

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, March 22 - Lent 4
11:00 Worship Service
(live streamed)

Sunday, March 29 - Lent 5
11:00 Worship Service
(live streamed)

Thursday, March 26
5:30pm Session Meets

Christian Education Offerings

We continue to value Christian Education as a community. We have created a link on the homepage of our website to provide opportunities for all ages.

For Children: Check out a special video from Dan and Perri!

For Youth: We're gathering on Zoom Sunday at noon. The link is on the website.

For Adults: Resources are provided on the spiritual discipline of Storytelling

Other Ways to Connect During the Week

Story Time with Kimmy on Facebook Live Wednesdays and Fridays at 1:00pm.

Lenten Reflections from Neeley will be on Facebook and on the website by 4:00pm Tuesday and Thursdays. You're invited to leave your comments on Facebook.

Virtual Hangout for Youth on the app Houseparty Thursdays at 3:30pm.

Family Care Shoppers

We recognize many of our members are fearful of going out in public during this time. Therefore, some church members have volunteered to be your personal care shopper. If you are in need of food and/or other household items please contact Neeley and we will get what you need on your doorstep.

If you are willing to join the shoppers in shopping/distribution, please let Neeley know.

Volunteer with the First United Methodist Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at First United Methodist is in need of volunteers. Please see the weekly e-news for specific instructions about who can volunteer.

Interested in Joining the Church?

If you're interested in joining the FPC church family, you are welcome to reach out to Neeley. You can enjoy coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.

By email: neeley@fpccov.org; By phone: 770-786-7321, ext. 2

Novel Bunch Book Club will NOT meet in March. In April, if they are able to meet they will discuss the same book: "Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest and the Music that Made a Nation" by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw. Time and place will be announced.

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 a pastor as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

Staff E-mail Addresses:

The Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane: neeley@fpccov.org

The Rev. Kimmy Briggs: kimmy@fpccov.org

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: admin@fpccov.org

E-news announcements go to: kimmy@fpccov.org

Website: www.fpccov.org

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, Georgia 30014

You may read or listen to recent sermons by visiting our website (www.fpccov.org) and clicking on "Media."



Montreat Retreat November 6-8, 2020

For babies—Centenarians!

Save the Date! More information to follow.

Would you like to help plan? Call or email

Neeley—see above for email address.



The Food Pantry is open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Suggested donations **March:** canned vegetables

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

We give thanks for those who have volunteered to serve by providing technical assistance with broadcasting the worship service.

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2020

Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson
Allie Hay

Class of 2021

Jay Lanners
Warren Liem
Pam Stillerman
Donna Weesner
Cy Wolverton

Class of 2022

Del Boyer
Aubrey Evans
John McCarthy
Stephanie Scarborough
Trista Hooten Wilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane
Kimmy Briggs

Senior Pastor
Director of
Family Ministries

Peni Kehoe
Krista Firkus

Church Administrator
Music Director

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO

Organist/Ambassador Choir
Jenny Giles and Danielle Schubert

Darlene Alley

Nursery
Director of the
Early Learning Center



Fourth Sunday
in Lent

March 22, 2020

Wilderness

Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from Sanctified Art
God is in the water that restores our soul. And God is in the night when we lose our way. Let us worship the God of creation, the God of our wilderness spaces. Amen.

✦HYMN 401 (stanzas 1 & 2) *Here in This Place* GATHER US IN

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION Sanctified Art
Jesus of Nazareth, you are constantly opening our eyes. We confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. Forgive us for failing to be your Church in the world. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your life.

✦KYRIE Gabriel Fauré
Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Kyrie eleison, eleison, eleison.

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

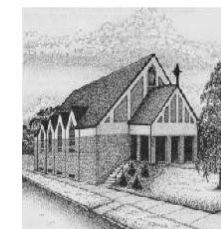
✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 23 OT Page 501

ANTHEM OPEN MY EYES (Hymn 451, stanza 1)
Open My Eyes, That I May See



THE WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

There is also a special pre-recorded message for children under Worship Resources on our website. Check it out!

