

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



Time Sensitive Church News
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The deadline for the April "First Press" is March 15, 2020. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: admin@fpccov.org or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

Happy Birthday!

2 Judy Davis
Janet Carmichael
4 Anne Savage
Michael Thompson
6 Harry Hinton
7 Beth Vining
11 Doug Bolton
13 Jack Weesner
14 Jessica Vincent
15 Jean Wolverton
16 Shawn Loftin
Terri Digby



17 Jonathan Miller
Tom Stillerman
18 Miriam Wheeler
19 Roger Wallace
21 C. J. Hunt
23 Rainey Loftin
24 Sam Hay, IV
Jessica Jessup
23 Sarah Davis
28 Dee Selin
30 Lynn Miller
Louise White
Jasmine Ardis
Amelia Evans

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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COVINGTON MARCH 2020

FIRST PRESS



Grace and Peace to you this day!

Wow! It is afternoon of my first day here at FPC Covington and my cup overflows with gratitude. I can feel the energy in your hearts as we live this wonderful calling as the people of God. In the days and weeks to come, we will learn names and share our stories. Thanks be to God!

Church family, our first liturgical season together is Lent. Lent is a time of reflection, renewal, and risk. Lent invites us to look at ourselves in the mirror. Lent encourages us to walk the wilderness road to paths familiar and unknown. Our theme for Lent 2020 is Wilderness. We all have had times in our lives when we find ourselves in the wilderness: thirsting for living water, longing for the Light, needing heavenly manna, trusting in God's provisions, and desiring God's love and grace. Church, I encourage us to step out on the wilderness road this Lent with a willingness to be surprised by God and God's activity in our lives, the church, and the world!

On our second Sunday of Lent together, we will have an additional service. This service is a worship service as we say YES to one another in being Church. Sunday, March 8th, at 4pm, all are invited to worship our living God as well as answer questions of the faith and servant leadership.

I, as your pastor, will be asked:

"Will you be a faithful minister of Word and Sacrament, proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?"

You, the congregation of FPC Covington, will be asked:

"Do we, the members of the church, accept Neeley as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ? Do we agree to pray for her, encourage her, to respect her decisions, and to follow as she guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?..."

This Lent, let us enter into a time of walking together on this wilderness road. May we say YES and WE PROMISE to live faithfully as Christ's disciples experiencing the divine in the ordinary and extraordinary. I encourage everyone to be in prayer as we answer this high calling as the Body of Christ!

Neeley



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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Danielle Schubert
Nursery

Darlene Alley
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Early Learning Center
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The Lord's Supper

Sunday, March 15th, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Prepare your hearts.

SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

February Session Highlights

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

The 2020 Elder Nominating committee members are: Doug Bolton, Trista Hooten-Wilson, Loucy Hay, Darcel Tabb & Noah Hicks.

Jay Lanners was elected as the Assistant Clerk of Session.

Christian Education reported the Children's Sunday School will begin on March 1st using the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum and will be led by Dan & Peri Walden.

Continued next column...

Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2020 (-4,326)

2020 January Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/Expenses	YTD Income/Expenses
Pledged Income	30,580	26,255	same
Non-Pledge Income	3,666	3,133	same
Other Income	4,333	40	Same
Total income	38,580	29,428	same
Expenses	39,145	37,681	same
Net Totals 1/31/2020	(-565)	(-8,253)	same

Session Highlights *continued...*

The Rev. Neeley Lane will lead the Adult Sunday School program on Spiritual Disciplines beginning March 1st.

Congregational Life and Care reported that the *Souper Bowl of Caring* event raised over \$1000.00 for the Food Pantry.

The motion to create a sub-committee under Facilities and Equipment to review and adopt design recommendations for the covered walkway on West side of building to Brown Street was approved.

The motion to host the Middle School Honors Chorus on March 25th was approved.

The motion to approve moving \$100,000 from the Endowment fund to a secure/interest bearing account was approved.

The sub-committee to continue the work of the PNC with assimilation process with Marketing & Communications was approved.

The motion to create a sub-committee on Security was approved.

Next stated session meeting will be on Friday March 13th, with the session retreat held on March 14th.

Submitted by
John McCarthy, Clerk of Session

The Session will meet on Friday and Saturday, March 13 & 14, for its regular monthly meeting and yearly retreat.



