

# Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

**Sunday, May 5**  
 9:00 Handbell Rehearsal  
 10:00 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 12:00 Session & PNC Meet

**Wednesday, May 8**  
 6:45 Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, May 10**  
 10:30 Ambassador Choir

**Tuesday, May 7**  
 Pres. Women's Circles-see below  
 4:00 Exercise class

**Sunday, May 12**  
 9:00 Handbell Choir  
 10:00 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service & Baptisms



Through May 19th, Pastor Steven will facilitate a **Sunday School series** on the "Trinity," an often misunderstood but beautiful part of our theology and beliefs as Presbyterian-flavored Christians. This won't be totally lecture-based as interaction and discussion involving hymns, creeds, scriptures, and more will be shared and enjoyed!

### Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings:

**Elizabeth Ann Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, May 7th**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall.

**Martha Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, May 7th**, 10:30 am at the home of Cheryl Meichsner.

**Ruth Circle** will meet **Tuesday, May 7th**, at 7:00 pm. at the home of Stephanie Fortson.

**Conyers Presbyterian Church** invites us to their **Presbyterian Homes Update** event on Wednesday evening May 8, at 6:30 p.m. If you missed our wonderful gathering, please join them at 911 Main Street in Myers Hall. If you desire to have dinner at 6:00, call the church office 770/929-0700.

### Caring Hands Offering—Mothers' Day, May 12th

The offering for Mothers' Day goes to Presbyterian Homes to assist residents with on-going care. No resident has ever been asked to leave because they live out their financial resources. Envelopes and brochures will be included with the May 12th bulletins.

### Pastor Nominating Committee Update:

As we move onto the next phase of the search process, we are seeking members of the congregation to sign up for Listening Sessions that will help us hear more from you and delve deeper into the results from the Congregational Assessment Tool!

Session #1: Tuesday, May 14th at 6:30pm  
 Session #2: Thursday, May 23rd at 3:30pm  
 Session #3: Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30pm

If you are interested, **sign-ups will open after worship today.** There will be limited availability for these sessions so be sure to sign up!

**Recycling Church Bulletins:** Take your worship bulletin home, if you wish, or put it in the basket by the front doors so they can be recycled! Thanks for being a Good Steward!



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

### E-mail:

The Rev. Steven Barnes: [revbarnesy@me.com](mailto:revbarnesy@me.com)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

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

You may listen to recent sermons by visiting our website ([www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)) and clicking on "Media."



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

Suggested donations:

**May: meals with meat**

**Baby Love** is our program to collect diapers and wipes, or donations toward them, to give to local organizations which distribute them to parents in need. Place diapers in the cradle in the narthex. Donations should be designated to "Baby Love".



## THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

**May**  
 John McCarthy

**Sound Engineer:**  
 Ken Walker

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2019**  
 Carter Gibson  
 Jay Lanners  
 John McCarthy  
 Cheryl Meichsner  
 Miriam Wheeler  
 Allie Hay

**Class of 2020**  
 Doug Bolton  
 Stan Hall  
 Cindy Moon  
 Bob Tabb  
 Michael Thompson

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

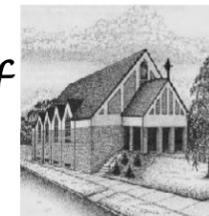
## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes	Interim Pastor	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Dan Walden	Director of Youth and Children's Ministry	Jenny Giles and Pauleen Green	Organist/Ambassador Choir
Peni Kehoe	Secretary-Treasurer		Nursery
Krista Firkus	Interim Music Director	Darlene Alley	Director of the Early Learning Center



## The Third Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2019



## Order of Worship

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Prelude on HYFRYDOL* Raymond H. Haan

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,  
**And God's weakness is stronger than human strength.**  
 God, who is the source of our life in Jesus Christ,  
**Calls us not because of our skill or worth, but because of God's great love.**  
 Let us rejoice and lift up our eyes to see God's light,  
**As it dwells in us, filling us with faith, hope, and love.**  
**Praise the Lord! Together, let us worship God! Amen.**

HYMN 408 *SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT*  
*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, we confess that many times we find it easier to talk about you than talk to you. But then as we do begin talking to you in our prayers we often find that talking is easier than listening, and then that listening is easier than doing something about what you are saying to us and calling us to do. Forgive us, we pray, for always trying to avoid the demands of your love. Break through our defenses and use us according to your will. (time for silent and personal reflection)**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA No. 1  
 Hymn 240, verse 2  
**Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.**  
**Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace*  
Gracie Kate Bates

## THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children. Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:11-32 (p. 78 NT)

## SERMON

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

☩ HYMN 749 *Come! Live in the Light!* WE ARE CALLED

## RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING SENIORS

## ☩ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

North Decatur Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class of 1972.

