

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, September 23
 9:00 Handbell Choir
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service
 5:00 Youth Connection

Tuesday, September 25
 1:00 A Novel Bunch Book Club
 4:00 Exercise Class

Wednesday, September 26
 6:45 Sanctuary Choir

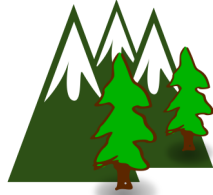
Thursday, September 27
 10:30 Ambassador Choir

Sunday, September 30
 9:00 Handbell Choir
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service
 5:00 Youth Connection



A Novel Bunch Book Club will meet at the home of Day Kennon on Tuesday, September 25 at 1 pm to discuss "Gentleman in Moscow".

Montreat Reservations: Our annual church-wide retreat to the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina is set for **November 2nd through 4th**. If you are interested in going, please make plans and a reservation as soon as possible. Reservation forms are available in the narthex. Place your completed form with your deposit in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. There are only 3 rooms available, so please get your reservation in soon to guarantee a space!



Santa Express: Presbyterian Women each year gather items for Presbyterian Homes to give each resident a Christmas gift bag. Our church has participated in this mission for a number of years. Once again there is a box in the narthex along with the list of items requested. Your love, support, and generosity are more than appreciated. Any questions, please call Jeanie Liem 770-787-7530.



Organ Concert on Sunday, October 14, 3:00 p.m. Craig Williams, Organist and Choirmaster at the Cadet Chapel at the United States Military Academy, at West Point, will be in Concert with local Organists, Alice Walker and Becky Ramsey, in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 14 at 3:00 p.m., in a program featuring classical and patriotic repertoire. Please mark this date on your calendar. This will be a concert not to be missed!

-----tear here-----
Elder Nominations: The Session Nominating Committee is seeking your input for the next class of ruling elders who will serve on the Session. If you have a suggestion, please contact John McCarthy or Doug Bolton, or tear off this slip and place it in the offering plate. I wish to suggest the following person(s) for nomination:

My Name is: _____

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

Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com

Church Office/Peni Kehoe: penihaug@gmail.com

Website: 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) and clicking on "Media."



The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 1:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

Food Pantry will be closed 9/23--9/30

Suggested donations:

September: Ramen noodles; Macaroni and Cheese

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

September
 Gary Boteler

Sound Engineer:
 Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2018
 Gary Boteler
 Billy Fortson
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Tom Stillerman
 Koen Ardis
 Sophia Hawley

Class of 2019
 Carter Gibson
 John McCarthy
 Teresa McCurry
 Cheryl Meichsner
 Miriam Wheeler

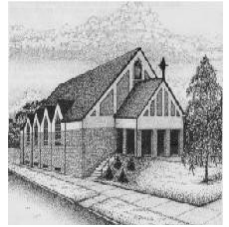
Class of 2020
 Doug Bolton
 Stan Hall
 Cindy Moon
 Bob Tabb
 Michael Thompson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Steven Barnes	<i>Interim Pastor</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Dan Walden	<i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Jade Roy	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir Nursery</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Darlene Alley	<i>Director of the Early Learning Center</i>
Alexis Ward	<i>Music Director</i>		



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 23, 2018



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Prelude in B-Flat Major* J. S. Bach
 Alice Walker, organ
Jubilant Fanfare Kevin McChesney
 Handbell Choir

INTROIT *Glory to God!* G. F. Handel
 Sanctuary Choir
Glory to God joyful songs we proclaim.
Let every nation lift high the Lord's name.
Sing to the Lord with acclaim, sing God's holy name.
Rejoice and give glory forever.
We praise the mighty Lord, God's name adored.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.
 Our Lord has prepared a feast for us;
Let us eat and drink of God's gifts.
 Praise the Lord!
Together, let us worship God!

