

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street SW
Covington, Georgia 30014-2314

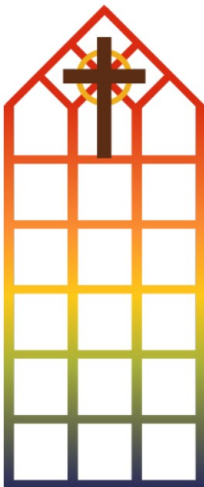


July 20, 2025

First Presbyterian Church,

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian



✠ *You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

by Dave Bookless

Jesus, Lord of the Earth by you all things were created

All creeping things, all flying things, all living things, all dying things,
The highest hills, the deepest seas, the strongest gale, the slightest breeze,
The blossom on a cherry tree, a spinning spider's artistry,
The smell of dry earth after rain, each cell within a human brain,
Each fallen leaf, each towering pine, reveals your intricate design.

Creator Lord, we stand amazed, And for your earth, we give you praise.

Jesus, Lord of the Earth for you all things were created

The smoothest pebble on the shore, detritus on the forest floor,
The undiscovered depths of space, the wrinkles on a baby's face;
Each sparrow and each human hair is numbered and is in your care,
All iron and oil and diamonds too, whilst used by us, belong to you,

Provider Lord, we stand amazed, and with your earth, we give you praise.

Jesus, Lord of the Earth in you all things now hold together

All of earth's greatest mysteries, and all our personal histories,
Each planet and each grain of sand, You hold them in your nail-scarred hands,
You feed the birds and clothe the flowers,
You warm the soil and send the showers,
You sound the rhythms of the earth, of tides and seasons, death and birth,
It is for you creation sings, the head, the center of all things,

Sustainer Lord, we stand amazed, and with your earth, we give you praise.

Jesus, Lord of the earth in you all things are made new

Lord God before all time began, yet you became a Son of Man,

You stepped into the world you made, a world once good, now spoilt, decayed,

As Son of Man your death reversed the chaos of creation's curse,

The earth itself quaked on that day, released from bondage to decay,

All things are reconciled to you, creation's hope is born anew.

Redeemer Lord, we stand amazed and with your earth, we give you praise.

Jesus, Lord of the earth

By you all things were created,

For you all things were created,

In you all things now hold together,

In you all things are made new.

And all creation cries Amen!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 19** *God of Great and God of Small* GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Personal Silent Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Gracious and Loving God,

**We confess that we often stumble in recognizing
who Christ truly is in our lives.**

We put our trust in things that do not last—

Lifting up people instead of lifting our eyes to You,

Chasing after fame, fortune, and fleeting glory,

Allowing the glow of false gods to radiate from the idols we create,

Whether they are made of stone or built in our hearts.

We forget that Christ is the head of the Church,

And in our pride, we resist the gentle winds of Your Holy Spirit.

We lose sight of our true identity—rooted and grounded in Christ alone.

Forgive us, Lord.

Draw us back to Your truth.

Help us to see clearly, walk humbly, and live faithfully,

In the light of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

✠ **Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ **Hymn 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✠ **Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Arr. by Maria Thompson Corley

Janet Carmichael, solo

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:15-28

Pew Bible page 200

Message

Who is Jesus Christ?

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 262**

Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus

ALL SAINTS

Installation of Deacons

Cathy Dobbs & Denny Dobbs

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering! Text FPCCOV followed by your donation amount to: 73256 and follow the link to give online, or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page! Select "2025 Pledge" if you made a pledge during stewardship season. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general offering.*



Offertory

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

by Charles H. Gabriel

Jim Patrick, trombone

✠ **Hymn of Response 634**

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory; great things he has done!

