

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 30 <i>Christmas 1</i> 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	No Choir Rehearsals this week
Monday, December 31 Office closes at noon	Sunday, January 6 <i>Epiphany</i> 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
Tuesday, January 1 Happy New Year! Office closed	

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 Sunday, December 30, or by noon Monday, December 31
- ◆ 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!

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. The Church Office will be closed on New Year's Day.

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:

January: soups, chili, chicken & dumplings, spaghetti sauce

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



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>



First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018

Order of Worship GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Sing We Now of Christmas* Douglas Wagner

CHIMES

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

Praise the Lord from the earth!

Young and old alike,

men and women and everyone together.

Alleluia! Praise the Lord!

Together, let us worship God!

✦ OPENING PRAYER

You surprised a world, O God, by coming not in clashing thunder or flashing lights but in the quiet and simple splendor of a child's radiant face. Help us to understand this mystery of love beyond all loves, that we may be led to a new kind of love: a love that loves not by what we can get but in what we can give, a love that counts not who is worthy to receive but, beyond our human calculations, is showered freely on all. Show us the way of Bethlehem's child, that in seeing, we may believe, and in believing, we may learn again how to love. Amen.

✦ HYMN 143

REGEN T SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

✦ LIVING INTO GOD'S GRACE

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.

Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being.

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

The Word became flesh

and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,

glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. Amen.



✦RESPONSE

IN DULCI JUBILO

Hymn 132, verse 3

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 4:4-7 (p.189 NT)

SERMON The Rev. Steven Barnes
Christmas Carols -- A History

O Little Town of Bethlehem Hymn 121 (verses 1 & 2 only)

The First Nowell Hymn 147 (verses 1 & 6 only)

O Come, All Ye Faithful Hymn 133

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Scots Confession* (1560)

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. 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 Suzanne Arant Brantley
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

MENDELSSOHN

Hymn 119, stanza 3

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

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

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦POSTLUDE Paul Laubengayer
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

✦Please stand if able.

Worship Notes

✦**Doug Bolton** 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

†Jim Elder-Abbey Hospice
†Angela Gregory-surgery, 1/7 in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)
†Bill Cobham-recovering from surgery
†Gene Wallace-recovering from surgery at Merryvale
†Ruth McDaniel-home, back problems
†Adriane Ivey-recovering from surgery
†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)
†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)
†Matt Cooper-CPD officer at home but still recovering
†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

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

Home:
†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 **Debbie Gossage** and her family in the death of her husband, **Roger**, after a long illness.

Hospital Visitor: Jean Wolverton