

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week 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	Thursday, December 13 9:15 Ambassador Choir meets then goes to Merryvale to sing 12:00 Silver Saints Ambassador Choir Lunch and Party
Tuesday, December 11 4:00 Exercise Class	Sunday, December 16 Advent 3 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Musical Worship Service Reception for Alexis Ward
Wednesday, December 12 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	5:00 Youth Connection

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.



Join us next **Sunday, December 16th** at 11:00am for a special musical worship service in which our Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will present **The Covington Carols**, composed and arranged by our Music Director Alexis Renee Ward. Following worship that day we will host a reception in the narthex to honor Alexis and her family as they prepare to move to Delaware.

Presbyterian 101 concludes on Sunday, December 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!*

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.

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.



WHAT'S YOUR PIECE OF THE PIE?

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected on Sundays, December 16 and 23. Brochures will explain this year's offering and an envelope will be provided for you donation.

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

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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Preludio* Derek Healey

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND CALL TO WORSHIP Gibson Family

O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, 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 and the candle of peace. [Two blue candles are lit.] "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." (Isa. 11:6)

God of hope, God of peace, you speak peace into the world through the way of the Christ-child. Help us to live as peacemakers that we may be called children of God.

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

✠HYMN 106 BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERREN
Prepare the Way, O Zion

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray ... (time for silent and personal reflection) ... Amen.



ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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!

✦ 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 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Gilbert M. Martin
Sanctuary and Ambassador Choirs

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to all a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

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

Malachi 3:1-4 (p.889 OT)
Luke 3:1-6 (p.60 NT)

SERMON

The Rev. Steven Barnes
Prepared or Not, Things Happen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 163

ABERYSTWYTH

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

✦ 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

Malotte

Alexis Ward, solo Alice Walker, piano

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY

Georg Frederich Kauffmann

Savior of the Nations, Come

✦ 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 all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 96

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry

✦ CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦ POSTLUDE

Thomas J. Williams

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

✦ Please stand if able.



Worship Notes

- ✦ **Bob Tabb** 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.
- ✦ 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

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|---|--|
| †Alexis, Thomas & Hazel Ward-moving | †Anderson Krieger-maintenance chemotherapy at home |
| †Karen Laib-recovering from back surgery | †Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder) |
| †Sam Ramsey-home (Alice's Walker's brother-in-law) | †Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder) |
| †Betty Lunsford-home | †Mitchell Jessup-cancer (father of Nick Jessup) |
| †Beverly Star Edmonds-cancer (Steve Kapp's' mother) | Assisted Living/Nursing Homes: |
| †Eleanor Scarborough-home, recovering from shoulder surgery | †Julia Brubaker-Benton House |
| †Warren Liem-home | †Jim Elder-The Oaks |
| †Judith Barton-home (Perri Walden's mother) | †Jeanne Cannon-St. Simon's Island, GA |
| †Emma Bowen-Riverside (sister of Debbie Gossage) | Merryvale: |
| †Howard Barton-home (step-father of Perri Walden) | †Guy McGiboney |
| †William Reavis-home (father-in-law of Steven Barnes) | †Betty Robinson |
| †Florine DeConinck-recovering from surgery | †Louise White |
| †Agnes Campbell-Rehab at Riverside, Room 115 | †Alice Gadiihe |
| †Anne Adams-multiple surgeries (sister-in-law of Gene Wallace) | †Roger Wallace |
| †Diana Bradford-surgery (Reed Blake-ney's daughter) | Home: |
| †Robby Ashworth-treatment for brain tumor (son of Joyce Ashworth) | †Roger Gossage-home, dialysis |
| †Russell Loveland-stroke (father of Caryn Thompson) | †Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis |
| †Caleb Thompson-undiagnosed illness (son of Michael Thompson) | †Debi (Dee) Selin |
| †Matt Cooper-CPD officer at Shepherd Center | †Patricia McGuire |
| †Mark Fogarty-cancer | Peace Corps Volunteer |
| †Spencer Boyd-lung cancer | †Patti Lanford stationed in Zambia |
| †Angela Gregory-cancer (sister of Dave Gregory) | P. O. Box 50707 |
| †Tom Holmes-cancer (friend of Dan Walden) | Lusaka, Zambia |
| †Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher) | WhatsApp phone number is +260978827457 |
| †Clynton Byer-heart surgery (friend of the Ardis family) | We extend our sympathy and prayers to Loucy & Sam Hay, Sam, IV, and Allie in the death of Loucy's father, Guy Tittle , who died on Wednesday. |
| †Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis) | Hospital Visitor: Day Kennon |
| †Ethan Lassiter (8)-brain tumor (grandson of E. G. and Marianne Lassiter) | Please update your prayer requests this week! Names will be left on for one month unless updated. Email: penihaug@gmail.com or call the church office, 770-786-7321 |