

Children & Youth Sunday

Wonder Full



*August 24,
2025*

*Eleventh Sunday
After Pentecost*



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

✠Call to Confession

Harper Holder

✠Personal Silent Confession

✠Community Confession

Harper Holder

God, we are sorry for the ways that we mess up.

Sometimes we're mean and hit our siblings or lie.

We forget our homework

or don't appreciate what our families cook for us.

We say mean things to others.

Sometimes we forget to be sure others are included.

Forgive us, God, and remind us that you love us no matter what.

✠Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Thornton Holder

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

"My Lighthouse" Energizer

Children's Anthem

I've Got a River of Life
Children's Choir

by Steve Wingfield

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Paisley Lane

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 29:11

Paisley Lane

Luke 5:17-26

Amelia Evans

John 2:1-11

Audrey Fullerton

Reflections

"Wonder Full" Montreat Middle School Conference

Bea Briggs,

Grace Fowler, Holden Evans,

Ruby Wells, Kately Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 769**

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Sacred Arts Team Commissioning

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Greer Holder

**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

Parker Firkus

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

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Alice Walker, organ

by Graham Kendrick

✠Response 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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

Ruby Wells



Being the Church in the World

✠Sending Hymn 295

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

***Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.***

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Toccata on GROSSER GOTT

by Richard Heschke



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 | Brad Hawley, Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | William Whisnant, Alexander Whisnant



Thank you to all of the children and youth who have contributed to today's worship!

Bea Briggs	Amelia Evans	Holden Evans	Parker Firkus
Grace Fowler	Audrey Fullerton	Greer Holder	Harper Holder
Thornton Holder	Kately Lane	MaryRentz Lane	Paisley Lane
Valerie Morgan	Rose Ralston	Ruth Ralston	Lily Wells
Ruby Wells	Alexander Whisnant	William Whisnant	

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Erin Morgan	<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Catrina Crowe
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications</i>	Laina Lalane
	<i>& Operations</i>	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	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	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>
Engaging	
Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>
Belonging	
Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Connecting (Deacons)	
Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2027)</i>
More	
Jodi Atkins	<i>Thriving Congregations (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Jo Anna Fish	<i>Personnel (2027)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2025)</i>

❖

Ministry Spotlight *Sacred Arts Collective*

Our church has been selected to participate in the Sacred Arts Collective through Candler School of Theology!

The Sacred Arts Collective is a new initiative at Candler School of Theology focused on deeply engaging congregations in the Atlanta area to imagine how to nurture and grow the faith of children through the integration of the arts in worship. Through this effort the hope is to fashion creative learning environments that inspire leaders and families to fully embrace the arts to engage in sensory-rich worship across generations. The Rev. Dr. Khalia J. Williams, Associate Dean of Worship and Spiritual Formation, leads the initiative.

Upon completion of our cohort year, our congregational teams will have the opportunity to apply for an Artist-in-Residence grant for up to \$20,000. A Congregational Artist-in-Residence will be hired for an identified period to work closely with the children's ministry and worship teams to increase the inclusion of children in worship through creative arts.

Our congregational team includes: Hardy Sideris, Krista Firkus, Parker Firkus, Ansley Holder, Greer Holder, Thornton Holder, Harper Holder, Neeley Lane, Kately Lane, MaryRantz Lane, and Paisley Lane.

You are invited to follow the Sacred Arts Collective on Instagram. You may see some familiar faces!! @candlertsac



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



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

All women of the church are
welcome to join us for
dinner as we gather for a
new year of circle meetings!

PW is a way to connect with other
women in the church over fellowship
and monthly Bible study meetings.

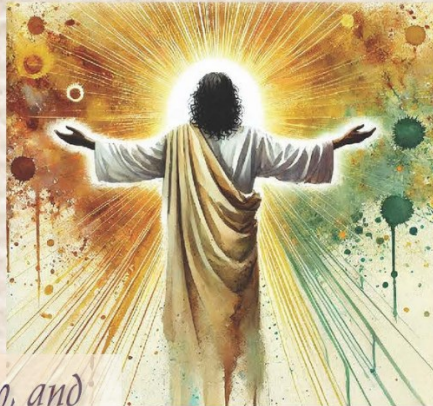
This year's Bible study:

*Finding Resilience, Joy, and
Our Identity in Jesus Christ*

by Rhashell D. Hunter

Presbyterian Women Kick-off Meeting 2025-2026

September 8, 2025 at 5:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall & on Zoom!



