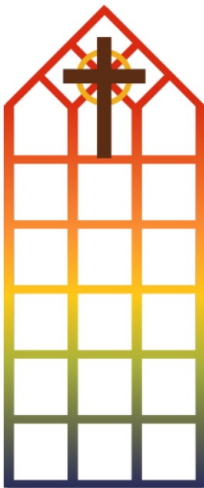




*First Presbyterian Church*  
1169 Clark Street, SW  
Covington, Georgia 30014-2314

July 27, 2025  
First Presbyterian Church,  
The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



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

# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Festival Prelude*

C.S. Lang

*All the Way My Savior Leads Me*

Richard Unfreid

*Christ, the Life of All the Living* Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

## Invitation to Worship

## Chiming of the Hour

## Prelude

*I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever*

Arr. by Mark Hayes

## Welcome & Announcements

## ✠ Call to Worship

Written by Tom Shuman

It is in this place of holiness that we can come with our fears,  
our doubts, all the questions of our hearts.

**We come to this place, to hear the words of peace,  
of hope, of joy God speaks to us.**

It is in this place of discovery  
that we can come searching.

**We come to this place, to find  
the One who has been looking for us.**

It is in this place of openness  
that we can come knocking.

**We come to this place, to be embraced  
by the One whose heart is never locked.**

## ✠ Hymn of Praise 192

*Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining* SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

## ✠ Call to Confession

## ✠Personal Silent Confession

## ✠Community Confession

Written by Tom Shuman

**We do not find it easy to speak of how we do not live as your people, but you invite us to share our weaknesses and failures with you, inviting God. Clinging to all you give to us, we are reluctant to share with those in need. Surrounded by evil and violence, we find it easier to close ranks with those just like us, rather than seeking peace and reconciliation for our world.**

**Forgive us. . . Open our eyes to our siblings all around us. Open our ears to the word of hope you speak to us. Open our spirits to the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who flings wide the open doors of your kingdom, that all might find life with you.**

## ✠Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

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

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*  
Mark Fiddie, solo

by William Farley Smith

## Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

### Scripture Readings

*Colossians 2:6-19*  
*Luke 11:1-13*

Pew Bible page 200  
Pew Bible page 72

### Message

*Rooted*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



# Responding to the Word

### ✠Response 175

*Seek Ye First*

LAFFERTY

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!***

***You shall not live by bread alone, but seek, and you shall find;  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, alleluia!***

### ✠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 & 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.**

## **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**

*In the Garden*  
Alice Walker

by C. Austin Miles

## **✠Response 606**

*Doxology*

OLD HUNREDTH

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

## **✠Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude**



# *Being the Church in the World*

✦ **Sending Hymn 462**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

*Prelude and Fugue in F*

Dietrich Buxtehude



## *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 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.



# Serving Today

**Usher Chair** | Kenny Compton

**Acolyte** | Paisley Lane

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:	
<b>Primary Point People</b> —Neeley Rentz Lane (Lead), Erin Morgan (Nursery)	
<b>Medical Response</b> —Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman	
<b>Facility/Security Response</b> —Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy	

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





## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

### Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Andrew Daniecki, friend of the Fullerton family.
- ✦ Alyson & her daughter Josephine, friends of Judy Davis - mourning the loss of her husband Bill Harden.
- ✦ Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton - recovering from surgery
- ✦ The Rauk family, friends of Kim Lindsey - mourning the loss of their son Drew Rauk
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Tana Fiddie, family of Mark Fiddie
- ✦ Kathleen, daughter of Faye and Joel Kitchens - upcoming surgery

**Prayer requests and updates** may be given to either of our pastors, put in the offering plate, or emailed to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

### Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Angelic Belling - back issues
- ✦ Kim Fratesi, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Kayla Legg, friend of Kim Lindsey - praying for a healthy full-term pregnancy
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Susan Pizel, family friend of Beverly Kratz - cancer
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo
- ✦ Carolyn Watson - recovering from stroke with improvement
- ✦ Kelli Williams, niece of Danny & Beth Vining - recovering from double mastectomy
- ✦ Bob Woodham, grandfather of Braden Woodham - recovering from broken hip after fall
- ✦ Jeff Cullen, friend of Angie Woodham - cancer not responding to chemo
- ✦ Lucy Milner, sister of Day Kennon

- ✦ Jennifer Stenander, friend of Angie Woodham - upcoming heart surgery, currently stable with medication
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Doug Ernest, friend of Billy & Theodosia Wade - pulmonary fibrosis & grieving the passing of his wife
- ✦ Memama, great-grandmother of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Chris Weesner - upcoming eye surgery

### 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



**CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS**

Tuesday, Aug. 5th  
at 9:30am in the  
Fellowship Hall  
RSVP to Neeley!  
[neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org)



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!

**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

### Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.  
Children's Class (PreK-4th) | Youth Class (5th+)  
Foundations Adult Class | The Wired WORD

### 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!

**Backpack  
Drive**

**BRING NEW BACKPACKS  
TO THE CHURCH BY  
AUGUST 10TH**

DONATIONS LED BY  
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AS  
A PARTNER IN EDUCATION  
FOR FAIRVIEW  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL




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](http://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.**



**BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY**  
**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**  
August 10, 2025  
bring backpacks, briefcases, and laptop bags to worship for a special back to school blessing!

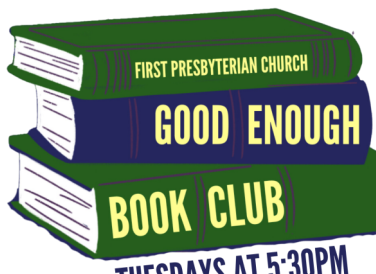


**Chancel Choir**  
Wednesdays at 6:30pm  
**Handbell Choir**  
Wednesdays at 5:45pm  
\*Does not meet on the second Wed. of the month during Soul Feast.



Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir will return for regular rehearsals starting Wednesday, August 6th!

**GOOD ENOUGH BOOK CLUB**  
TUESDAYS AT 5:30PM  
STARTING BACK ON AUGUST 5TH



**Lectio Divina**  
PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY  
Starting back on August 5th  
Meets weekly on Tuesdays at Noon in the Parlor  
Roundtable discussion on the week's scripture with Neeley & Erin

**COFFEE and Conversation**  
Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Fellowship Hall  
Starting back on August 6th!



**Sunday, July 27**  
**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Monday, July 28**

- 5:00pm Faith Formation Team meeting

**Wednesday, July 30**

- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

**Sunday, August 3**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:45am Rally Day Breakfast
- 11:00am Worship

**FPC KIDS BACK TO SCHOOL POOL PARTY**  
Sunday, August 10th  
3:00pm  
At Pam Stillerman's House!

**SOUL FEAST**



**AUGUST 13**  
5:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP for dinner by Aug. 11th to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org) or 770-786-7321  
Adults: \$8  
Kids: \$5  
Family max: \$30

**ON THE MENU: SPAGHETTI**  
**BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE!**

Everyone is invited to join our LOGOS kids and wear your favorite sports team shirt or jersey!



Following Soul Feast at 6:00pm we will hear from our friends from the Covington Housing Authority

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA**  
**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!