Session Meeting



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lent 1 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	2	3 Women's Circles 10:00 Eliz. Ann 10:30 Martha 7:00pm Ruth 4:00 Exercise	4 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	5 10:30 Ambassador Choir	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	7
8 Lent 2 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 4:00 Installation Service with reception (Nursery available)	9	10 4:00 Exercise	11 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	12 10:30 Ambassador Choir	13 Session Retreat	14 9:00-2:00 Session Retreat
15 Lent 3 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service Hunger Walk	16	17 4:00 Exercise	18 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	19 10:30 Ambassador Choir	20	21
22 Lent 4 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	23	24 4:00 Exercise 6:30 Young Adult Gathering at Your Pie	25 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	26 10:30 Ambassador Choir	27 <i>Youth Confirmation Retreat</i>	28
29 Lent 5 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	30	31 4:00 Exercise	see our website at: www.fpccov.org			

Serving Us in March

March Usher Chair:
Trista Hooten Wilson

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

If unable to serve,
please get a sub for
your duties

Hospital Visitors:

3/1: Jean Wolverton
3/8: ???
3/15: Betty Bailey
3/22: Bob & Carcel Tabb
3/29: Beth & Danny Vining

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2020

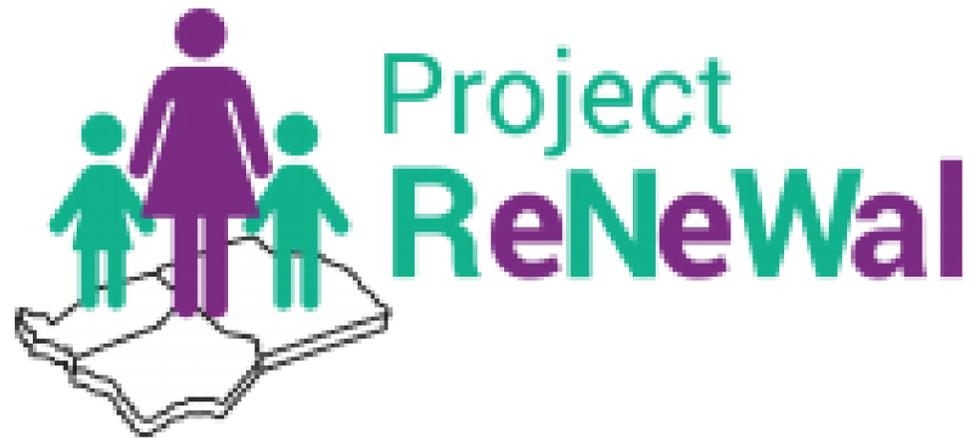
Allie Hay
Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson

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



Every Sunday in the morning prayer, we pray especially for victims of domestic abuse. I would like to present an opportunity to provide support for victims of domestic abuse even beyond your prayers.

Project ReNeWal is a Domestic Violence Intervention Program changing lives in Rockdale, Newton, and Walton counties. Project ReNeWal officially opened its doors in 1995 as the first tri-county shelter/resource center for victims of domestic violence. Its mission is to provide the support and services necessary for families and individuals in our tri-county area to live in violence-free homes. In 2019, Project ReNeWal provided over 41,000 services to over 4000 individuals. These services were provided with the enormous support from folks in our community and Board members of Project ReNeWal.

Jim, Liz and I have been asked to participate in the "Dancing with the Stars" event on March 28 at Porter Performing Arts Center to help raise funds to help victims of domestic abuse through Project ReNeWal. We attended this event last year and it was eye-opening! Hearing from victims and family members provided the impetus for our participation in this event. Liz will be our choreographer while Jim and I will try to "dance"! You will also recognize other folks in our community. It should be an entertaining evening filled with laughter as we make fools of ourselves for a great cause! I have tickets to sell for \$30 each or you may go to the website www.projectrenewalgeorgia.org to make donations, purchase sponsorships, advertising, and tickets. Project ReNeWal is a 501(c) organization and donations are tax-deductible. Just remember to vote for the Stillermans.

Please check out the following facts to see how we are affected by domestic violence:

Globally

- Around the world, at least 1 in 3 women have been abused during her lifetime.
- Intimate partners commit 40-70 percent of homicides of women worldwide.

Nationally

- About 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 9 men were victims of sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- 47.1%, or nearly half, of U.S. women reported experiencing emotional abuse by an intimate partner during their lifetime.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men experienced stalking at some point during their lifetime.

Locally

- From 2003 through 2016, at least 1,671 Georgians lost their lives due to domestic violence.
- Domestic violence is a leading cause of injuries for girls and women between the ages of 15 and 44 in Georgia
- 736 Georgians were killed by firearms in domestic violence incidents between 2010 and 2017.

From my heart to your heart, I thank you in advance for your support. Your gift provides families a place to sleep in peace and provides the steps for a new beginning while breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Pam Stillerman

Presbyterian Women's Circles



This year the Presbyterian women are studying the ten commandments. In February about 25 women met for a joint discussion of the commandment "thou shall not commit adultery" This topic leads to the many ways we can adulterate our lives. It was very beneficial to have Elizabeth Martin

Pope, daughter of Barb and Chris Martin, as our discussion leader. Elizabeth is an associate professor of qualitative research at West Georgia University. Of course, added to the meeting was a delicious brunch prepared by several of our good cooks.

Now we look forward to planning spring events with the input of the incoming leadership of our church. PW SAYS WELCOME TO NEELEY AND KIMMY.

March Meeting Schedules

Elizabeth Ann Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd at 10 a.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall to discuss lesson seven: "Words of Love: Do Not Steal Breakfast will be served. All women are invited to attend.

