



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

†Call to Worship

Turn us, O God,

away from the world's temptations and distractions.

Return us, O God,

to the quiet calm of your presence.

Restore us, O God,

to the path you call us to follow.

Orient us, O God,

to the hope of all that is possible through you.

Let us worship God.

†Hymn of Praise 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

(Canticle of the Turning) STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

†Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

Personal Silent Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

Water: Harper Holder

God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the hopeless.

Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your example.

We are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show mercy.

We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared.

We diminish and dehumanize those around us.

God of us all, hear this confession.

Receive it.

We ask for your forgiveness.

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

Help Us To Be Like Them
Chancel Choir; Aubrey Evans, flute

by Don Besig

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Joel 2:23-32

Pew Bible page 848

Message

Where Have All the Prophets Gone: Hope

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

†Response 787

God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn

MOSHIER

†Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

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

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

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 $rac{1}{2}$ during stewardship season. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general offering.



Offertory

Dr. Michael Collier, organ

Presponse 658

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

God is so good; God is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me. God cares for me; God cares for me; God cares for me; God's so good to me.

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

Harper Holder



Being the Church in the World

†Sending Hymn 716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

†Charge & Benediction

Postlude



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!

Our Mission—First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

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. Lituray by Teri McDowell Ott from the Presbyterian Outlook



Serving Today

Guest Organist | We welcome Dr. Michael Collier to worship this morning as a guest organist and we thank him for sharing his musical gifts with us at FPC!

Usher Chair | Charles Ardis

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, Lily Wells

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

i keaciiiig Out			
Sara Chini	Witness (2026)		
Stephanie Scarbord	ough Witness (2027)		
Engaging			
Charles Ardis	Faith Formation (2025)		
Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)		
Nichole Howell	Worship (2025)		
Hardy Fortson Side			
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 <i>Tl</i>	nriving Congregations (2026)		

Kenny Compton

John McCarthy

Jo Anna Fish

Danny Vining

Facilities (2026)

Personnel (2027)

Clerk of Session

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 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.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ♦ Penny Blakeney
- ♦ Dale Evans, friend of Billy Wade & former member - recovering from surgery
- * 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

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.

- + Randy Lawrence, friend of Terri Fullerton recovering from surgery
- ♦ 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 pregnancy
- P Dan Walden chemo
- P Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ♦ Bill Loeble, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer

- ♦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer
- + Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley -

Independent and Assisted Living

- † Penny Blakeney Prema at Ashton Hills
- 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





Sunday School

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



STORY

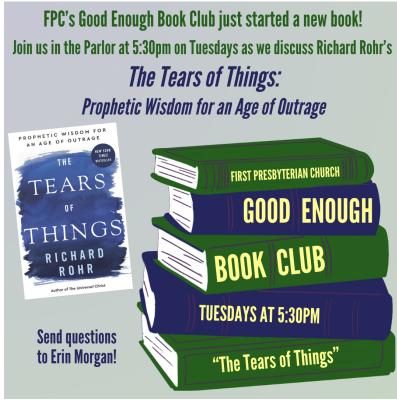
2026 FPC STEWARDSHIP

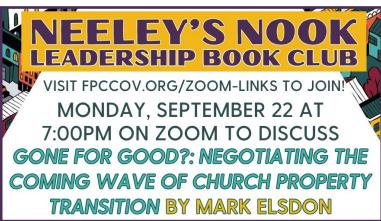
Sunday, September 28th our annual stewardship drive will kick-off with this year's theme

"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.

Life at FPC





OASIS OUTING

MORGAN COUNTY

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

We will leave FPC at 10:00am Cost: \$10 plus lunch RSVP to Erin by Sept. 17





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

Monday, September 22

7:00pm Neeley's Nook

Tuesday, September 23

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study

4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting 5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

7:00pm Thriving Congregations

Wednesday, September 24

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

5:30pm FPC Kids Lego Night

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 25

10:00am OASIS Outing—Steffen Thomas Museum

Sunday, September 28 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Kick-off!

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Final Presbyterianism 101

11:00am Worship—Our Generosity Story

12:30pm Session Meeting

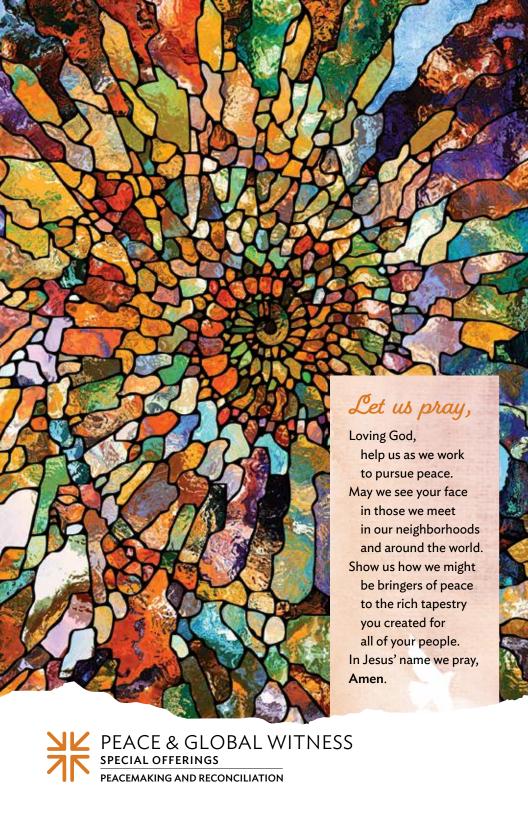


Have you been "visiting" for a while? Presbyterianism A three-week Sunday School class

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!



A Psalm of Peacemaking

(from Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling)

We live in a time of kairos,

when humanity stands on the border of a promised time,
when God's people are summoned
to obedience and faithfulness
to preserve God's creation,

to stand with the poor and oppressed everywhere, and to stand together as the people of the earth;

when with confession and with humility we repent of our blindness to the division and war in our own hearts and in our own land,

our obsession with money and our pursuit of power, our irrational belief in security through weaponry, and our worship of secular gods.

We are called

to be obedient to Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace,
who loves the whole world and
who invites us to be stewards of the earth and
servants of his people,
to be co-workers in the new Creation.



We are there LET US BE PEACEMAKERS.

Let us be called the children of God,
speaking boldly with moral conviction
to the nation and to the world,
building, with God's grace,
a new moral order in the world community; and
acting now for world peace,
an enterprise of justice, an outcome of love.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering brings us together to pursue peace in our own communities and around the world.

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

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

Please give what you can.

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

Thank you!



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.

