

First Presbyterian Church  
1169 Clark Street, SW  
Covington, GA 30014



Time Sensitive Church News  
Please Do Not Delay

See our website at: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

The deadline for the March "First Press" is February 15, 2021. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

## February Birthdays

- 2 Allie Hay
- 5 Stephanie Scarborough
- Betty Lunsford
- 8 Peni Kehoe
- 9 Ed Perkerson
- 10 Alice Walker
- 13 Jim Stillerman
- 14 Melissa Daniel
- 17 Courtney Henderson
- 18 Nakimrey Burts



If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us of the **full date** and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

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COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FEBRUARY 2021

# FIRST PRESS

## Lent 2021



### Lent 2021 Imagining

2021 Lenten journey - you are invited to experience Lent through a variety of spiritual disciplines that provide an opportunity for you to focus as we spend 40 days journeying to the cross. We pray these offerings of experiencing Lent in tangible ways are a gift to you!

#### What is Lent?

Lent, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation that starts annually with Ash Wednesday—which falls this year on Feb. 17—anticipates the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter.

"The season of Lent has served a variety of purposes in the history of the church and the life of Christian communities, specifically a time for the reconciliation of penitent persons; and an opportunity for spiritual discipline through prayer, fasting, service, and generosity," says the Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, associate for worship in the Presbyterian Mission Agency's office of Theology and Worship. "The common thread—whether one is new to the church, estranged from the community, or wanting to grow in faith and faithfulness—is deeper and more authentic relationship with God and one another through Christ. Lent points to the cross, where Jesus is lifted up with arms outstretched in compassion and welcome. And Lent points beyond the cross to the empty tomb, where Jesus offers new and abundant life to all." ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))

**Lent to Go!** On Feb. 17th, We will have a Drive through event to pick up your family "Lent To Go" box. Times are Noon-1pm, 5:00-6:00pm outside fellowship hall doors on Brown Street!



### Ash Wednesday Service

7:00pm

Joint Worship Offering with Covington United Methodist Church.

In-person and Live-Stream (We will host the live stream on our Facebook page)



#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev.  
Neeley Rentz Lane  
Senior Pastor  
[Neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:Neeley@fpccov.org)

Peni Kehoe  
Church Administrator  
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[awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com](mailto:awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com)

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Nursery



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## SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

### January Session Highlights

- Motion to elect Cindy Moon as President (CEO), Bob Tabb as Treasurer (CFO) and John McCarthy as Secretary of the corporation was approved.
- Motion to elect Cheryl Gibson as Assistant Clerk of Session was approved.
- Motion to hold live stream services for worship through Feb 14<sup>th</sup> was approved.
- Motion to adopt Health Team recommendations for Graveside services following CDC guidelines of no more than 10 people was approved.
- Motion to hold a virtual "Souper Bowl of Caring" during Worship on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> was approved.
- Motion during the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to accept the Terms of Call for Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane was approved.
- Motion during the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to elect Carter Gibson (vice-chair), Stan Hall, Day Kennon, Betsy Morehouse, and Trista Hooten-Wilson (chair) as the 2021 Nominating Committee was approved.

Submitted by  
John McCarthy  
Clerk of Session



The February Session meeting will be held at 6:15pm on Monday, February 22nd. Consent agendas are due on February 15th.

### Session Meeting

### Monthly Financial Report

2020 December	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	30,580	32,617	375,774
Non-Pledge Income	3,666	8,643	40,235
Other Income	4,333	18,000	50,000
Total Income	38,580	59,260.	470,669
Expenses	39,145	49,688	484,090
Net Totals	(-1,149)	9,572	(-13,421)

### Virtual Opportunities!

- ◆ In February we will start back Prayers from Pews. This is a weekly reflection offered by Neeley on Tuesdays at 4pm. We invite you to join Neeley in this weekly time of reflection.
- ◆ Stories of Faith are a gift to our church family! We are grateful for our Stories of Faith keeping us connected with one another during this time. You may find an archive of all of our Stories of Faith on our website: <https://www.fpccov.org/stories-of-faith.html> If you are interested in sharing your faith story contact Cindy Moon.

