

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 15, Advent 3 Christmas Joy Offering

9:00 Handbell Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Christmas Joy Lunch
Youth Party follows lunch

Tuesday, December 17

4:00 Exercise class

Wednesday, December 18

6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 19
10:30 Ambassador Choir

Sunday, December 22, Advent 4 Christmas Joy Offering

9:00 Handbell Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Congregational Meeting



Christmas Joy Luncheon

'Tis the season for carols, fun, and fellowship! Join us for our annual Christmas Joy Lunch on today in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship. Let's come together to celebrate the joy of the season and the birth of our Lord and Savior."

Congregational Meeting

Next Sunday, December 22

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 22, for the purpose of receiving a report from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) regarding a candidate to be called to serve as the next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff here at FPC Covington. All members are asked to stay, hear their report, and vote for the proposed pastoral candidate.

Staff Love Gifts

During the Christmas Season, we at FPC, show our appreciation and gratitude to our church staff members who give so much of themselves throughout the course of each year. We ask for your participation in this effort by making a contribution to the **Love Gift** fund. You may contribute by: leaving your contribution in the FPC offering plate, bringing it or mailing it to the church. Please ensure that you label your check and/or your envelope, "2019 Love Gift" so that it will go the correct fund. Please make sure that your gift reaches the church by Sunday, December 15, 2019. Your generosity is much appreciated.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Christmas Eve worship will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00 pm. Bring the whole family and invite your neighbors and friends!

Year-end Giving

Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled and/or making any other donation by the end of the year! To show on your 2019 Giving Statement (and be claimed on your 2019 tax return), donations: All monies must be received or be postmarked by Dec. 31st (office closes at noon).

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

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 a pastor as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

Staff E-mail Addresses:

The Rev. Steven Barnes: steven@fpccov.org

The Rev. Kimberly Briggs: kimmy@fpccov.org

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: admin@fpccov.org

E-news announcements go to: info@fpccov.org

Website: www.fpccov.org

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

You may read or 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 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Suggested donations:

December: cake or brownie mixes and frosting

Baby Love 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

December Usher Chairs
Jay Lanners & Bob Tabb

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
Jay Lanners
John McCarthy
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler
Allie Hay

Class of 2020
Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson

Class of 2021
Warren Liem
Pam Stillerman
Donna Weesner
Cy Wolverton

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes
Kimmy Briggs

Interim Pastor
Director of
Family Ministries
Secretary-Treasurer
Music Director

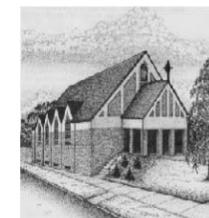
Peni Kehoe
Krista Firkus

Alice Walker CAGO, AAGO
Organist/Ambassador Choir
Jenny Giles and Jade Roy *Nursery*
Darlene Alley *Director of the*
Early Learning Center



Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Fred Bock

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING and CALL TO WORSHIP

The Thompson Family

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness—selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression—shall be no more.

Lord, by your presence, light up the past, that, through our remembering, we might learn from it with thankfulness and live more richly in the present.

Light up the present, that, through our seeing, we might live in it with love and actively shape the future.

Light up the future, that, through our anticipating, we might prepare for it in hope and know the joy of your coming Kingdom.

As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us.

Amen.

Today, we light these candles for all God's prophets, confronting injustice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace. [*Two blue candles and the pink candle are lit.*]

God of the prophets, come to us again this Advent. May your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

God, as we wait for your promise—**give us light, give us hope!**

✠HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and gracious God, the day is growing closer. Still, there is work to do. We are not the people you would have us be. We have not always spoken the truth. We have not always treated others with compassion and kindness. We have not always cared enough. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the One who is coming, and in whose name we pray ... (time for silent and personal reflection) ... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve! Amen!

✦RESPONSE ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, verse 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 7:10-16 (p.636 OT)

ANTHEM *An Appalachian Christmas* Tammy Waldrop
Handbell Choir

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN The Rev. Kimmy Briggs

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25 (p.1 NT)

SERMON The Rev. Steven Barnes
Imperfectly and Unexpectedly Perfect

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 88, stanzas 1, 6, & 7 only VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the *Creed* of United Church of Canada)

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true human, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and in others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be in his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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.

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY Clay Christiansen
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

✦RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE

Hymn 143, verse 4

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry, both near and far, in your kingdom of love and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦HYMN 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
(*Canticle of the Turning*)

✦CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦RESPONSE 748 *Go with Us, Lord* TALLIS' CANON
Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

✦POSTLUDE *O Thou of God the Father* J. S. Bach

✦Please stand if able.



Worship Notes

✦**Cy Wolverton** is assisting in 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.

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

✦Music and hymns printed in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

✦Koen Ardis-departing for Navy basic training on December 17th

✦Noah Hicks-recovering from knee surgery

✦Wilford Reed-daughter was in car accident; his brother has age-related issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)

✦Denise & Phil Vining-Denise received a kidney from her husband, Phil (he is Danny & Beth Vining's nephew)

✦Julia Jones-cancer treatment (friend of the Carmichaels and Boltions)

✦Bill Cobham-home

✦Karen Lein Kaasa-cardiac bypass (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)

✦Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)

✦Jane Watson-kidney problems, blood cancer (sister-in-law of Curtis Watson)

✦Bill Miller-vascular dementia (brother of Beth Vining)

✦Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's (sister of Danny Vining)

✦Warren Liem-health concerns

✦Peter Milner-cancer (nephew of Day & Larry Kennon)

✦Larri Harris-melanoma treatment (friend of Susan Boteler)

✦Larry Kennon-recovering from shoulder surgery

✦Terry Elder-myasthenia gravis (daughter of Jean Elder)

✦Ellen Clary-chemo therapy (ex-wife of Bill Clary)

✦Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)

✦Robby Ashworth-treatment for brain tumor

✦Matt Cooper-CPD officer at home but still recovering

✦Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)

✦Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

✦Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:

✦Julia Brubaker-Benton House
✦Maxine Blankenship-The Oaks

Merryvale:

✦Patti & Homer Borders
✦Dot Fincher

✦Guy McGiboney
✦Betty Robinson

✦Louise White
✦Alice Gadilhe

✦Roger Wallace
✦Jerry McGaffney

Home:

✦Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis
✦Debi (Dee) Selin
✦Penny Blakeney

Celebration:

Our **Early Learning Center** won the Covington News' "Best of Newton" for the best preschool for the 2nd year! They also won second place in this year's Christmas Parade. Congratulations to our great staff for all their hard work.

Hospital Visitor:
Alice Walker

✦Pastor Nominating Committee-please keep this team in your prayers throughout the process of searching for our new pastor.



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Please update your prayer requests this week! Names will be left on for one month unless updated.
Email: admin@fpccov.org
or call the church office,
770-786-7321