



September 7, 2025
Thirteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

To Thee, Lord Jesus, Thanks We Give

J.S. Bach

Cantabile

Ludwig van Beethoven

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Pass It On

Fred Bock

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.**

Let us worship the Living God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 13

The Mighty God with Power Speaks

KINGSFOLD

***The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys;
from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays.***

***The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height shines forth;
and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.***

***God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds;
before God's face, the raging storm its blast of thunder sends.***

***All hail the Judge, in bold array whose promise is to bless;
who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.***

***The heavens declare your justice, Lord, as endless the sky;
against the taunts of disbelief, our God will testify.
Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks, as honor to your might;
refresh my faith with each new day; protect me through the night.***

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Personal Silent Confession

✠ Community Confession

by Kate Bowler

**Oh, God, this world and its peoples are hurting
and everywhere we look there is something to lament.
And here at home,
There are fresh disasters where recovery will be slow,
And some things are just gone now, never to be restored.
We look for hope that peace could break out,
That the hungry could be fed
And those in pain relieved of their suffering.
That parents would not fear for their children
nor leaders for their citizens.
And on and on.
God, when will relief come?
When will death be swallowed up forever, and all tears be wiped away?
When will come that promised time of everlasting joy,
And all things be made new?
Forgive us, o God for good news is hard to find.
Show us how we can be like you.
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

Be Still, My Soul
Chancel Choir

by Matthew Still

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Habbakuk 1:1-4

Pew Bible page 871

Message

Where Have All the Prophets Gone: Again...

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 786**

Why Stand So Far Away, My God?

MORNING SONG

Prayer Practice

Prayers of Lament

Prayer Writing Music

Loosen

by Aly Halpet

Paisley Lane, Meghan Usry, Bethany Wells; trio

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

Variations on "Amazing Grace"

by Keven Norris

Alice Walker, organ

✦ Hymn of 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



Being the Church in the World

✦ Sending Hymn 66

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

PENTECOST

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Cathedral Fanfare (after Agincourt)

Gordon Young



Worship Practices

Officer Nominations— 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.

Worship Art—Today's worship guide cover art is a mixed media piece by Kerri D. from Created in Layers. The following is an excerpt from the blog post about the creation of the piece.

This piece shows how broken, distorted, and layered lament, grief, and sorrow can look. Maybe you can see yourself in this piece as well? Pain is part of the human condition, but we have a Savior who meets us there and gives us life—gives us hope. Jesus, the Man of Sorrows who is acquainted with our grief, comforts us, just like he did for the women of Jerusalem. How much more is he there to comfort you!

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: “Layers of Lament” by Kerri D. | Retrieved from: <https://createdinlayers.com/layers-of-lament-creating-art-with-divine-inspiration/>



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Charles Ardis

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | Lily Wells, Parker Firkus

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	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 *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

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!

FPC KIDS CLUB 234

A new opportunity for our
2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders to
connect in fellowship!

FIRST EVENT:
TRAIL WALK & ICE CREAM
AT SCOOPS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
4:00PM-5:30PM
MEET AT LEGION FIELD TO
WALK CRICKET FROG TRAIL

TAILGATE NIGHT



YOUNG-ISH ADULTS

SEP. 15 | 5:30PM Sport your favorite
team's colors & bring a
tailgate food to share!
Childcare at FPC beginning at 5:00pm

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

Men's Prayer Breakfast



Sunday, September 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am Presbyterianism 101
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Welcoming New Members
- 4:00pm FPC Kids Club 234
- 5:00pm Youth Group

Monday, September 8

RSVP for Soul Feast

- 12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Presbyterian Women Kick-off

Tuesday, September 9

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
- 5:30pm Good Enough Book Club
- 7:00pm Stewardship Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 10

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

Thursday, September 11

- 11:30am Lunch Bunch

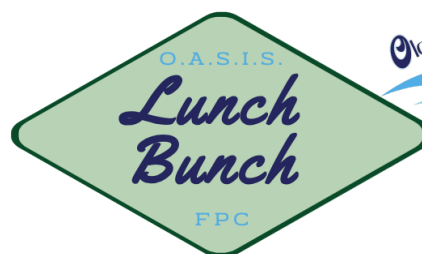
Saturday, September 13

- 7:15am Fuzz Run Volunteer Setup
- 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00am Sacred Arts Collective Meeting

Sunday, September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am Presbyterianism 101
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
- 12:15pm Faith Formation Team Meeting



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

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Theodosia Wade - recovering from shoulder surgery
- ✦ Those mourning the passing of Kim Fratesi, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty
- ✦ Peggy Harrison, friend of Miriam Wheeler - recovering from fall & hip surgery

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Tom Crews - recovering from fall at home
- ✦ Ruth Bradshaw, mother of Kim Lindsey - recovering from fall
- ✦ Kayla Legg, friend of Kim Lindsey - praying for a healthy full-term pregnancy
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo

- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ✦ Bill Loebble, 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

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

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



*Presbyterian Women
Kick-off Meeting
2025-2026*

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

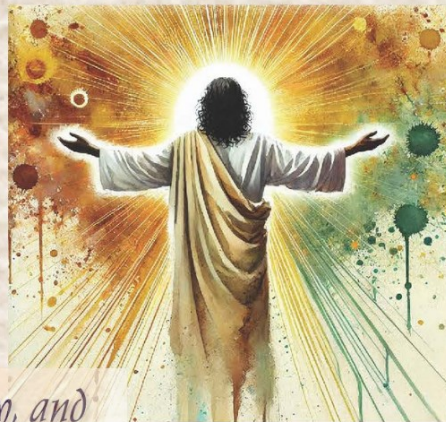
All women of the church are welcome to join us for dinner as we gather for a new year of circle meetings!

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



Join us...
at
McDonald's
4112 HWY 278 NE
Covington, GA 30014

**Tuesday, September 16, 2025
from 4:00PM-7:00PM**

Bring your family and friends on this special night to help raise money for First Presbyterian Community Preschool.

**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

Sunday School

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

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 28th**
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!

Prayers of Lament

A form of prayer that is an honest expression of our sorrows to God.

We learn about prayers of lament from the Psalms.

1. You are invited to read Psalm 13, 22, and/or 88. (The Psalms starts on page 489 of your pew bible)
2. Reflection questions: What jumped out at you? How did the psalmist address God? What did the psalmist cry out? How did the psalmist appeal to God? How does the psalmist trust God? How can you relate to the psalmist?

Writing your own prayers of lament...

A. Turn to God (An address to God)

B. Cry Out Your Complaint (Name the problem being seen or experienced and express it vividly before God)

C. Appeal for God to Hear and Respond (Know of God's faithfulness to hear us and meet us in the depths of our cries)

D. Confess Your Trust (Acknowledge that God is trustworthy)

...Amen

(Resource [Learning to Lament: A Guide to Praying In Our Hardest Moments](#) by Mitch Everingham)