☩ **HYMN 401** *Here in This Place* GATHER US IN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you call us to be your beloved children and to care for one another, yet we fail to love others and ourselves. Helpless and ashamed, we turn our hearts to you. Forgive us, and then tenderly teach us to stand strong and courageous in the fullness of your love, by the grace and mercy of Christ, in whose name we pray ... (time for silent and personal reflection) ... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, according to the riches of God's grace, which God has lavished upon us and sealed for us by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven and strengthened to share God's love and peace with the world.
Thanks be to God for this good news! Indeed, we are forgiven and set free to love and serve. Amen!

☩ **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** NETTLETON

Hymn 475, stanza 1
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

✦ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

SERMON

The Rev. Steven Barnes
Not a Past-Tense God

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ HYMN 327

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. Moses Hogan

Alexis Ward, soprano and Alice Walker, piano

Let us break bread together on our knees

(Refrain) *When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O, Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees (Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees (Refrain)

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ASH GROVE

Hymn 37, stanza 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise; who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night: till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Wonderful God, thank you for filling us with every spiritual grace that we might be a blessing for others. Sanctify the gifts we offer for the increase of your love in this community and beyond. May they bring blessing to others and praise to your glorious name. Amen.

SEALING OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

O Bone Jesu (O Holy Jesus)

Palestrina

Sanctuary Choir

*O holy Jesus, we pray for Thy mercy,
Thou who gave Thy life for us, and hast redeemed us,
For Thy sacrifice, we worship Thee, O Lord.*

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and
The Lord's Prayer

p. 35 in hymnal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ POSTLUDE

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet

Worship Notes

- ✦ Assisting in the leading of worship today is **Dan Walden**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries.
- ✦ 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.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Matt Cooper - CPD officer at Shepherd Center

†Bill Davis-chest pain; no heart damage

†Denny Henderson-back surgery on 8/31; father of Danny and Beth Vining's daughter-in-law Cathy

†Tim Blankenship-hip surgery on 9/10 (son of Maxine Blankenship)

†George Fogarty - heart issues (father of Mark Fogarty)

†Sam Boathen (uncle of Serwaa Amuzu)

†Annett Eaten-cancer (aunt of Milton Patton)

†Betty Britt-cancer (friend of Milton Patton)

†Larry Kennon-surgery, home

†Mark Fogarty-cancer

†Patti Lanford - bus accident

†Beverly Star Edmonds-cancer (Steve Kapp's' mother)

†Harry Hicks-heart surgery (father of Doug Hicks)

†Spencer Boyd-lung cancer
3037 Pine Needle Rd

Augusta, GA 30909-3047

†Angela Gregory-cancer (sister of Dave Gregory)

†Roger Gossage-home, dialysis

†Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis

†Adriane Ivey-home

†Tom Holmes-cancer (friend of Dan Walden)

†Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)

†Clynton Byer-heart surgery (friend of the Ardis family)

†Jeanette Davis-hospice (mother of Maria Davis)

†Ethan Lassiter (8)-brain tumor

(grandson of E. G. and Marianne Lassiter)

†David Cooper-cancer (father of

Rebecca Bates)

†Anderson Krieger-maintenance chemotherapy at home

†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

†Jeanne Cannon-St. Simon's Island, GA

Merryvale:

†Guy McGiboney

†Betty Robinson

†Louise White

†Alice Gadilhe

†Hughie Hudson

†Patricia McGuire

†Roger Wallace

Home:

†Debi (Dee) Selin

Peace Corps Volunteer

†Patti Lanford stationed in Zambia

P. O. Box 50707

Lusaka, Zambia

WhatsApp and phone number is

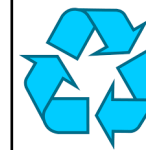
+260978827457; local number & email:

770-490-3660; p.lanford@gmail.com

We extend our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Lynn Cockrum**, who died last week. She was the daughter of **Florine DeConinck** and sister to **Sandy LeCroix**.

Hospital Visitors:

Bob and Darcel Tabb



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!