

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 23 Advent 4 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 Youth Connection Christmas Party	No Choir Rehearsals this week
Monday, December 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service	Friday, December 28 Office closes at noon
Tuesday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Sunday, December 30 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
	Monday, December 31 Office closes at noon

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected today. Brochures in the bulletin explain this year's offering and an envelope is provided for you donation.

Congregational Meeting today immediately following worship for the purpose of electing a Nominating Committee which will identify church members to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) early in the year, and nominate members to serve on the Session for the Class of 2022 later in the year.

Giving for 2018 Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled and/or making any other donations by the end of the year! To show on your 2018 Giving Statement (and be claimed on your 2018 tax return), donations:

- ◆ must be received in the office by 12:00 p.m. Friday, December 28, Sunday, December 30, or,
- ◆ if you're giving online, posted in [Realm](#) by midnight, December 31 or,
- ◆ mailed with a postmark dated by midnight, December 31.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!



We are proud to share the news that the FPELC has been named "Best Preschool" by readers of our hometown newspaper, the Covington News. Check out our sign at the corner of Brown & Clark. Thanks to the wonderful families and staff of our for your love & support.

Have you made your Commitment for 2019?

We have extra pledge cards in the narthex on the ushers' table if you missed the ingathering last Sunday. Just place your completed card in the offering plate.



Staff Notes: Dan Walden will be on vacation December 26--January 6. Steven Barnes will be off on Wednesday December 26 and his usual Fridays. Peni will be in the office on December 26 & 27, and half-day on the 28th. The Church Office will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day, open December 24 & 31 until noon.

Recycling Church Bulletins: Take your worship bulletin home, if you wish, or put it in the basket by the front doors so they can be recycled!

Thanks for being a Good Steward!



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 at 770-786-7321.

E-mail:

The Rev. Steven Barnes: revbarnesy@me.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 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Suggested donations:

December: cake (icing, too) and brownie mixes

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
Tom Stillerman
January
Stan Hall

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2018
Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Stephanie Scarborough
Tom Stillerman
Koen Ardis
Sophia Hawley

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes	<i>Interim Pastor</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Dan Walden	<i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Jenny Giles and Pauleen Green	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>		<i>Nursery</i>
Mindy Forehand	<i>Interim Music Director</i>	Darlene Alley	<i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018



Order of Worship GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Bedford

CHIMES

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND CALL TO WORSHIP Evans Family

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 Emmanuel 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!

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Today, we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace, the candle of joy, and the candle of love. [*Four candles around the ring are lit.*] "The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, 'God is with us.' (Isa. 7:14)

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love, you are love, and those who abide in love abide in you. Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

◆HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Head, 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

ANTHEM

One Small Child

David Meece

Mindy Forehand & McKenzie Scott, duet

*One small child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small city of life.*

*One king brining his gold and riches,
One king ruling an army of might,
One king kneeling with incense and candlelight,
One King bringing us life.*

*O! See him lying, a cradle beneath him;
See him smiling in the stall.
See his mother praising his Father;
See his tiny eyelids fall.*

*One small light from the flame of a candle,
One small light from a city of might,
One small light from the stars in the endless night,
One small light from a face.*

*O! See the shepherds kneeling before him;
See the kings on bended knee.
See his mother praising his Father;
See the blessed Infant sleep.*

*One small child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small Savior of life.*

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Philippians 4:4-7 (p.198 NT)

Luke 3:7-18 (p.60 NT)

SERMON *What Should We Do?* The Rev. Steven Barnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Creed from 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 LORD'S PRAYER p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Wayfaring Stranger* David Paxton

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 143, stanza 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, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. 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)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦POSTLUDE *Prelude in E Minor* J.S. Bach

✦Please stand if able.

Worship Notes

- ✦**Billy Fortson and 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.
- ✦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

†Bill Cobham-recovering from surgery
†Gene Wallace-recovering from surgery at Merryvale
†Ruth McDaniel-home, back problems
†Adriane Ivey-recovering from surgery
†Roger Gossage-ICU Piedmont, Atlanta
†Roger Tingler-recovering from surgery
†Alexis, Thomas & Hazel Ward-moving
†Sam Ramsey-home (Alice's Walker's brother-in-law)
†Betty Lunsford-home
†Beverly Star Edmonds-cancer (Steve Kapp's mother)
†Warren Liem-home
†Judith Barton-home (Perri Walden's mother)
†Emma Bowen-Riverside (sister of Debbie Gossage)
†Howard Barton-home (step-father of Perri Walden)
†William Reavis-home (father-in-law of Steven Barnes)
†Florine DeConinck-recovering from surgery
†Agnes Campbell-home
†Anne Adams-multiple surgeries (sister-in-law of Gene Wallace)
†Diana Bradford-surgery (Reed Blake-ney's daughter)
†Robby Ashworth-treatment for brain tumor (son of Joyce Ashworth)
†Russell Loveland-stroke (father of Caryn Thompson)
†Caleb Thompson-undiagnosed illness (son of Michael Thompson)
†Matt Cooper-CPD officer at Shepherd Center
†Mark Fogarty-cancer
†Spencer Boyd-lung cancer
†Angela Gregory-cancer (sister of Dave Gregory)
†Tom Holmes-cancer (friend of Dan Walden)
†Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
†Clynton Byer-heart surgery (friend of the Ardis family)
†Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis)

†Ethan Lassiter-brain tumor (grandson of E. G. and Marianne Lassiter)
†Anderson Krieger-maintenance chemotherapy at home
†Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
†Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
†Mitchell Jessup-cancer (father of Nick Jessup)

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:
†Julia Brubaker-Benton House
†Jim Elder-The Oaks

Merryvale:

†Guy McGiboney
†Betty Robinson
†Louise White
†Alice Gadilhe
†Roger Wallace

Home:

†Roger Gossage-home, dialysis
†Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis
†Debi (Dee) Selin

Peace Corps Volunteer

†Patti Lanford stationed in Zambia P. O. Box 50707 Lusaka, Zambia
WhatsApp phone number is +260978827457

We extend our sympathy and prayers for the family of former member, **Jeanne Cannon**, who died last week. **Savannah Cannon** is her granddaughter.

Hospital Visitor: Judy Davis