

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 22, Advent 4 Christmas Joy Offering

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

Tuesday, December 24 6:00 Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29 Christmas 1

9:00 Handbell Choir
10:00 Fellowship with the Pastors (fellowship hall)
11:00 Worship Service

Congregational Meeting Today

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held at the conclusion of the worship service today, 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.



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!

Donuts with the Pastors

Join Steven and Kimmy for Donuts with the Pastors on Sunday, December 29 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. We'll provide donuts and coffee!



Year-end Giving

Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled an/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 post-marked 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

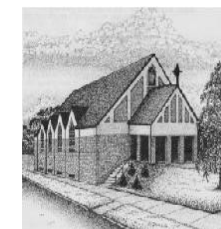
Peni Kehoe
Krista Firkus

Alice Walker
Jenny Giles and Jade Roy
Darlene Alley

CAGO, AAGO
Organist/Ambassador Choir
Nursery
Director of the Early Learning Center



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Music Sunday
December 22, 2019



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *O Come, All Ye Faithful* David Cherwien

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING and CALL TO WORSHIP

Curtis & Carolyn Watson

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-bearers, saying "yes" to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future. [*Three blue candles and the pink candle are lit.*]

God of Mary, come to us again this Advent. May the light of your love be born anew in us.

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

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

✦PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways—in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead—show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✦ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CANDLES AND CAROLS

Sanctuary Choir; Alice Walker, piano
arranged by Mark Hayes

LIGHT OF HOPE

(incorporating *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)

LIGHT OF PEACE

(incorporating *The First Noel* and
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

LIGHT OF JOY

(incorporating *We Three Kings of Orient Are* and
While by the Sheep We Watched)

LIGHT OF LOVE

(incorporating *Away in a Manger* and
Love Came Down at Christmas)
Perri Walden, soloist

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 123 (stanzas 1, 4 & 5 only) CAROL
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Michael Helman
Handbell Choir

✦ 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

Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

✦ HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

✦ HYMN 611 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

✦ POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* Matt Linbaugh

✦ Please stand if able.



Worship Notes

- ✦ **John McCarthy** 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

- ✦ Joe Moon-hip surgery
- ✦ Denny Dobbs-knee surgery
- ✦ Homer Sharp, Jr.-staph infection (cousin of Alice Walker)
- ✦ Ken Walker-pneumonia
- ✦ Bill Cobham-outpatient surgery
- ✦ Koen Ardis-Navy basic training
- ✦ 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)
- ✦ 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

Hospital Visitor: Judy Davis



PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."

Please keep the **Pastor Nominating Committee** your prayers today as they make their report regarding a candidate to be called to serve as the next Senior Pastor here at FPC.

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