

## Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

### This Week at FPC

**Sunday, December 29**

**Christmas 1**

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

**Tuesday, December 31**

**New Year's Eve**

Church office closes at 1:00

**Wednesday, January 1**

**New Year's Day**

Church office closed

**Sunday, January 5**

**Christmas 2**

9:00 Handbell Choir  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship Service  
Ordination and Installation of Elders

### 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), all monies must be received or be postmarked by Dec. 31st (office closes at 1:00).

**Thank you for your faithful stewardship!**



Then **Joseph Got Up,**  
took the child and his mother by night,  
and went to **EGYPT.**

Matthew 2:14, NRSV

### 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](mailto:steven@fpccov.org)

The Rev. Kimberly Briggs: [kimmy@fpccov.org](mailto:kimmy@fpccov.org)

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org)

**E-news announcements go to:** [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://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](http://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*

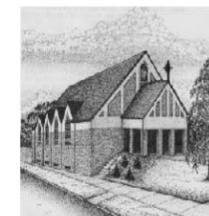
Peni Kehoe  
Krista Firkus

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



*First Sunday*  
*After Christmas*

**December 29, 2019**



### Order of Worship

#### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ✦CALL TO WORSHIP

We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

**Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.**

Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

**Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.**

Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!**

✦HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

#### ✦DECLARATION OF GOD'S GOODNESS

Praise the LORD!

**Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

**He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**Praise the LORD!**

#### ✦PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

✦RESPONSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 121, verse 4 only

**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 63:7-9 (p.693 OT)

✦HYMN 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN Rev. Kimmy Briggs

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:13-23 (p.2 NT)

SERMON Rev. Kimmy Briggs  
*It Might Have Been Otherwise*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

✦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 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 African American Spiritual  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

✦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

**In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen**

### BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

✦Please stand if able.



And he went and lived in a city called **Nazareth**, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled.

—Matthew 2:23, ESV

### Worship Notes

✦**Jake 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](http://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

✦Anderson Krieger-return of leukemia

✦Guy McGiboney-stroke

✦Mary Ann Boyer-shoulder injury

✦Wayne Scarborough-home

✦Joe Moon-hip surgery

✦Denny Dobbs-knee surgery

✦Homer Sharp, Jr.-staph infection (cousin of Alice Walker)

✦Bill Cobham-home

✦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 Boltons)

✦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 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:**  
Jean Wolverton

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