



# Fifth Sunday of Easter

MAY 2, 2021 - 11:00am  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Order of Worship

### Gathering As God's Beloved People

GATHERING MUSIC

*How Firm a Foundation  
In Thee Is Gladness  
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

David Cherwien  
IN DIR IST FREUDE  
Christoph Anton

PRELUDE

*I Love to Tell the Story*

David Smither

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP\*

*Litanies and Other Prayers Copyright © 1989, 1992 by Abingdon Press*

Come and sit with me; we shall study the Word.

**Together we shall read and understand.**

Come and kneel with me; we shall break the bread.

**Together we shall eat and be satisfied.**

Come and walk with me; we shall part the waters.

**Together we shall risk, and, behold, we shall be changed.**

HYMN

*Down to the Water to Pray*  
Day Kennon and Krista Firkus

Pepper Choplin

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of initiative and holy surprises,**

**You meet us on the way home. You invite us to come and sit. You even give us the stories to read together. We fail to recognize you in the stranger. We miss the opportunity to splash in the waters of your grace. On this pilgrimage journey, call us back to your Word. Forgive us when we keep driving by. We long for you to teach us. Our hearts are now ready. Guide us to your abundant waters of joy. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE HYMN 188 (verse 1)

*Jesus Loves Me!*

JESUS LOVES ME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you!**

### *Proclaiming the Word*

WONDERING WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM

*The Lamb*  
Krista Firkus

Theodore Chanler

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

SERMON *The Church: Now and Then: On the Way Home*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

### *Responding to the Word*

HYMN 743

*O God, You Are My God*

STEP BY STEP

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. 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.**

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

**Holy God,  
We give thanks you find us in the middle of nowhere and call us to tell your story. By your Holy Spirit, ignite in us a "get up and go" attitude to share the joy we know in you. Thank you for stopping us along the way long enough to rest in the story of Jesus. May these gifts we bring greet others on their way home. Amen.**

### *Being the Church in the World*

HYMN 65 (verses 1 & 2) *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Carillon de Westminster*

Louis Vierne



#### **Nursery for Children**

We have a nursery available for children newborn—1st grade. It is located on the lower level. Ask an usher to direct you. Children are also welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pew.

### **Worship Bags for Children**

We have re-introduced the Children's Worship bags. Children's name tags are clipped to their bag and they are invited to use the same bag every time they come to worship. For our visitors and newcomers we have bags labeled "Child of God". If our visitors plan to return they may request an individually labeled bag from one of our ushers. The bags are hanging on a rack on the right side of the narthex.

## *Activities in the Life of the Church*

### **Worship Update**

Health and Safety Update: We are moving forward in opening up Worship! RSVPs are no longer required for worship. We are grateful for the good and faithful work of our Health Team. It is a joy to be able to continue to open back up safely. We are now able to sit 85 people safely socially distanced in our pews. We hope to see you in worship in person and or online! Invite a friend!

We still ask that you wear a mask and if you are ill or have a temperature that you worship from home on our Zoom or FaceBook page.

### **Newton Trails and FPC!**

We are called to be stewards of creation! We have "Adopted-A-Spot" on Newton Trails! Trail Clean-up will be the FIRST Tuesday of every month at 10:30 am. **Next Clean up: May 4.** For more information contact John McCarthy or email [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org).

### **Mother's Day Offering for "Caring Hands"**

Included with today's bulletin is information about the Mother's Day Offering for the Caring Hands fund at Presbyterian Homes. Your check can be made out to the church and put "Caring Hands" in the memo space. If you choose to use cash, use an envelope and put "Caring Hands" on one of the envelopes from the pew rack.

### **The Art of Reading Scripture Called Lectio Divina**

**Tuesdays at 12:00 noon in April & May** you are invited to join Neeley in prayerfully considering the upcoming week's worship scripture reading. We will participate in an art of reading scripture called Lectio Divina. You are welcome to gather in the Church Parlor or on Zoom.