Sunday, August 24

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tuesday, August 26

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

Wednesday, August 27

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm FPC Kids' Fun in the Sun Water Day
- 5:30pm Youth Group
- 5:45pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, August 31

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship

Lectio Divina PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly on Tuesdays
at Noon in the Parlor
Roundtable discussion on the
week's scripture with Neeley & Erin

Sat., Sep. 13 at 8:00am
Town House Café

Men's Prayer Breakfast



Our Welcome Team is working on an
"updates" page to accompany the
directory we released last year! If you
have any changes that need to be
made to your contact information
please send them to Neeley or fill out
a "Connect" pew card and place it in
the offering plate!

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

August 27th
5:30pm-7:00pm

Bring your bathing suit,
sunscreen, and a towel!

**FPC YOUTH
GROUP**

**UPCOMING
DATES:**
AUG. 27
SEP. 10
SEP. 17

**2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS
5:30PM-7:00PM**

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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer
- ✦ 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 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
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo
- ✦ Carolyn Watson - recovering from stroke with improvement

Prayer requests and updates

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

Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to parents Amanda and Jonathan, and big brother James on the birth of their son Theodore Edward "Teddy" Goddard on August 14, 2025!
- ✦ We are happy to announce that Aubrey Evans will take on the role of interim youth ministry leader while we continue to search for a youth ministry intern!

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

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.



FPCC YOUTH **BIG GOD. BIG QUESTIONS**
CONFIRMATION CLASS
Sept 3 | Sept 17 | Oct 1 | Oct 8 | Nov 5
5:30pm-7:00pm
in the Youth Room led by Erin & Neeley

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.



Sunday School

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

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, September 14, 2025 immediately following worship to hear the nominating committee's selections for our Class of 2028 Officers.

Officer Nomination Form

This form is a way to share who you see within the church that has the gifts to serve as an officer of First Presbyterian Church Covington. Our officers are elders and deacons which you may read about below to better understand the qualifications and expectations of officers at FPC.

*After prayerful consideration, I humbly recommend _____
for the office of elder and/or deacon.*

Signed: _____ Printed name: _____

Email or contact info of nominating party: _____

Email or contact info of nominee: _____

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, turned in to the church office, or emailed to Nominating Committee Chair Nichole Howell at nicholelunsford@gmail.com by August 31, 2025

What is an Elder?

An Elder is a Servant Leader who desires to serve the church of Jesus Christ with intelligence, imagination, truth, and love! Elders are representative of the congregation and model faithful discipleship. Elders are called to serve for three years. Elders shall participate in Officer Training.

Responsibilities of Elder:

- ♦ Participate in monthly Session meetings (no more than one hour and 15 minutes long; meeting times are set by vote preference of elders)
- ♦ Serve as Usher chair for one month out of the year (you are not required to be present if you have a team prepared to serve)
- ♦ Chair/Co-Chair a committee (you will have a staff liaison and serve alongside a committee of 6-8 people)
- ♦ Participate in administering Communion (this is done on a first come first serve sign up)
- ♦ Participate in called meetings once a quarter following worship to receive new members (30 minute time commitment)

What is a Deacon?

A Deacon is a Servant Leader who desires to serve the church of Jesus Christ with compassion, empathy, and love! Deacons are representative of the congregation and model faithful discipleship. Deacons are called to serve for three years. Deacons shall participate in Officer Training.

Responsibilities of Deacon:

- ♦ Responsible for care and compassion of church family
- ♦ Serve on Diaconate (quarterly meetings with our deacons and Pastor)
- ♦ Chair Faith and Fellowship or Pastoral Care Committee (a Pastor serves as staff liaison; committee consists of 6-8 people)
- ♦ Oversee hospitality and care for funerals
- ♦ Serve as Deacon on Call when Pastor is out of town