

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



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

The deadline for the February "First Press" is January 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!

- 2 Rick Gunter
- 3 Barbara Martin
- 5 Janet Burtt
- 6 Buster Skinner
- 6 Julia Brubaker
- 9 Brenda Howell
- 10 Betty Robinson
- 11 Anne Cranford
- Lynda Patrick
- 12 Gene Wallace



- 14 Paisley Lane
- 18 Becky Wade
- 21 Catherine Bagwell
- 23 Dylan Jessup
- 24 Nina Giles
- 25 Liz Anderson
- 28 Mandi Roberts
- 29 Sonny McDonald
- 31 Ansley Skinner



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!

# FIRST PRESS



## Greetings FPC Family!

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this January 2021 newsletter finds you happy and well with a renewed hope at the beginning of this new year!

This is my final newsletter article I will write as part of FPC. It seems like just yesterday I was writing my first newsletter article as part of FPC, celebrating the new thing God was doing in me and at FPC.

Will and I have been blessed by our time with the family of faith at FPC. I am extremely grateful for what I have learned from you. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your Director of Family Ministries, and I believe that all of you all have been more of a blessing to me than I could ever have been to you.

When I wrote my first newsletter article, I never imagined what the year ahead would hold. I never imagined a pandemic re-shaping our worship and life together as a church family. Yet, God has blessed me with many fond memories and experiences while serving this church, and I am grateful for the chances to worship, serve, pray, teach, and grow our faith together.

It is strange to say good-bye during this time, especially when I do not yet know what is next. But I am confident of this, God has a plan. God has a plan for Will and me and God has a plan for FPC. Know that I join with you in prayer as you journey into the future, and I welcome your prayers as we discern our next steps.

As I say good-bye, I do so with a grateful heart. Thank you for the generosity of your love offering, for the beautiful stole, and for the sweet messages from our children. Know that we will always carry a piece of FPC with us into the future.



Finally, I leave you with the words of Paul's prayer for the church of Ephesus, as my own prayer for you. "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:16-21).

Grace and peace to you,  
Rev. Kimmy Briggs

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Krista Firkus  
Directory of Music  
[kfirkus42@gmail.com](mailto:kfirkus42@gmail.com)

Alice Walker  
Organist  
[awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com](mailto:awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com)

Danielle Schubert  
Nursery



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## SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

### December Session Highlights

The following items were acted upon at the December Session Meeting:

#### December Highlights

- Preschool Space Task Force report indicated that the YMCA, with assistance from Louly Kapp will conduct a space and needs assessment of our ELC facilities.
- Session motion to pre-record the Christmas Eve service and have a Zoom Watch Party at 6 pm so that all members and others can attend was approved.
- Session motion on review of 2021 Budget proposal with amendments was approved.

Continued next column...  
Session Highlights continued...

- Motion to hold January 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 communion service was approved.
- Motion to re-elect Church Treasurer, Peni Kehoe and Clerk of Session, John McCarthy was approved. (Deferred election of Asst. Clerk until January meeting)

Submitted by  
John McCarthy



### Monthly Financial Report

#### Pledge arrears for 2020

2020 November	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	30,580	30,837	343,157
Non-Pledge Income	3,666	4,025	31,592
Other Income	4,333	0	4,660
Total Income	38,580	34,864	379,409
Expenses	39,145	35,345	434,426
Net Totals	(-1,149)	(-481)	(-55,017)



#### The Lord's Supper

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 17th. 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.



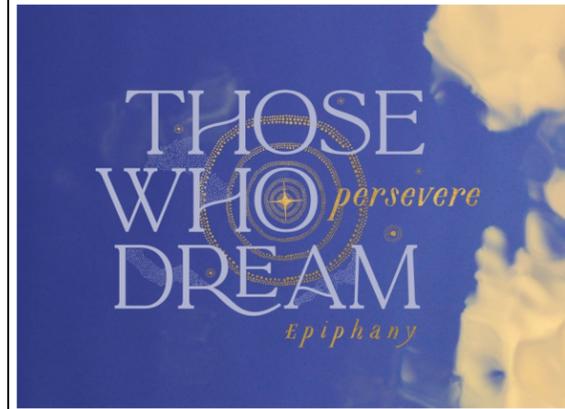
### From the Church Staff



Thank you for the gifts you have given us this Christmas. We are always grateful for you and for your faithful witness to the life and ministry of Christ's Church. We are truly blessed to be part of this community.

God Bless You!  
Alice, Krista, Kimmy, Peni, and Neeley

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION



### Epiphany Sunday

We will celebrate Epiphany Sunday on January 3, 2021. Epiphany Sunday is when we celebrate the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Magi followed a star in the East to find baby Jesus in the manger. Therefore, this year we will participate in a prayer practice of "Star Words". Receiving a Star Word on Epiphany is a growing practice in the Protestant tradition. This word is to be a word of intention for us in the new year. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention

word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift. If you would like to receive a Star Word contact Neeley by email: [neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org).