### **Serving Our Neighbors**

The **Newton Co. Community Food Pantry** has reopened! They are now taking donations of non-perishable food and things like soap and tissue paper. You may take items to 7125 Turner Lake Circle on Wednesdays or Fridays between 9:00-11:30 or bring them to the church. They are also taking financial donations which you may give to the church or directly to the Food Pantry. Put Food Pantry in the memo space of your check or choose Food Pantry for the fund if you give through REALM or TEXT.

### **Seeking Office Volunteers!**

We are searching for volunteers to help with office tasks. If you think this might be an area to fulfill your "time & talent" ministry area, please consider volunteering as an office volunteer! Answering the telephone is first among the skills needed. Other helpful skills (or willingness to learn) are copying, folding, stamping, labeling, etc. Basic computer skills would be appreciated. We expect that some volunteers would be skilled in different areas and we'll assign tasks according to your skills.

We are hoping that volunteers would serve a minimum of 4 hours a month, but more frequently would be preferred. We have a full "Job Description" available. We can email it to you or you can pick one up at the church from the round table in the narthex. Speak with Peni Kehoe for more information. 770-786-7321 or email [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org).



### **Ringers Rejoice!**

The handbell choir rehearses on **Tuesdays at 7pm** in the Sanctuary. We welcome all previous and current ringers and any people who are interested in joining us! You may contact Krista Kirkus at [kkirkus42@gmail.com](mailto:kkirkus42@gmail.com) if you have questions or call 470-444-1269.

### **RING Doorbell Installed**

We have installed a "Ring" doorbell at the office door for the ease and safety of church staff during this time when the church is closed to the general public. It is on the right side of the office entrance. If you visit during the week just stand on the right and ring the bell. It will take us a few seconds to activate the camera, so please have patience. Your "ring" will be answered as soon as possible! Thanks for your understanding.

#### *Website Update*

We have updated our church website!  
Check out our FPC virtual Front Door:  
[www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)



# Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, May 2, Easter 5

10:00 Adult Sunday School—link below  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School  
 10:00 Children's Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 Lemonade on the Lawn  
 (Livestream link provided in the Weekly Enews)  
 7:00 Jammies and Jesus

### Tuesday, May 4

10:30 Newton Trails Clean Up  
 12:00 Lectio Divina Scripture Study (parlor)  
 7:00 Bible Study on The Book of Acts on zoom  
 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, May 6

2:30 Ambassador Choir on Zoom

### Sunday, May 9, Easter 6

10:00 Adult Sunday School—link below  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School  
 10:00 Children's Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 (Livestream link provided in the Weekly enews)  
 7:00 Jammies and Jesus

## Christian Education

**Adult Sunday School** is a casual time of conversation and fellowship. Each week is a stand-alone lesson, so if you miss a week, come back the next! Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom at 10:00am. Please enter through the Sanctuary doors to then proceed to the fellowship hall.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83852010376> Meeting ID: 838 5201 0376

**Youth Sunday School** is led by Pam and Jim Stillerman and offers a time of connection and of studying scripture. Youth Sunday will meet *in person in the Youth Room*. Please enter through Sanctuary doors to then proceed to your class.

**Children's Sunday School** is offered each week by Dan and Perri Walden. Sunday school is in-person at 10:00am in the Green Room! Please enter through the Sanctuary doors.

## Zoom Bible Study

A study of the Book of Acts will continue on Tuesdays, at 7:00pm. They will use the study book "Life Lessons from Acts" by Max Lucado which you may obtain from Amazon. The link for the study is in our mid-week *First Press* on-line newsletter. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86337019579>

## Church Directory

If you are in need of a current church directory you can pick one up from the narthex "ushers" sideboard or you can email Peni and she will send you a copy via email. [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org)

## The Pastor's Patio

The Lanes want to get to know you! You are invited to sign up for an evening on their patio this May! We will start with three Wednesdays in May hosting up to 6 people. Interested in joining Robert, Neeley, Kately, Paisley, and MaryRantz on their backyard patio? Sign up for a time of fellowship and fun!

Dates: May 12, May 19, May 26; Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm. Sign up by emailing [info@fpccov.org](mailto:info@fpccov.org) or calling the church office!

Please  
Recycle!