***So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.***

Praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!***

***Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.***

Praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!***

✠ **Prayer of Dedication**



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 630**

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

Verses 1, 4

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**



Worship Practices

Neeley's Notions on Letters—This Summer we will explore some letters that have withstood the test of time: Letters from Paul to the Romans, Galatians, and Colossians. I have always appreciated the art of writing personal letters. Writing letters of gratitude or just a note to say I love you is a spiritual discipline for us all to cultivate. It is a timeless art! I wonder what Paul would write in a letter to us today. We will wrestle with this very question during our worship series. I would love to hear from you about a letter you cherish. Why is it meaningful to you? Would you be willing to share it with me? I would love to create worship liturgy for this series using letters of gratitude, letters of encouragement, wisdom, and hope!

During Paul's letter series, there will be a station in the narthex for you to practice the spiritual discipline of writing letters. Please stop by the Letter Writing Station in the narthex before or after worship to write a letter!

If you would rather practice writing a letter at home or while on vacation, I encourage you to take on our Summer Letter Writing Challenge. Each week, write one letter (or more!) based on the prompts below. Use this time to connect, encourage, and share God's love through your words.

- ◇ July 20—Write to someone you love – tell them why
- ◇ July 27—Write to someone who is sick or going through a hard time
- ◇ August 3—Write to someone who influenced you as a kid or someone you admire

Offering Cards—The offering is an act of worship! We encourage you to place something in the offering plate as it comes to you. Throughout the pews you will find a selection of "offering cards" which we invite you to use to share how you intend to

be a good steward this week. *Connect* with us as a newcomer by sharing about yourself or your family. *Pray* with us by offering a prayer which will be shared with the Pastors. *Serve* with us by telling us how you will use your time and talent this week. Or *Give* with us by placing either a card to represent your online gift or physical cash or check offering. These offering cards are an invitation to generosity!

Accessibility—A limited supply of large print worship guides and hymns are available in the narthex. Please return the large print binder to an usher at the end of worship so it may be updated for next week. If you'd like to learn about connecting your Bluetooth hearing aids to our Sanctuary sound system we invite you to talk to our Tech Team.

Use—One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online. *Messages and data rates may apply when using Text to Give. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel. Call to Worship: © Dave Bookless, A Rocha UK 2008. Posted on A Rocha’s Good Seed Sunday website.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Kenny Compton

Acolytes | Thornton Holder, Greer Holder

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Catrina Crowe
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Akeelah Fletcher
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Jahniyah Greene
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	Laina Lalane
		Jordyn Williams
		Sylvia Woods

Emergency Response Team

In the event of an emergency including tornado, fire, intruder, and medical emergencies, the Emergency Response Team will lead the church’s response and may be identified by wearing yellow visibility vests. If these people are not present for an emergency secondary responders will wear ERT vests. Please follow any directions given by the following people in the event of an emergency:

Primary Point People—Neeley Rentz Lane (Lead), Erin Morgan (Nursery)

Medical Response—Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman

Facility/Security Response—Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy

Officers

Reaching Out	
Sara Chini	Witness (2026)
Stephanie Scarborough	Witness (2027)
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	Faith Formation (2025)
Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)
Nichole Howell	Worship (2025)
Hardy Fortson Sideris	Worship (2027)
Belonging	
Gary Boteler	Finance (2027)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome (2026)
Connecting (Deacons)	
Cathy Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Denny Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Dana Hall	Faith & Fellowship (2025)
Darcel Tabb	Faith & Fellowship (2027)
More	
Jodi Atkins	Strategic Planning (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish	Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session
Danny Vining	Personnel (2025)

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATION
OF OUR RIBBON CUTTING AND

GRAND OPENING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

THURSDAY, JULY 24 AT 11:00AM

1169 Clark Street, Covington, GA 30014

Event at the FPCP entrance on the Washington St
side of the building. Look for the balloons!

NEWTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Sunday, August 17th we will be
welcoming **NEW MEMBERS** to FPC!
Talk to Neeley if you are interested in
joining or learning more about what
membership means!

We welcome everyone
into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you
become an official
MEMBER!

Sunday, August 17th
after worship
Talk to Neeley if you are
interested!

Becoming
a member is a
valuable way to say

"I have chosen FPC Covington
as my home to trust in our
Lord, Jesus Christ!"



Acolyte Training!

