



August 31, 2025
Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost



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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music *From My Heart I Hold You Dear, O Lord* Johann Friedrich Alberti
Lift High the Cross S. Nicholson, arr. D. Cherwien
Yorkminster Processional Gordon Young

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* Clay Christiansen

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship** *Psalms 146*

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

The Lord will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 372**

O for a World

AZMON

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ Personal Silent Confession

✠ Community Confession *When You're Holding On To Bad Habits* by Kate Bowler

**Every familiar darkness is dear to me. My bitterness and gossip. My
condescension and temper. I cherish my addictions as friends. Lord, I do
not want the searing light of your truth-telling. No thanks. I barely want
you to strike a match.**

**But this is the way of salvation. You separated good from evil to hem in our
nights. So I suppose I should let you.**

This is the Day the Lord has made.

**Lord, pull back the shadows of my heart. Expose my great comfort with my
favorite sins. Sustain my hope in your transforming love as you convince
me, please convince me, that you are dead-certain, rising from the dead-
certain, that I'm capable of allowing you to save me from myself. 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

Sinner, Please Doan Let Dis Harves' Pass

arr. by Harry T. Burleigh

Mark Fiddie, solo

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Amos 6:1-7

Pew Bible page 854

Message *Where Have All the Prophets Gone: Wake Up Call* Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Response 772

Live into Hope

TRURO

✦ Affirmation of Faith

excerpt from *Belhar Confession*

PCUSA

We believe

**that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about
justice and true peace among people;**

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,

**is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
that God calls the church to follow him in this;**

for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,

helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

that for God pure and undefiled religion

is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right

Prayers of the People and 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

Life Is a Gift
Chancel Choir

by Joseph M. Martin

✠Response 634

To God Be the Glory

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

***To God be the glory; great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.***

Refrain:

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!
Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)***

✠Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 432**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Tuba Tune

Norman Cocker



Worship Practices

Worship Art—Today's worship guide cover art is a drawing by Naomi Friend who created the drawing during an hour long Sunday School discussion of the book of Amos at Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Ames, Iowa in 2014.

The main figure is the prophet holding a plumb line, the focus of one of the four visions in chapter 7 & 8 of Amos. The other visions involve the fruit basket, fire and locusts.

The lion, bear and snake in the lower right corner illustrate *Amos 5:19*: “[*The Day of the Lord*] will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.”

The two women ignoring the beggar are the “*cows of Bashan... you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy*” (*Amos 4:1*).

At the top are several large houses. Amos is critical of the size and number of the houses of the wealthy: “*I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished,*’ declares the Lord” (*Amos 3:15*).

Like many of the prophets, Amos follows his oracles of judgement with a promise of restoration. The tractor and storehouse in the upper right represent the plenty that will accompany Israel’s restoration.

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. Worship Art: “Amos” by Naomi Friend | Artist’s website: naomifriend.com | Retrieved from: earthandallstars.com



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Nichole Howell **Tech Team** | Kenny Compton, Dan Walden
Acolytes | Audrey Fullerton, Rose Ralston

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 & Operations</i>	Laina Lalane
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	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	<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

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
- ✦ Ruth Bradshaw, mother of Kim Lindsey - recovering from fall

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Theodosia Wade - broken collar bone, praying to avoid surgery
- ✦ Bill Loeble, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer
- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Hardy Sideris - recovering from surgery

- ✦ Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Emily Phillips, granddaughter of Carol McGiboney
- ✦ 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

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
- ✦ 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

We welcome everyone into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!

Sunday, Sept. 7th after worship
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

FPC 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

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast

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 following worship to hear the nominating committee's selections for our Class of 2028 Officers.



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.

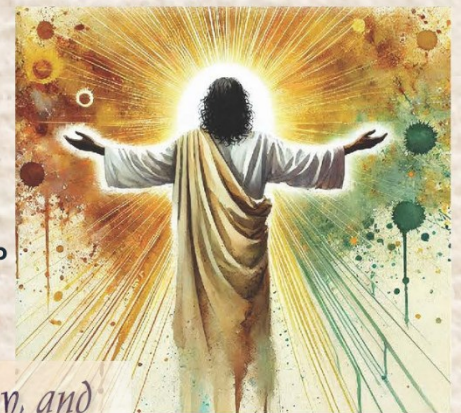
This year's Bible study:

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!



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!

SOUL FEAST



SEPT. 10
5:15PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP for dinner by Sept. 8th
to catherine@fpccov.org
or 770-786-7321

Adults: \$8
Kids: \$5
Family max: \$30

ON THE MENU: EL CHARRO TACO BAR

Everyone is invited to join our
LOGOS kids and dress like you
are in a different decade!



Following Soul Feast at 6:00pm we will
hear stories from our FPC family who
went on the Mission Trip this summer!

Sunday, August 31

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

Monday, September 1

Office CLOSED for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study

4:30pm Personnel Team Meeting

5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

6:30pm Sacred Arts Collective Meeting

7:30pm Nominating Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 3

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Youth Confirmation Class

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Welcoming New Members

5:00pm Youth Group

Have you been "visiting" for a while?

Presbyterianism 101

A three-week
Sunday School class

In the Parlor during Sunday School at 9:45am
September 7th | September 14th | September 21st

Come learn what it means to be Presbyterian
on a *spiritual level* **and** a *functional* one!

We suggest this class to
visitors & new members at FPC!

***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.



1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS
5:00PM-7:00PM

**UPCOMING
DATES:**
SEP. 7
SEP. 10
SEP. 17

**PLUS SOUL
FEAST NIGHTS**
2ND WED.
@ 5:15PM



11:30AM | SEPT. 11
AT ELEA J'S