### The Lord's Supper

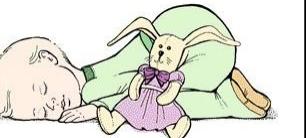
We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, February 21st. Prepare your heart.



see our website at:  
[www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

### Job Opportunity

We will soon be hiring an additional nursery worker on Sunday mornings. If you know of someone who might be interested in this Sunday morning child care worker opportunity please contact Neeley.



### MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2021**  
Jay Lanners  
Warren Liem  
Pam Stillerman  
Donna Weesner  
Cy Wolverton

**Class of 2022**  
Aubrey Evans  
John McCarthy  
Cindy Moon  
Stephanie Scarborough  
Trista Hooten Wilson

**Class of 2023**  
Cheryl Gibson  
Stan Hall  
Louly Hay Kapp  
Ed Perkerson  
Bob Tabb

## All Things Lent!

\*Prayer Partners Our Pastoral Care team offers Prayer Partners this Lent. We will be providing a prayer bracelet for you to wear during the 40 days of Lent. Our hope is you will spend intentional time in prayer for members of our church family.

\* Morning Prayer Join Neeley on Monday mornings throughout Lent for a time of prayer at 8:00am. We will participate in centering prayer, guided meditations, the gift of silence, and cooperative prayer. You may join for Monday or all Mondays during the season of Lent starting February 22nd through March 29th. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88476245670>

## Praying through Lent



## Lenten Worship

"In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness finds us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward" (Sanctified Art, LLC). This Lenten Season we will remember. We will repeat traditions and embark on new ones. We will be shaped into more faithful disciples through vibrant and engaging worship this Lent.

## Reflection Opportunities

### Outdoor Lent Prayer Stations

Starting February 17<sup>th</sup>, you will notice a new opportunity on our church grounds. We will be offering outdoor prayer stations this Lent. You will be able to follow a self-guided map around our church. At each station you will be given a prompt, a prayer, or an activity. Stop by any time, any day to participate.

### Walking a Labyrinth

We are planning a trip to the Cathedral of St. Philip to experience the Outdoor Labyrinth. "The outdoor labyrinth is located in the courtyard of the Lanier House on the Cathedral grounds. Labyrinths can be a place for prayer, meditation, and relaxation. In use for more than 3,500 years and on almost every continent, labyrinths are a physical path that allows people to explore their spiritual landscape. Labyrinths can also be a place for activity, fun, and chaos. As Dean Candler says, "All of these things are church." The Cathedral Labyrinth is an accessible resource to deepen the spiritual needs of parishioners and visitors of St. Philip's. The labyrinth is a path to prayer to God that binds us to our spiritual ancestors and their pilgrimages through the ages" ([cathedralatl.org](http://cathedralatl.org)). We will announce day and time for us to meet and walk as we engage in this practice of prayer. (Scheduling will depend on the realities of Covid.)

## Studying through Lent

**Our children's** Lenten ministry experience will include a "ABC's of Lent" daily devotional, a calendar of daily activities families can do together, and Lent Story Stones!

**Our youth** study material will be provided by GenOn Ministries: "Lent At Home in Community". Youth and Families will have the opportunity to see, taste, hear, touch, smell, give as they engage in the Lenten practices each week. This Lenten Guide will be handed out at our Lent-in-a-box Drive Thru.

**Adult Study** this Lent is titled "Lenten Micropractices": "In this booklet, you will find a new practice to guide you each day on the journey. Some practices can be done on the spot, some during the day, and others will take time and/or preparation...[These practices] are based on the three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting, and alms giving, which come to us from Matthew 6:1-18." This Lenten Guide will be handed out at our Lent-in-a-box Drive Thru.

