

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 1, Advent 1 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Pie Day!	Thursday, December 5 12:00 Ambassador Choir 2:00 Christmas Party for Seniors from Covington Square
Tuesday, December 3 Pres. Women's Circles-see below 4:00 Exercise class	Sunday, December 8, Advent 2 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Session Meeting
Wednesday, December 4 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	

Pie Day

There will be a "Pie Day" to celebrate all who have been supporting Family Promise by their gifts, volunteering or prayers. Everyone is invited to join the fun on **Sunday, December 1st**, after worship. To make the day especially fun and memorable there will be a chance for you to vote for one of our pastors, Steven or Kimmy, to have a pie-in-the-face. Votes will cost \$1 and the money will go to support Family Promise!

Presbyterian Women's Circles

All Circles will meet on **Tuesday, December 3rd**

Elizabeth Ann will meet at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Lesson 4-*Words of Love: Honor the Life-Givers*; a light breakfast and coffee will be served.

Martha Circle will meet at 10:30 at the home of Debi Selin. Day Kennon & Pily Waetzig will co-host. Janet Carmichael will lead lesson # 4.

Ruth Circle will meet at 6:00 pm for supper at the home of Stephanie Scarborough.

If you are not currently a Circle member you are invited to join. Contact Moderator Jean Wolverson to sign up, 678-372-0901.

Christmas Parade

The **Early Learning Center** will have a float in the **Christmas Parade**. Our parade float theme is "The Polar Express," and we will have a "train" full of kids in Christmas pajamas and will hand out packets of hot cocoa mix. We are asking for donations of **boxes of hot chocolate in individual servings**. Donations are needed by December 2nd. There is a collection box in the narthex. Thanks!

Christmas Joy Lunch

'Tis the season for carols, fun, and fellowship! Join us for our annual Christmas Joy Lunch on **Sunday, December 15**, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship.

Please bring your favorite Christmas dish to share, either a main dish and/or a salad. Dessert will be provided. Feel free to wear one of your Christmas sweaters or vests to add to the merriment.

Let's come together to celebrate the joy of the season and the birth of our Lord and Savior.

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 Chair
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 Wolverson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes
Kimmy Briggs

Interim Pastor
Director of
Family Ministries
Secretary-Treasurer
Music Director

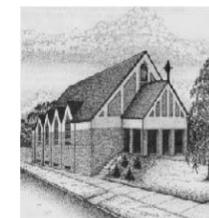
Peni Kehoe
Krista Firkus

Alice Walker
Organist/Ambassador Choir
Jenny Giles and Jade Roy
Darlene Alley
Director of the
Early Learning Center



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *All People that on Earth Do Dwell* OLD HUNDREDTH

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING and CALL TO WORSHIP

Meichsner 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 this candle for all God's people, struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world. [*First blue candle is lit.*]

God of hope, come to us again this Advent. May your hope live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

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

✠HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord 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 2:1-5 (p.631 OT)

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ The Apple Tree* arr. Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN The Rev. Kimmy Briggs

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44 (p.27 NT)

SERMON The Rev. Steven Barnes
Our Heart Beating Strong

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

✦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

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Bread of the World* David Cherwien

✦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

Hope of the world, you open your hand and fill our lives with good things. With gratitude, we offer you the gifts of our lives and labor. Bless these gifts we bring, that together we might plant seeds of hope in the lives of those who hunger for righteousness and justice. Bless our lives that we might bear your light and love into all the communities in which we live and move. Amen.

SEALING OF THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world ... as we confidently and boldly pray together, saying:

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.

Words of Institution

Communion

We will be invited by rows to come to the table, beginning with the back row. Please return to your pew by the side aisles.

Prayer after Communion

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦HYMN 384 *Soon and Very Soon* SOON AND VERY SOON

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦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 *Fugue in D Minor* J.S. Bach

✦Please stand if able.

Worship Notes

✦Pam Stillerman 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

✦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 Boltons)

✦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, shingles, blood cancer (sister-in-law of Curtis Watson)

✦Glenn Watson-dementia, failing health (brother 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

Hospital Visitors:

Cy Wolverton

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



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

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE
"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."