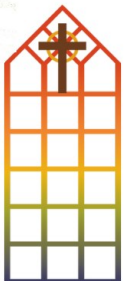




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August 10, 2025
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
First Presbyterian Church Covington



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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

To a Better Life We Rise

J.S. Bach

O Waly, Waly

Sue Mitchell-Wallace

Praeludium II

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

Kurt Kaiser

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

For When You are Afraid

written by Kate Bowler

Blessed are we who admit:

"God, I am afraid."

Blessed are we who confess:

"I don't know how to stop this spin cycle of worry."

You know our anxious minds.

You fill our restless hearts.

You promise us your presence - the quiet of your love.

Hold me when I feel there is no place to stand.

For now, may we inhale and exhale your presence.

Inhale: For our God

Exhale: is closer than air.

God, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, have mercy.

Let us worship the Living God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Personal Silent Confession

✠ Community Confession

We hear the call to trust in God always,
but honestly, some days our stresses and doubts
are even more real to us than God, and trust is elusive.
We remember how Abram dared to believe in God's promises,
but belief like that is hard to come by.
We are often inclined to think,
"God helps those who help themselves,"
instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator.
When the world seems filled with dangers,
we can be quick to protect ourselves,
And we forget the wisdom of scripture,
which reminds us that we find traces of evil both
outside and inside of ourselves.
With God's help, we confront our fears and struggles,
and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull.
Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings. Forgive us. 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

We invite children who brought backpacks this Sunday to bring them to the front for the children's moment and the blessing of the backpacks.

Blessing of the Backpacks &

Commissioning of Teachers, Administrators, & Staff

We invite students, teachers, administrators, extra-curricular leaders, and any others to stand to be recognized and blessed for the new school year.

Anthem

When in Our Music God is Glorify
Chancel Choir

Arr. by Harriet Ziegenhals

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Pew Bible page 12

Message

Star-Full Promise

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 76**

Do Not Be Afraid

ISAIAH 43

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

Come to the Table of the Lord
Chancel Choir

by Jay Alhouse

✠ Response 658

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good;

God's so good to me.

God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me;

God's so good to me.

God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so;

God's so good to me.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!
See our Worship Practices section for more details.

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYDY NOS

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet



Worship Practices

Communion—All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

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 | Nichole Howell

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Parker Firkus, Thornton Holder

Today's worship guide cover art is a piece by Ruth Ralston (age 12) titled *Star Gaze* inspired by Genesis 15:1-6.

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	Laina Lalane
	& Operations	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	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	Thriving Congregations (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

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

Sunday, August 10

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PW Backpack Drive

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

Monday, August 11

RSVP for Soul Feast

- 9:00am FIRST DAY of First Presbyterian
Community Preschool!
- 12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 12

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina - Pastors' Bible Study
- 5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

Wednesday, August 13

RSVP for OASIS Outing

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm LOGOS for Kids
- 5:15pm Soul Feast
- 6:00pm Youth Group
- 6:00pm Soul Talk from Housing Authority
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, August 14

- 11:30am Lunch Bunch
- 2:00pm Ambassador Choir returns at FUMC
- 4:00pm Finance Team Meeting

Sunday, August 17

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:30am Acolyte Training
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:30am Godly Play
- 12:00pm Welcoming New Members
- 3:00pm Kids' Worship Class

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!



**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.**

**ENDLESS
SUMMER LUAU**

**AUG. 20 | 5:30PM AT
THE LANE'S HOUSE**

Childcare at FPC
beginning at 5:00pm

**YOUNG-ISH
ADULTS**

Wear your best
Hawaiian attire and
think tropical vibes
as you prepare your
appetizer to share

**ALL are invited to
help expand
our Wall of
Crosses!**

Now through the end
of August you may
donate a cross (no bigger than 8x10) to be hung on the wall of crosses!
Please make sure your cross has a something it can hang from to be
added to the wall! For more info contact Pam Stillerman or Neeley.



Older Adults Sharing In Service
O.A.S.I.S. at FPC
**11:30AM | AUGUST 14
AT JIM 'N NICK'S**

**Come enjoy lunch with
FPC OASIS at
Jim 'N Nick's on Thursday,
August 14 at 11:30am**
RSVP to erin@fpccov.org so
we can get a big enough table

**FPC KIDS
& YOUTH**

**BACK TO SCHOOL
POOL PARTY**

**Sunday, August 10th
3:00pm**

At Pam Stillerman's House!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Theodosia Wade - broken collar bone, praying to avoid surgery
- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Jeff Cullen, friend of Angie Woodham
- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Michael Detwiler, friend of Billy Wade
- ✦ Bill Loeble, friend of Billy Wade - cancer
- ✦ 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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Emmy Roth - broken hip & shoulder following a fall
- ✦ Hardy Sideris - recovering from surgery
- ✦ 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 Bellinger - 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
- ✦ 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

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

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!

Sunday, August 24th
11:00am in the Sanctuary

Youth & Children Sunday

Our FPC Kids will be *leading worship* and we will hear from our Youth about their experiences at the *Montreat Middle Conference*

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

VISIT [FPCCOV.ORG](https://fpccov.org)/ZOOM-LINKS TO JOIN!

FIRST MEETING: MON., AUGUST 18 AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS **GONE FOR GOOD?: NEGOTIATING THE COMING WAVE OF CHURCH PROPERTY TRANSITION BY MARK ELSDON**

OASIS OUTING

SUWANEE, GA

Join your OASIS friends as we visit our friend and church member Jon Paschal in his community at Annandale Village!

Annandale Village

AUGUST 19

Carpool will leave FPC at 10:00am

Cost: \$10 for lunch

RSVP to Erin by August 13

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!**