## WITNESS, WORSHIP AND WALKING



### Witness and Easter Lilies

As the church is closed, we suggest that you mail your check, give through our Realm portal or use the "Flower" fund or drop your check in the mail box outside the church office entrance. You may send an email to Peni in the office with your "in memory" or "in honor" names to: admin@fpccov.org

If you would like to make a donation this Easter to honor or memorialize a loved one, fill out this form and attach a check made out to FPC and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office no later March 28th. Please put "lilies" or Easter Witness" in the memo space on your check or envelope. A minimum donation of \$12 is suggested. This year whatever donations we collect for lilies over and above the cost of the flowers will be given to Thornwell Homes. Thank you!

#### Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the first and last names for any person being remembered.

#### In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

#### In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

#### Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 40 – 40 WALKING THROUGH LENT FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2021

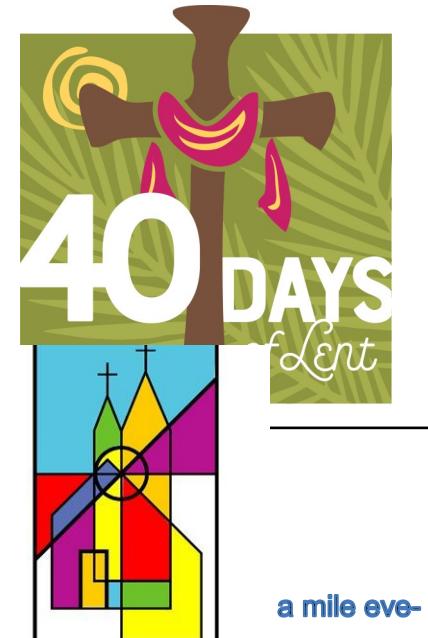


Join our Faith and Fellowship Team in walking every day for the 40 days of Lent!

Lent is a time to explore walking as a spiritual that takes us closer to the heart of God. During this Lenten season take a walk each day for reflection and prayer. We will be emailing you daily reflections and inspiration for your walk.

Sign-up for our 40 – 40 challenge through the link in our FPC enewsletter. Put your walking shoes on and join us for our 40 mile challenge!

Save the Date  
Souper Bowl of Caring is on Sunday, February 7th. We will be donating funds to a charity selected by our youth. You may give by Text To Give,



a mile eve-

practice

reflection

and prayer

## Fellowship, Study and Thanks!

### Young Adult Social: Trivia Night

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81689279911>

We all need fellowship and laughter! Christmas Trivia was so much fun, let's do it again!

Tuesday, February 9th at 6:45pm

Calling all young adults to join in on our zoom trivia night! Invite a friend and start off with 10 points! Prize for our top score!



### Supporting Each Other

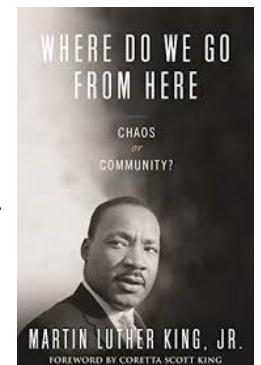


Grief is a natural response to loss." It involves emotional, psychological, and many times physical suffering. We often think of grief as a reaction to the death of a loved one but it can also be a reaction to loss of a job, of a way of life, of physical abilities, or as many of us have suffered lately, the loss of interaction with other people. Covid has brought grief to our doorsteps in more ways than one. Often sharing our grief with others who are also grieving lessens the burden; therefore, for this reason, Neeley and the Pastoral Care Team would like to offer those of you who are dealing with loss of any kind a chance to meet together to share our griefs and share ideas of things that have helped us cope with loss. If you are interested in joining a grief group please contact Neeley. Neeley@fpccov.org

### Anti-Racism Book Study Our book study is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Where Do we Go From Here: Chaos or Community.

Facilitated by Dan Walden  
Wednesday evenings 7pm-8pm  
Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 3

If you would like the church to order you a book please email [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org) by February 2.  
Cost per book: \$12



### Worship Team Gives Thanks for the "Un-decorators"!

Stephanie Scarborough and Pam Stillerman want to formally thank Eleanor Scarborough, Gary Boteler, Jim and Tom Stillerman for their efforts in taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. We could not have done it without these guys!