, December 12 4:00 Exercise Class	Thursday, December 14 1:00 Ambassador Choir 2:00 High Rise Cookie Party
	Sunday, December 17 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service

Opportunities for Giving

Christmas Card for Patti Lanford - We have a card to send to Patti Lanford in Africa where she is in the Peace Corps. It is on the table in the narthex and you are invited to sign it and add a short message of Christmas wishes.

Angel and Salvation Army tree gifts for children and nursing home residents **are due today**. For more information contact Jean Elder.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: Each year we have last minute requests from families who are not covered by the Salvation Army but cannot afford Christmas gifts for their children. After investigating the request, church staff give the family a gift certificate to one of the local stores. If you would like to contribute to this fund, make your check out to the church and designate Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The Discretionary Fund is used throughout the year to help local folks with various needs.

The Hudson/Chandler Bike Fund supplies bikes for children under the care of DFACS. To give, make a check out to the church and designate "bike fund". Deadline for giving is **today**.

Blanket and Coat Collection: coats and blankets will be collected at FPC during December. They will be taken to the Garden of Gethsemane Shelter the first week of January.



Could you help with transportation? Some of our members would like to come to church, but have no transportation. The Congregational Life and Care Team would like to form a group who could rotate this responsibility. Please call Jean Wolverton (678-342-3463) to volunteer. Thank you.



Stewardship: We have received 72 pledges cards, but need a few more to meet our goal! If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2018, please do so soon. The Session and Finance

Team will be working on the budget for 2018 at the session meeting today and need your help to set a reasonable budget. Signing the talent portion of the card is important, too. The time you give to the church to help with programs is invaluable in offering them to the congregation. Extra pledge cards are available in the narthex if needed.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to the pastor as you leave or call the church office.
Telephone: 770-786-7321; Fax: 770-786-6596

Staff E-mail Addresses:

Pastor, Billy Wade: wbwade75@gmail.com

Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: penihaug@gmail.com

Website: www.fpccov.org

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, Georgia 30014

You may listen to recent sermons by visiting our website (www.fpccov.org) and clicking on "Media."



The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 1:30 (**New hours**). Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

December suggested donations are:
cake and brownie mixes

Baby Love: This is our program to collect diapers and wipes, or donations toward them, to give to local organizations which distribute them to parents in need. Place diapers in the cradle in the narthex. Donations should be designated to "Baby Love".



THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

November
Stephanie Scarborough
December
Gary Boteler



Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2017
Adriane Ivey
Michael Thompson
Danny Vining
Jean Wolverton
Jake McCarthy
Koen Ardis

Class of 2018
Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Scarlett McCurry
Stephanie Scarborough
Tom Stillerman

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
John McCarthy
Teresa McCurry
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr. Dan Walden	<i>Pastor</i> <i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Alice Walker Shaun and Aubrey Evans Kara Sugg	CAGO, AAGO <i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i> <i>Nursery</i> <i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>
Peni Kehoe Jim Patrick	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> <i>Interim Choir Director</i>		



The Second Sunday
in Advent
December 10, 2017



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Rebecca K. Owens

Savior of the Nations, Come;
Carol of The Bells; and Sons and Daughters

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dennis and Lelia Raines

The season of Advent continues. We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We are people of hope. Hope lives and abounds in us.

Today we light the candle of peace.

This light must brave the darkness.

In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of war, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of conflict but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all, that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.

May this candle of peace give light to the world.

I now light the candle of peace.

Let us pray: Almighty God, prepare our hearts, that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Grant us his peace which passes our understanding; for we pray in your name. Amen.

☩ HYMN 263 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we wait for your coming, holding on to your promise. Forgive us when we fail to hear the singing of angels, when we are blind to the brightness of your star, when we do not recognize you in your works, when we allow no room in our hearts for your love. By your abounding grace, prepare our lives and this world to receive your inexpressible gift.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, stanza 3

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

TRURO

Hymn 93, stanza 3

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Gabriel's Message* Basque Carol
Perri Walden, solo Dan Walden, guitar

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children. Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

from Psalm 27
Romans 8: 18-25

SERMON *The Hurry and the Wait* William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*
p. 35 in front of hymnal

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *The Coventry Carol* Lani Smith

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 104, stanza 1

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, mold our minds, hearts and spirits to embody the love which became flesh and comes among us again and again. Help us all our lives to proclaim tidings of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

CAROL

Hymn 123, stanza 5

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

POSTLUDE

PICARDY/DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence and
Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Please stand if you are able.

For in this
HOPE
we were
SAVED.

Romans 8:24



Worship Notes

Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with leading worship today.

Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** when you leave.

Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: www.fpccov.org.



*The LORD is
my light and
my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*
PSALM 27:1, NRSV

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Dave Gregory-heart surgery, Piedmont in Atlanta

†the Bryant Family- friends of Warren and Jeanie Liem

†Danny Vining-Mohs surgery, Dec. 4

†Adriane Ivey-home, recovering from surgery

†Pat Patrick-home

†Steve Bozarth-ill (father of Debra Arnold)

†Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis)

†Ethan Lassiter (8)-brain tumor (grandson of E. G. and Maryanne Lassiter)

†Rick Gunter-Glory Personal Care

†Nat Allen Long-foot amputation (step-son of Alice Walker)

†Louise Strickland-home

†Katherine Bouchillon-heart problems (friend of Maxine Blankenship)

†Pat Harper-heart surgery, home

†Matthew Howell-home, recovering from motorcycle accident,

†David Cooper-chemotherapy (father of Rebecca Bates)

†Anderson Krieger-chemotherapy at home

†Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

†Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

†Ron Swatty-heart problems, brother-in-law of Charles Ardis

†Mitchell Jessup -cancer (father of Nick Jessup)

†Sophia Hawley-Cystic Fibrosis

†Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant

†Teresa McCurry--tests

†Chuck Hodges--treatment for lymphoma (friend of Patti Lanford)

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:

†Bill Taylor-Bentley Assisted Living, Jefferson, GA

†Russ Cole-Manor House, Social Circle

†J. L. Johnson- Dogwood Forest, Alpharetta, GA

†Jeanne Cannon-St. Simon's Island, GA

Riverside

†Martha Borders

†George Stamps

Merryvale

†Guy McGiboney

†Betty Robinson

†Louise White

†Alice Gadilhe

†Hughie Hudson

Home

†Jan Coulon

†Debi (Dee) Selin--home

Peace Corps Volunteer

†Patti Lanford stationed in Zambia

Hospital Visitor:

Cy Wolverton

Dear Pastor Billy and Members of our Congregation, do accept our heartfelt thanks for your thoughts and prayers, your soothing messages-written and spoken, your visits, all after Janet's traumatic experience in traffic recently.

May God bless you well.
Patrick and Janet Carmichael