



August 3, 2025

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
First Presbyterian Church Covington*

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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

<i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Gordon Young
<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	David Cherwien
<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	Charles Callahan

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *I Will Enter His Gates/He Has Made Me Glad/This is the Day* M. Hayes

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship** *Good Day Energizer* led by our children!

This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.

With bright eyes, let us search.

This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.

With engaged minds, let us ponder.

This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.

With compassionate hearts, let us feel.

This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.

With solid devotion, let us follow.

This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.

With humble intention, let us act.

This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.

With strong voices, let us sing.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 664**

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Personal Silent Confession

✠ Community Confession

Forgiving God,

Sometimes I am quick to speak without thinking.

I put my foot in my mouth.

So today, I say "I am sorry."

I'm sorry for talking behind their back.

I'm sorry for spreading gossip just to prove I knew something,
even when it wasn't mine to share.

I'm sorry for the words I said that caused pain,
and for the words I didn't say.

I confess the lies I've spoken about others, about myself, even about You.

Forgive me. Set my mind on you.

Teach me to guard my tongue and speak with Your love, truth, and grace.
Amen.

✠ 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

How Great Thou Art
Aubrey Evans, flute

Arr. by Gary Lanier

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Readings

Readers Theater

Colossians 3:1-11

Pew Bible page 200
Aubrey Evans

Message

A New Day!

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 663**

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

MORNING HYMN

✠ **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

I Come to the Cross
Mark Fiddie, solo

by Bill Batstone

✠Response 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!***

***I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.***

***Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.***

***'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.***

✠Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Nichole Howell

Acolytes | MaryRentz Lane, Elizabeth Browning



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?

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.

◇ *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.

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
Denise Gabriel	Dir. of Community Preschool	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Laina Lalane
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	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)



Ministry Spotlight

First Presbyterian Community Preschool

A word from our First Presbyterian Community Preschool Director, Denise Gabriel:
"I am beyond excited to be able to serve as the Director of the First Presbyterian Community Preschool! I look forward to walking alongside Pastor Neeley and the staff at FPC to build a program that will support children of all abilities in our community so they feel welcomed and loved!"


About the ministry—To God be the Glory! In 2020, we closed our FPC Early Learning Center. But we never gave up! For five years, our church has prayed, planned, and discerned what a new preschool could be - what our community needed now. Our task force met faithfully, listened to parents and community leaders, and remained committed through every twist and turn! And today - We are here! We give thanks for the legacy of Mother's Morning Out, which grew into the Early Learning Center and for all the former students, teachers, and directors who are part of our story! Today we celebrate a new chapter! Thank you to our Church staff, Congregation, Preschool Task Force, Preschool Board, Leadership Newton, Oak Hill United Methodist Church, and our FPCP Teachers and Director. Thank you to all who have donated supplies, time, energy, and who have contributed to our scholarship fund! Please take time to go downstairs and see our new and improved classrooms! Thank you church family!

Denise's email: preschool@fpccov.org



1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org 770.786.7321

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!



SOUL FEAST
AUGUST 13
5:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
RSVP for dinner by Aug. 11th to 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

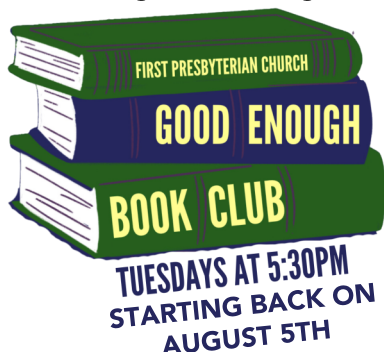


COFFEE
and
Conversation
Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Fellowship Hall
Starting back on August 6th!



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

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



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!



Sunday, August 3
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday, August 5

9:30am CPR Training
12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

Wednesday, August 6

10:00am Coffee and Conversation
3:30pm Staff Meeting
5:30pm Witness Team Meeting
5:45pm Handbell Choir
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 7

5:00pm FPCP Open House

Friday, August 8

1:00pm-9:00pm FPCP Spirit Night at Frio

Saturday, August 9

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, August 10
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PW Backpack Drive Deadline
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—Blessing of the Backpacks
12:30pm Worship Team Meeting
3:00pm Kids & Youth Pool Party



FPCP
SPRIT DAY

AT FRIO ROLLED
ICE CREAM!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8
FROM 1:00PM-9:00PM

10% OF SALES WILL GO TO
FPCP WHEN YOU MENTION
FIRST PRES
COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL
AT THE REGISTER!



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Dottie, cousin of Paisley Lane - recovering from mouth surgery
- ✦ Bill Harden, friend of Judy Davis - mourning the loss of his wife Alyson & his daughter Josephine
- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer
- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Andrew Daniecki, friend of the Fullerton family.
- ✦ 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

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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Geraldine Bryant, family of Mark Fiddie
- ✦ Tana Fiddie, family of Mark Fiddie
- ✦ Kathleen, daughter of Faye and Joel Kitchens - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ Angelic Bellingier - 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 Pizsel, 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

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

Sunday School

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sat., Aug. 9 8:00am
at Town House Café

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



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**.

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



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

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!