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-27, 39-41 (p.102 NT)

SERMON

Rev. Neeley Lane
Wilderness Wanderings: A Healing Relationship

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 649 AMAZING GRACE
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *Sanctified Art*

We believe in a wilderness God—
Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds into flowers,
and flooded the sky with stars.
Who went hungry in the desert, walked barefoot on the water,
and taught from the mountainside.
Whose love could be described as nothing short of wild.
So with confidence and hope, we long to follow our wilderness God who walks with people on their darkest nights,
Who sings hope into places of grief, isolation, and suffering,
and who exists in the form of untamed joy, wildfire love, and impossible hope. Step by step, may it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of grace, we recognize our call as the Body of Christ is to offer our time, talents, gifts, and selves to you. We give to say thank you for your care for your us, your church, and your world. Use these gifts to feed the hungry, shelter the searching, remove shadows of injustice, bring light to those who dwell in darkness and bring glory to you. God be Our Light. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦HYMN 314 (stanzas 1 & 2) CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
Longing for Light, We wait in Darkness

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Giving

During this season the church is continuing to operate, though in modified ways. But we need your help by continuing to give to the church.

You may continue to give by mailing checks to the church, dropping your offering in our mailbox (open the box and drop it in, then close the box. This box can only be accessed by a key) or by giving on-line.

To use Realm visit <https://tinyurl.com/fpcgiving>

1. Log-in with your email and password
 2. When your page opens click on "Giving" on the left-side menu
 3. At the top click on +giving tab
 4. Fill out form with amount and fund (you can change it to any fund by clicking on the menu arrow)
 5. If you pledge you need it to say "2020 pledge"; or non-pledge or other fund
 6. Click continue when you've filled out that page;
 7. On the next page you can choose a credit card or bank; continue to put in account information
- After you complete that the program leads you into clicking through the process and then "finish"

Call the church office if you need help. If you've never set up a Realm account (or forgotten your password), Peni can send you a link to do that. Be sure after you've entered your log-in information to save the page to your favorites so you can click on it to go back to the site when you want to access it again.

The FPC Realm page has a specific URL; you can't get to it by going to "Realm".

Worship Notes

- ✦ 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

- ✦ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ✦ Warren Liem-broken hip; rehab
- ✦ Chris Martin-recovering from cataract surgery
- ✦ Tricia Hinton-recovering at home
- ✦ Natalie Phillips-for thyroid cancer
- ✦ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ✦ Olaava Mackenzie-stranded in Thailand due to the Corona virus situation (daughter of Jeff & Julie Mackenzie)
- ✦ Richard Juliano-surgery (friend of Jeff Mackenzie)
- ✦ Miles Bryant-family concerns (son of John and Nancy Bryant, friend of the Liems)
- ✦ Roger Tingler-hip surgery
- ✦ Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ✦ Martha Daddario-kidney surgery (friend of Jeff & Julie Mackenzie)
- ✦ Brenda Howell-breast cancer treatment
- ✦ Anderson Krieger-return of leukemia
- ✦ Denny Dobbs-knee surgery
- ✦ Noah Hicks-recovering from knee surgery
- ✦ Wilford Reed-daughter was in car accident; his brother has age-related issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Denise Vining-recovering from kidney transplant (she is Danny & Beth Vining's niece)
- ✦ Julia Jones-recovering from cancer surgery (friend of the Carmichaels and the Boltons)
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa-cardiac bypass (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ✦ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Bill Miller-vascular dementia (brother of Beth Vining)
- ✦ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's (sister of Danny Vining)
- ✦ Peter Milner-cancer (nephew of Day & Larry Kennon)
- ✦ Larri Harris-melanoma treatment (friend of Susan Boteler)
- ✦ Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)
- ✦ Robby Ashworth-treatment for brain tumor
- ✦ Matt Cooper-CPD officer at home but still recovering
- ✦ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ✦ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ✦ Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ✦ Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney-home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ✦ Maxine Blankenship-The Oaks
- ✦ Jean Elder-The Oaks
- ✦ Patti Borders-Merryvale
- ✦ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ✦ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White-Merryvale
- ✦ Roger Wallace-Merryvale
- ✦ Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

Celebrations!

Jodi and Jonny Atkins and baby Lorene Rose (Lo) arrived home earlier this week. We welcome this newest member of FPC into our midst! Even though we are unable to visit at this time, you can see photos on Facebook if you are "friends" with Jodi or anyone in the Atkins/Walden family.

Congratulations to **Bryan Johnson** who will run unopposed in his race for Floyd County Superior Court Judge! Bryan is the son of **Cathy and Denny Dobbs**.

Please update your prayer requests this week! Names will be left on for one month unless updated.
Email: admin@fpccov.org
or call the church office, 770-786-7321