Become an acolyte and help assist in
worship! For any 2nd grader and up who
wants to acolyte - training will be held
August 17 at 9:30am in the Sanctuary
Send your questions to Erin!

Sunday, July 20
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Summer Sunday School
10:30am Summer Choir
11:00am Worship—Installation of Deacons

Monday, July 21

12:00pm Deacon Meeting
5:30pm Movie Night

Tuesday, July 22

12:00pm- Office CLOSED for Staff Planning
4:00pm Retreat
4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting
5:30pm Personnel Team Meeting

Thursday, July 24

12:00pm First Pres Community Preschool
Ribbon Cutting

Sunday, July 27
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Summer Sunday School
10:30am Summer Choir
11:00am Worship
12:30pm Session Meeting



Rally Day Breakfast

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD
START OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR
WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!
BREAKFAST SERVED IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:45AM!

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP
OVER BREAKFAST. LEARN ABOUT
EVERYTHING THE FAITH FORMATION
TEAM HAS PLANNED FOR THE
UPCOMING YEAR!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

Requests will be moved to "ongoing" after three weeks unless the office is notified.

- ✦ Emmy Roth - broken hip & shoulder following a fall
- ✦ Hardy Sideris - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Russell McNally, nephew of Danny & Beth Vining - collapsed
- ✦ Miriam Wheeler - melanoma
- ✦ Geraldine Bryant, family of Mark Fiddie
- ✦ Andrew Daniecki, friend of the Fullerton family - head injury
- ✦ Tana Fiddie, family of Mark Fiddie
- ✦ Kathleen, daughter of Faye and Joel Kitchens - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton - stroke & injury recovery
- ✦ Angelic Bellinger - back issues
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo
- ✦ Carolyn Watson - recovering from stroke with improvement
- ✦ Kayla Legg, friend of Kim Lindsey - praying for a healthy full-term pregnancy

- ✦ Susan Pizsel, family friend of Beverly Kratz - cancer
- ✦ Kelli Williams, niece of Danny & Beth Vining - recovering from double mastectomy
- ✦ Bob Woodham, grandfather of Braden Woodham - recovering from broken hip after fall

Ongoing prayer requests

Requests will be removed after six weeks unless the office is notified.

- ✦ Jeff Cullen, friend of Angie Woodham - cancer not responding to chemo
- ✦ Jennifer Stenander, friend of Angie Woodham - upcoming heart surgery, currently stable with medication
- ✦ Lucy Milner, sister of Day Kennon
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Doug Ernest, friend of Billy & Theodosia Wade - pulmonary fibrosis & grieving the passing of his wife

- ✦ The Rauk family, friends of Kim Lindsey - 14 year old fighting brain cancer
- ✦ Memama, great-grandmother of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Chris Weesner - upcoming eye surgery
- ✦ Kim Fratesi, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Madison, GA
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Carol McGiboney - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Jon Paschal - Annandale Village
- ✦ Louise White - Prema at Ashton Hills

Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Clint & Daryl Williams - Army

Prayer requests and updates may be given to either of our pastors, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

bring backpacks,
briefcases, and laptop bags
to worship for a special
back to school blessing!

August 10, 2025



American Red Cross

Community of Giving

First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, August 18th, 2025

12:00PM-5:00PM

Fellowship Hall

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
You may also use the Red Cross Donor App
and enter sponsor code: **firstprescov**.

Summer Sunday School

9:45AM IN JUNE AND JULY AT FPC

Exploring Sacred Stories:

A LITERARY APPROACH
TO THE BIBLE

ADULT SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL
IN THE GATHERING ROOM

Children's Summer Sunday School

LED BY FPC YOUTH

IN THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

Singing in the Summer

SUMMER CHOIR

MEETS ONLY ON SUNDAYS AT
10:30AM IN THE CHOIR ROOM

KIDS' WORSHIP CLASS!

Sunday, August 17th at 3:00pm
for 2nd grade and up

Come explore the various elements of
worship and help plan a real service for

Youth & Children Sunday!

on August 24th