Martha Circle will meet on March 3rd, at 10:00 in the home of Beth Vining; Co-Hostess: Susanne Perkerson; Study Leaders are Jenny Fogarty & Day Kennon

Ruth Circle will meet March 3rd, at 7:00 pm in the church parlor.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Choir Room. New members are always welcome.



Ambassador Choir Rehearsals

During March Ambassador Choir will have regular rehearsals at 10:30 am, in the choir room each Thursday.



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



Our Souper Bowl of Caring

Collection was \$1008—a record amount! This benefits the Community Food Pantry.

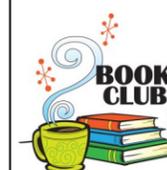


New Address

Dot Schaefer has moved to live with her son in Nevada. Her new address follows:

167 Water Hazard Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89148

If you address, email or phone number has changed please email us the new information to: admin@fpccov.org or call the church office!



A Novel Bunch book club will meet Tuesday, March 24th, at 1pm to discuss *Songs of America: Patriotism, Protest and the Music That Made a Nation* by Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education

Sunday School for All Ages begins on March 1 at 10:00am! Whether you're a regular Sunday School participant or brand new, take advantage of these great opportunities.

Children: for children Pre-K through 5th grade; taught by Dan and Perri Walden. Meets in the Orange classroom in the ELC.

Youth: for grades 6 through 12; taught by Pam and Jim Stillerman. Meets at Bread and Butter (breakfast provided).

Adults: Taught by Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane on the Spiritual Disciplines for Lent. Spiritual disciplines allow us to intentionally dive deeper into our relationship with God. You are invited to gather around the table as we discover these practices as guiding tools in our faith formation. Meets in Room #1 (often referred to as the Foundations Builders Classroom)



Youth News

Confirmation Retreat: March 27-29

If you're interested in Confirmation, or just want a refresher, you're invited to a Confirmation Retreat at the Calvin Center! We'll leave Friday, March 27 around 6:30pm and stop for dinner together on the way. We'll return around noon on Sunday. Cost is \$125/person and includes transportation, meals, two nights of lodging and all activities.

Youth Conference at Montreat: June 14-21

We're returning to Montreat! The 2020 Youth Conference is open to all students entering 9th grade through high school graduates. We will be staying with Buford Presbyterian Church in a house located near the main auditorium. The conference itself costs \$280/person with a \$100 required for a deposit. I'm working with Buford to add food and lodgings costs. We will be fundraising to cover as much of the cost as possible. If you are interested in attending Montreat 2020 please email Kimmy (kimmy@fpccov.org).



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Dear FPC Family,

Our students spent the month of February learning all about bread. They've read stories, taken fieldtrips, and even did some cooking of their own. There were books about where bread comes from and different kinds of bread around the world. We enjoyed seeing them give their friends sweet Valentines, plus sent home adorable crafts for their parents.

During March, we will be talking about ants. Our Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." We will have special visitors this month: a dentist to teach about taking care of our teeth and the Pilot Club will be doing a puppet show about wearing bike helmets. On March 30 we will cheer for the athletes in the Special Olympics parade on the Square.

We are also gearing up for our Spring Family Festival, which will be held on Friday, April 17. If you're able to contribute in any way please let me or any of the teachers know. We are already beginning to receive some amazing donations for our raffle baskets! We would LOVE to have our FPC family at the event.

The ELC Board has named Judy Hooten as our Chairperson. We are thankful for her leadership and wanted the church family to know that she is available if you need to discuss any ELC questions.

As always, your generosity and prayers for our school are greatly appreciated. We are so thankful for such a generous church family!

God bless,
Darlene Alley



NEW MEMBER

Welcome!



First Presbyterian Church Covington welcomes **Brad Phillips** as a new member to our congregation. He is the husband of Natalie Phillips and the son-in-law of Harry and Tricia Hinton. Natalie and Brad met during high school where they attended Loganville High School. Brad is a small animal veterinarian in Douglasville. They have lived in Walton County and have moved to Decatur. The Phillips love animals and are the proud owners of six cats and five dogs. Please introduce yourself to Brad and welcome him to our congregation.



**Set Your Clocks Back One Hour
before bed on March 7th.
DLS begins on March 8 at 2:00 am!**

WITNESS NEWS



Hunger Walk is coming on **Sunday, March 15**. Make plans to join FPC in Atlanta to walk in support of our local food pantry. Join our team as walker or runner or donate to our team. Transportation is available in the church van. Register or donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/w9cgazd>

Contact Kimmy Briggs at:
kimmy@fpccov.org

Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048)

Suggested donations for **March:** Canned Vegetables



Thornwell Ski Camp Dates



Hang On!

Dates for this year's Thornwell Homes Ski Camp have been set for June 15-18 and July 27-30. More information about providing meals and volunteer help will follow in a later "First Press".

Baby Love

Your donations of diapers help the parents of our community who are low income and have a hard time making ends meet. You may bring any size diapers to church and place them in the cradle in the narthex or you may make a donation to "baby love" and note it in the memo space on your check or envelope.