**We believe in the one God and Father of all life;**

**Who created light to fill the dark void of space;**

**Who leads us yet in Exodus from bondage to freedom;**

**Who is the source of all life and all light and all freedom;**

**Whose justice is His mercy, and whose wrath is His peace.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, his only Son, our Lord;**

**Who came into the world to be the light to dispel our darkness;**

**Who teaches us and heals our minds and bodies;**

**Who shares his victory in life and death so that we may live and die in faith and hope.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, God's gift of his presence with us now;**

**Who calls us to be his church and fills our lives with wonder and purpose;**

**Who witnesses to the mighty works of God and sends us out as the scattered church to live the life of love and forgiveness.**

**This we believe in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God!**

## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eternal God, you invite us to find our strength and center in you. You invite us to bring our hopes and concerns to you. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For teachers and students, and all who work together for the education of your people God, we ask your blessings of wisdom, energy and creativity. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For those who are sick and who seek the healing hands of health care professionals, guide the hands of surgeons and their assistants, helping to ensure positive outcomes. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For those who suffer from poverty, hunger and economic hardship, give them the strength to endure, and continue to prompt us to help relieve their suffering out of our abundant gifts from you. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For all victims of crime and those who are affected by automobile accidents, comfort the hurting and begin to ease survivors toward a spirit of forgiveness. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For those who are affected by war in all its forms, help the healing to begin and move us all to embrace attitudes and policies that lead to reconciliation and peace. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For those who are sad and depressed; for families that are separated or broken; for those hurt when investing themselves in relationships, lift spirits with the gentle assurance of your love through all the trials of life. God of mercy, **receive our prayers.**

For those who have forsaken the darkness and who chose daily to walk in the light of your love, help us to be inspired by their examples. Help us to follow the example of the Light of the World. The One who taught us to pray...

## 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

## OFFERTORY

Gerhard Krapf

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

☩ DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606) OLD HUNDREDDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## ☩ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious Lord, you have blessed us with gifts too many to count. Help us respond to your goodness. Enable us to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share in all that we have and do. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

☩ HYMN 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* I'M GONNA LIVE

## ☩ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

☩ RESPONSE 748 *Go with Us, Lord* TALLIS' CANON

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day, that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

☩ POSTLUDE *This Joyful Eastertide* Dale Wood

☩ Please stand if able.

## Worship Notes

- ☩ **Our Youth and Dan Walden** are leading worship today—**Youth Sunday.**
- ☩ Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** when you leave.
- ☩ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://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

- ☩ Agnes Campbell-Piedmont-Newton
- ☩ Amanda Hilton-complications from surgery (niece of Susan & Gary Boteler)
- ☩ Bill Cobham-home
- ☩ Ruth McDaniel-back surgery, May 6th
- ☩ Pat Crutchfield-stage 4 cancer (by Sherry Brasher)
- ☩ Brantley Howell-infection (grandson of Brenda Howell)
- ☩ Sandy Peterson-health issues
- ☩ Doug Firkus-home (uncle of Krista Firkus)
- ☩ Marylynne Knuth-home (grandmother of Krista Firkus)
- ☩ Robin Valdez-stroke (friend of Steven Barnes)
- ☩ Terry Elder-vision problems (daughter of Jean Elder)
- ☩ Joe Schell-home (father of Krissy Jones)
- ☩ Michael Wilson-cancer (brother of Michael Wilson)
- ☩ Gene Mann-kidney failure/dialysis (father of Renee Shelnett)
- ☩ Ellen Clary-cancer (ex-wife of Bill Clary)
- ☩ Steve Bozarth-cancer treatment (father of Debra Arnold)
- ☩ Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)
- ☩ Robby Ashworth-treatment for brain tumor (son of Joyce Ashworth)
- ☩ Matt Cooper-CPD officer at home but still recovering
- ☩ Spencer Boyd-lung cancer
- ☩ Tom Holmes-cancer (friend of Dan Walden)
- ☩ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ☩ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ☩ Robin McKeown-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ☩ Mitchell Jessup-cancer (father of Nick Jessup)

## Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:

- ☩ Julia Brubaker-Benton House

## Merryvale:

- ☩ Patti Borders
- ☩ Guy McGiboney
- ☩ Betty Robinson
- ☩ Louise White
- ☩ Alice Gadilhe
- ☩ Roger Wallace

## Home:

- ☩ Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis
- ☩ Debi (Dee) Selin
- ☩ Agnes Campbell

**Hospital Visitor:**  
Jean Wolverton

☩ Pastor Nominating Committee—please keep this team in your prayers throughout the process of searching for our new pastor.



**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
*"Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

Please update your prayer requests this week! Names will be left on for one month unless updated.  
Email: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com) or call the church office, 770-786-7321