



August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Prelude and Fugue in G

Dietrich Buxtehude

Lift High the Cross

David Cherwien

Toccata Français

Craig Penfield

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Sing Unto the Lord/I Will Sing of the Mercies

arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

O come, faithful God,

Choir Side: **who empowers the weak,
who encourages the fearful,
who enlightens the blind,
who intones the deaf,**

Font Side: **who energizes the lame,
who emancipates the speechless,
who enriches the poor,
who invigorates the dead;**

O come, faithful God,
come and enable us, right now,
to worship you and work for your Kingdom,
filled with your strength,

Font Side: **your hope,
your vision,
your melody,**

Choir Side: **your motivation,
your Word,
your inheritance,
your Life!**

All this we pray,
through him who came to be our Savior,
who lives to be our Lord,
who will return and fully make all things new;

ALL: Let us worship the Living Lord!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 393** *O Day of Rest and Gladness* ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Personal Silent Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Merciful God

you forgive all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.

**We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves.**

**We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.**

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.

**In your great compassion,
cleanse us from our sin.**

**Create in us a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Do not cast us from your presence,
or take your Holy Spirit from us.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. 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

Cast Your Care

by James Abington

Chancel Choir; Janet Carmichael, solo

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

Pew Bible page 691

Message

Good News!

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ Response 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

HERE I AM

Anointing

Sent to Proclaim the Good News

Following our call and response you will be invited to come forward to receive an anointing on your forehead or your hand. If you do not wish to come forward, you are welcome to stay in the pew for a time of prayerful reflection.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,
because the Lord has anointed us.
Anointed to bring good news to the poor,
to comfort those who mourn,
to bind up the brokenhearted.

**We are anointed for this holy life—
to go forth and be Christ in the world,
even when the path is hard.**

God is writing our story,
and our story is bound up in God's great story—
a story of hope, justice, and peace
for all nations and all people.

**Anointed for the here and now,
we receive this call with open hearts.**

Mourners receive a mission,
the weary are given strength,
and the hesitant are given courage.

Here I am, Lord—send me.

The congregation is invited to come forward at this time

"I anoint you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit—
for joy, for proclamation,
for the good news of deliverance."

Go now, blessed and anointed,
carrying the promise of hope and justice.
The Spirit is upon you—
go in peace and power.

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

Trumpet Tune
Alice Walker, organ

by Henry Purcell

✦ Response 616

Our God Is an Awesome God

AWESOME GOD

***Our God is an awesome God who reigns
from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!
(Repeat)***

✦ Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ Sending Hymn 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata 79

J.S. Bach



Worship Practices

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 | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Valerie Morgan, Lily Wells

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

Presbyterian Women: Partners in Education

Through the ministry of the Presbyterian Women, our congregation sponsors Fairview Elementary as a Partner in Education. Our goal is to support the staff and students of the school in their educational endeavors. We encourage the staff throughout the year with various appreciation efforts. We support the students through weekly tutoring, building relationships that enhance their education. If you would like to join us in supporting Fairview staff and students, please contact Pastor Erin.

A word from PW volunteer, Julie MacKenzie:

My husband Jeff and I have been mentoring at Fairview Elementary School for the past three years. We've mentored with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. The kids are smart and very respectful. They'll bring in workbooks so we can help with the lessons. But our main focus has also been to develop a sense of curiosity within them.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Tom Crews - recovering from fall in rehab at Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Ruth Bradshaw, mother of Kim Lindsey - recovering from fall
- ✦ 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 Duttweiler, former member
- ✦ Bill Loeble, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer
- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer

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.

- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Hardy Sideris - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ 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 Pizsel, family friend of Beverly Kratz - cancer
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo

- ✦ Carolyn Watson - recovering from stroke with improvement
- ✦ Bob Woodham, grandfather of Braden Woodham - recovering from broken hip after fall
- ✦ Jennifer Stenander, friend of Angie Woodham - upcoming heart surgery, currently stable with medication
- ✦ Lucy Milner, sister of Day Kennon

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


Sunday School

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

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*

 **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.**

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!**

Preschool Supply Wish List!!

SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS BY GIVING THE GIFT OF SUPPLIES TODAY!

- CLICK THE QR CODE
- SELECT AN ITEM
- SHIP IT TO THE CHURCH
- KNOW YOU HAVE HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

VISIT [FPCCOV.ORG/ZOOM-LINKS](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**

***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 something it can hang from to be added to the wall! For more info contact Pam Stillerman or Neeley.



OASIS OUTING
SUWANEE, GA
Annandale Village
AUGUST 19
Carpool will leave FPC
at 10:00am
Cost: \$10 for lunch
RSVP to Erin by August 13

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!

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 Kid's Worship Class

Monday, August 18

- 12:00pm–5:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive
- 5:30pm Preschool Board Meeting
- 7:00pm Neeley's Nook

Tuesday, August 19

- 10:00am OASIS Outing to Annandale Village
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina - Pastors' Bible Study
- 4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting
- 5:30pm Good Enough Book Club
- 7:00pm Stewardship Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 11:00am Preschool Fire Drill
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Young-ish Adults
- 5:45pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir


Sunday, August 24 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

- 9:45am Children's Worship Practice
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Youth & Children Sunday
- 12:30pm New Member Lunch

 **FPC KIDS'**
MINISTRY NIGHT
FUN IN THE SUN
WATER DAY

August 27th
5:30pm–7:00pm
Bring your bathing suit,
sunscreen, and a towel!

**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