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rantz Lane	Senior Pastor	Peni Kehoe	Church Administrator
Krista Firkus	Music Director	Danielle Schubert	Nursery
Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO	Kennedy Lynn	Nursery
	Organist/Ambassador Choir	Beverly Beasley	Nursery

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>	<b>Class of 2023</b>
Jay Lanners	Aubrey Evans	Stan Hall
Warren Liem	John McCarthy	Louly Hay Kapp
Pam Stillerman	Cindy Moon	Ed Perkerson
Cy Wolverton	Stephanie Scarborough	Bob Tabb
	Trista Hooten Wilson	

## We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!

You are invited to "Text to Give"  
your offering: Text to: 73256  
Enter FPCCOV as your message, click to send  
Or use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>

If you made a pledge for 2021, choose "2021 Pledge" as the fund. Then the system will walk you through entering your bank or credit card information. If you did not make a pledge you can choose another fund such as "Non-pledge"; or "Flowers" "Food Pantry", etc. There is a drop-down menu you can scroll through to choose a fund. You now have the option to help offset the cost of on-line giving. Just check the space and use the suggested donation or put in what you'd like to give. Use this link for on-line giving:  
<https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/now>

### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

- ✦ Tommy Bassett-terminal liver cancer (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ✦ Bernice Bailey-Home
- ✦ Guy McGiboney-back at Merryvale
- ✦ Betty Bailey-recent fall
- ✦ Teresa Shaffer-ill (Lane Dobbs' mother-in-law)
- ✦ Doug Bolton-burn injury treatment
- ✦ Linda Boyd-recovering from back surgery (she is a former FPC member)
- ✦ Angela Gregory-cancer, hospital in Scotland (aunt of Sarah Gregory)
- ✦ Paisley Freeman (great-niece of Judy Davis)
- ✦ Steve Jones-cancer (friend of Alice Walker)
- ✦ Susan Fiedler-cancer (friend of Darcel Tabb)
- ✦ Hulda McDonald-health issues (friend of Judy Davis)
- ✦ Blair Weaver-health issues
- ✦ Jane Parker-recovering from fall
- ✦ Betty Lunsford-recovering at home
- ✦ Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ✦ Nancy Smith-recovering at home (daughter of Sandy & Betsy Morehouse)
- ✦ Beverly Beasley-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ✦ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ✦ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ✦ Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ✦ Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ✦ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)
- ✦ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ✦ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)

#### **Special Prayers**

Piedmont Newton frontline workers as well as other medical staff. The hospital is very busy with helping sick patients, night and day. Please pray for their work and their safety.

#### **Independent and Assisted Living**

- ✦ Travis Moss-Pruitt Healthcare
- ✦ Penny Blakeney-home
- ✦ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ✦ Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter (address available from church Office or on REALM)
- ✦ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ✦ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ✦ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White-Merryvale
- ✦ Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

#### **Military Service**

- ✦ Koen Ardis-Navy
- ✦ Lee Scarborough-Army
- ✦ Billy Scarborough-Marines-basic training



#### **Praises!**

We rejoice in officially welcoming two new members to our congregation: Jonny Atkins and Robert Lane!

#### **Prayer Requests**

All prayer requests should be sent to: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by clicking the "Email Pen" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle.

#### **Worship Notes**

- ✦ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org).
- ✦ Music printed (and streamed) in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.
- ✦ Liturgy written by Roger Gench and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*.

*Thanks to those serving us today*

Tech Team:  
Dan Walden, Brad Phillips  
Usher chair: Bob Tabb

*Our Caring Hands...*



*...need your caring heart.*

Our *Caring Hands* need your caring heart to ensure that no resident who has out-lived their financial means is asked to leave their Presbyterian Home. We've kept this promise for 72 years because of caring hearts like yours.



*Caring Hands*  
Offering

Please show you care and consider a one-time gift or an annual commitment to the *Caring Hands Fund* during the *30 Days of Caring*, now through May 31.



*"And the king will answer them,  
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it  
to one of the least of these who  
are members of my family,  
you did it to me.'"*

-Matthew 25:40

Donate online at  
[www.PHGAinc.org](http://www.PHGAinc.org)  
or scan this code:



PRESBYTERIAN HOMES  
OF GEORGIA

You may drop a check in the offering plate with "Caring Hands" in the memo space or mail your check to the church. If you give cash, use an offering envelope with "Caring Hands" written in.