



September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost



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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him

Charles Callahan

Come All Christians, Be Committed

David Cherwien

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Paul Taylor

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Give Thanks

Mark Hayes

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

written by our LOGOS kids

What is worship?

Believing in God

Learning about God

Listening to the Bible

Singing and Praying

Talking together as a family

Welcoming visitors

Time with God

Why do we come to church?

To worship God and choose God as our leader

To see our church family and build friendships

To sing

To acolyte

Because my mom and dad say we need to come to church!

Thanks be to God for the wisdom of children!

Let us worship the Living God!

✠Hymn of Praise 301

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

✠Call to Confession

✠Personal Silent Confession

✠Community Confession

by Bruce Gillette & Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too:
we want to be a friend of the world and still be your friend.
Yet, Jesus taught us: "No one can serve two masters."
Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight:
help us to seek your kingdom first.
Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world,
and to be friends with the people you call us to serve.
Help us also to remember that our best relationship
is the one we have with you.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Come, Share the Lord
Chancel Choir

arr. by Lloyd Larson

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Reader's Theater

Haggai 1:1-15

Pew Bible page 878

Gary Boteler, Amy Fraser, Steven Purvis, Debi Selin,
Theodosia Wade, Laramy Wells, Angie Woodham

Message

Where Have All the Prophets Gone:
Mixed Up Priorities

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 766**

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MC KEE

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

Grace Alone
Mark Fiddie, solo

by Scott W. Brown & Jeff Nelson

✠ **Response 503** *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation* ○ QUANTA QUALIA



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & 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 353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

Congregational Meeting

Nominating Committee

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Toccata

Léon Boëllmann



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 | Charles Ardis

Tech Team | Brad Hawley, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Kali Smith, Thornton Holder

Worship Art—Today’s worship guide cover art is a LEGO model of our church made by Kora Howell and MaryRentz Lane during a Kids Ministry Night.

First Presbyterian Church Staff		
Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff Hattie Bellinger Catrina Crowe Akeelah Fletcher Jahniyah Greene Jordyn Williams Sylvia Woods
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor	
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	
Denise Gabriel	Dir. of Community Preschool	
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	

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

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels network is comprised of 5,000 community-based programs across the country dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. FPC volunteers provide monthly food deliveries to our neighbors in the Covington Square Apartments directly across the street from the church.

A word from volunteer Yvonne Hill-Davenport:

The reason I participate in Meals on Wheels is because it reflects the core values of my faith-love, compassion, and it gives me the ability to serve others. By volunteering to deliver meals, I am living out the commandment to love my neighbor as myself. It is a way to show Christ's love in action, bringing not only food but also fellowship, friendship and hope to seniors who may be lonely or struggling. Serving through Meals on Wheels allows me to be a hands and feet of Jesus in my community, fulfilling my calling to serve others with kindness and humility. Join our ministry so you may share God's love to his people.



**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.

- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ 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 Loebler, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer
- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer

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

- ✦ Hardy Sideris - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton - recovering from surgery

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Reid Buckelew - 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



**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.

OASIS OUTING

MORGAN COUNTY

Join your OASIS friends as we visit one of the few single-artist museums in the country!

Steffen Thomas
Museum

SEPTEMBER 25

We will leave FPC at 10:00am

Cost: \$10 plus lunch

RSVP to Erin by Sept. 17

World Communion Sunday

WITH

STILLMAN COLLEGE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025
11:00AM**

IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

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!

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT
7:00PM ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS
**GONE FOR GOOD?: NEGOTIATING THE
COMING WAVE OF CHURCH PROPERTY
TRANSITION BY MARK ELSDON**

**FPC YOUTH
GROUP**
SEPTEMBER 21ST
5:00PM-7:00PM

**FPC KIDS
LEGO NIGHT**
★ SEPT. 24TH
5:30PM-7:00PM
JOIN US IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

TAILGATE NIGHT YOUNG-ISH ADULTS

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

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

Monday, September 15

- 5:30pm Young-ish Adults Night

Tuesday, September 16

- 4:00pm-7:00pm FPCP McTeacher's Night
- 5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

Wednesday, September 17

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 5:30pm Confirmation Class
- 5:45pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PCUSA Peace & Global Witness Offering

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:30am Godly Play following Children's Moment
- 5:00pm Youth Group

OUR GENEROSITY STORY



2026 FPC
STEWARDSHIP

Sunday, September 28th

our annual stewardship drive
will kick-off with this year's theme

"Our Generosity Story"

The best stories captivate and transform us—
they change how we live. This stewardship
season, we invite you to remember, release,
reimagine, and restore your generosity
stories so that we can write the one God is
begging us to live into.




**PURSUE
WHAT
MAKES
FOR
PEACE.**

ROMANS 14:19



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

 *Peace is active, not passive.
Peace is doing, not waiting.*

Grace Hope Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY, works with the nonprofit Guns to Gardens to collect and repurpose unwanted or decommissioned firearms to transform them into something constructive and useful, like garden tools, art or jewelry. The program nurtures peace and growth instead of violence.



Divinity student Adriana Soto Acevedo, from Puerto Rico, participated in the United Nation's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment. "Our job is to crack little rays of hope by connecting with one another, by learning of the struggles we each go through, and by being there for each other," she said.

For the past 12 years, Chester Presbyterian Church, in Chester, Virginia, has partnered with Marguerite Christian Elementary School to provide backpacks of food for children to take home over the weekend — as well as a drive-through café that meets the needs of 90 to 105 residents weekly.



To learn more, go to pcusa.org/peace-global for more information.

We are the Peacemakers

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Thank you!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Thank you for
your participation in the
Peace & Global Witness Offering.

IF WE ALL
DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP
TO A LOT!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your
congregation



Donate by
credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global



Text PCUSAPEACE
to 41444
or scan this QR code
for more information.