### Elder Ordination and Installation Date Jan. 24

We recognize our Installation and Ordination of our incoming elders will look different this new year as we continue to live in a time of pandemic. However, we will not let 6 feet apart keep us from being church on for this high holy day. On January 24, we will Ordain and Install Cheryl Gibson, Louly Hay Kapp, Ed Perkerson, and Laurel Ardis. This will follow their participating in elder training and examinations by our session. In order for us all to be the tangible church on January 24, we invite you to trace your hand and write a prayer inside the tracing of your hand. Then please mail this picture to Neeley. We will be printing your hands for our socially distanced "Laying on of Hands".



### Presbyterian Women's Circles Virtual Meeting



Jenny Thagard will lead the Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting on zoom on Tuesday, January 12th at 5:00pm. Zoom information is below.

Jenny Thagard has been the Executive Director of Living River since September of 2018. She has a strong background in education in the PC (USA) and several years experience with summer camp at Living River. She was the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and a certified Christian Educator within the PC(USA). Jenny retired after 26 years in public education serving as teacher of gifted students, Assistant Principal, Principal in Tuscaloosa City, Shelby County and Tuscaloosa County school systems. She also worked in teacher education and administration at the University of Alabama. In her tenure she work with all ages from preschool through college.

Jan. 12 at 6pm on Zoom - Guest Speaker Jenny Thagard  
Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81315500850>  
Meeting ID: 813 1550 0850



### MEMBERS OF SESSION

#### Class of 2021

Jay Lanners  
Warren Liem  
Pam Stillerman  
Donna Weesner  
Cy Wolverton  
Laurel Ardis

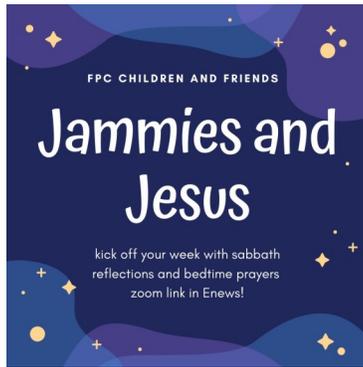
#### Class of 2022

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

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND THANK YOU NOTES



## Jammies and Jesus

Starting January 10th—7:00pm on Zoom

A new offering for our children in the new year! This is a time for our youngest disciples to gather on Sunday evenings for Sabbath reflections and prayer for the upcoming week! We invite all children of the church (and friends!) to gather on Zoom at 7:00pm on Sunday nights with Pastor Neeley! Our time together of Jammies and Jesus will be no more than ten minutes!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191056781> Meeting ID: 821 9105 6781

## Searchers and Seekers Small Group

For all visitors, new members, and members who want to know more about FPC Covington and the PCUSA. We invite you to join in a time of fellowship and study. What do we believe? Why do we believe what we believe? What is our church polity? How do we understand salvation and grace? What does it mean to be a member of the church? Why do we do what we do and say what we say? If you have expressed any of these questions – this is place for you! Please contact Donna Weesner if you are interested in joining this ministry opportunity!

Join us on Zoom: **Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 from 6-7pm**

**Zoom Information:** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82728290092>

Meeting ID: 827 2829 0092



Serving the  
Presbytery

## Service to the Larger Church

We are a connectional church! As members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, we are called to not only care for God's church here in Covington but the greater church. We are excited to have three members of our church family serving on Presbytery Committees starting January 2021.

Jay Lanners – Personnel

Neeley Lane – Examinations

Dan Walden – New Church Development

Please be in prayer as they answer these new calls to serve our presbytery as representatives of FPC Covington.

## Worship Team Gives Thanks for Christmas Decorating Helpers

Stephanie Scarborough and Pam Stillerman with the Worship Team would like to thank the many Advent/Christmas "elves" who helped decorate the sanctuary this season. Thanks to Miriam Wheeler for her creative talents in arranging the beautiful live Advent wreath. She has done this year after year and keeps the candles fresh for lighting week after week. Thanks to Gary Boteler, Phil Anderson and Jim Stillerman for engineering the set-up and the decorating of the 12 foot Chrismon tree. Thanks for the extra tall ladder that was donated by this team! Thanks to Eleanor Scarborough, Stephanie Fortson, Jim Stillerman and Liz Stillerman for helping to decorate the Chrismon tree and for helping to hang all of the many greens and wreaths that beautify our sanctuary this season.



## Thanks from the Witness Team

Thanks to all our members who so generously provided gifts to children in need and seniors at the nursing homes by taking names from the Angel Trees. A special thanks to Sherri Bolton who helped to organize, manage, and deliver the gifts, as well as Stan and Dana Hall who helped deliver gifts to Salvation Army.



# The First Presbyterian Church of Covington

## Blood Drive

Monday, January 18, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Do something that means something.

Please remember to **EAT** a meal & **DRINK**  
plenty of water before you donate.

To allow for social distancing please schedule an appointment using the  
American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search:  
firstprescov or call **1-800-RED CROSS**.

Donor blood will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies.



Walk-in's will be seen as time allows.

- PHOTO ID REQUIRED -

Give Something that Means Something® | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS