

# Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, December 2

**Advent 1**  
 9:00 Handbell Choir  
 10:00 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service with Communion  
 2:00 Decorate the Church  
 3:00 Christmas at Porter  
 5:00 Youth Connection Christmas Shopping

### Monday, December 3

6:30 Preschool Christmas Play

### Tuesday, December 4

4:00 Exercise Class  
 Circle Meetings - see below

### Wednesday, December 5

6:45 Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, December 6

2:00 Covington Square Christmas Party at FPC

### Sunday, December 9

#### Advent 2

9:00 Handbell Choir  
 10:00 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:00 Session Meeting  
 4:00 Youth Connection Ice Skating



WHAT'S YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE?

**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.

**God Lifts the Lowly**, an Advent Devotional booklet, is available on-line (see the weekly e-news). A few copies are available in the narthex for those who don't have access to the internet.

**Presbyterian 101: Sundays, December 2nd, 9th, & 16th @ 10:00 am**  
 Each year we offer a series of classes on "What it Means to Be a Presbyterian" for our newly elected class of elders as well as for anyone else who is interested in the theology (beliefs), polity (government), and history of the Presbyterian church. Classes will be taught by our pastor Steven Barnes. *Everyone is invited!*

**Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings: Tuesday, December 4**  
**Elizabeth Ann** at 10:30 in the fellowship hall  
**Martha** at 10:30 at the home of Rachel Mason  
**Ruth** at 6:00 pm at the home of Stephanie Scarborough

### Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir Lunch and Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party luncheon for the Silver Saints and the Ambassador Choir will take place on Thursday, December 13th at 12 noon. This is a catered affair. We will also enjoy a fun time following the meal as we exchange Christmas gifts with a value of \$10.00. Please call the church office (770 786 7321) to **make a reservation** so preparations will be adequate. Please join us for this holiday fun.



**Advent Lessons and Carols:** The entire Covington/Newton community is invited to join us at **4:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2** for a special worship service at the Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal.

**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](mailto:revbarnesy@me.com)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

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

**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

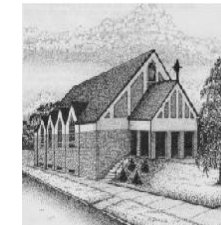
## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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



## First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018



## Order of Worship

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *O Help Me, Lord, to Praise Thee* J. S. Bach

INTROIT *Veni Emmanuel* Alexis Renee Ward  
*O come, O come, Emmanuel!*  
*Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel!*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND CALL TO WORSHIP Wilson family

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 this candle of hope. *[First blue candle is lit.]*  
 "The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; **nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**" *(Isa. 2:4)*

God of hope, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, so that we may be alert to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

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

✠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 FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, hear this good news! In Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

**May the Lord guide our way, strengthen us in all holiness, and make us abound in steadfast love for one another and for all. Thanks be to God! Amen!**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, stanza 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 *Keep Your Lamps* Victor C. Johnson

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning  
The time is drawing nigh!  
Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.  
Soon this journey will be over,  
The time is drawing nigh!*

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN Dan Walden

*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

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p.738 OT)  
Luke 21:25-38 (p.85 NT)

SERMON The Rev. Steven Barnes

*The Good News Is We Can Hope*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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

✦ 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 OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Rachel Spry Lammi

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

REGENT SQUARE

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

**God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

**SEALING OF THE WORD**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer  
p.35 in hymnal

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

We will be invited by rows to come to the table, beginning with the back row.

Hymns during communion:

521 *In Remembrance of Me* RED

530 *One Bread, One Body* ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

527 *Eat This Bread* BERTHIER

Prayer after Communion

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

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

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE R. Vaughan Williams

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

✦ Please stand if able.

*Worship Notes*

✦ **Gary Boteler** and **Dan Walden**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries are 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](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*

†Sam Ramsey-Emory Hospital (Alice's Walker's brother-in-law)  
†Betty Lunsford-home  
†Beverly Star Edmonds-cancer (Steve Kapp's' mother)  
†Eleanor Scarborough-home, recovering from shoulder surgery  
†Warren Liem-home  
†Judith Barton-home (Perri Walden's mother)  
†Emma Bowen-Piedmont Newton (sister of Debbie Gossage)  
†Howard Barton-home (step-father of Perri Walden)  
†Pat Musarra-stroke (mother of Danielle Schubert)  
†William Reavis-home (father-in-law of Steven Barnes)  
†Florine DeConinck-recovering from surgery  
†Agnes Campbell-Rehab at Riverside, Room 115  
†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 (grand-son of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)  
†Clynton Byer-heart surgery (friend of the Ardis family)  
†Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis)  
†Ethan Lassiter (8)-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  
†Jeanne Cannon-St. Simon's Island, GA

**Merryvale:**

†Guy McGiboney  
†Betty Robinson  
†Louise White  
†Alice Gadilhe  
†Patricia McGuire  
†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 **Mark Fogarty** and his family in the death of his father, **George Fogarty**, who died last week.

**Hospital Visitors:** Cy Wolverton

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