



September 28, 2025
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**OUR
GENEROSITY
STORY**

2026 FPC STEWARDSHIP



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Invitation to Stewardship

Tom & Erin Stillerman

✠ **Call to Worship**

Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed

May we remember

That God created.

May we remember

That God liberated.

May we remember

That God fed.

May we remember

**That God is *still* creating,
God is *still* liberating,
and God is *still* feeding us.**

Let this be our story.

Let this be where we begin.

Let us worship holy God.

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Personal Silent Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

Holy God,

We admit to remembering the wrong things.

We remember worldly lessons like,

"Everyone for themselves,"

"An eye for an eye," and

"All is fair in love and war."

And yet, we forget to forgive 70 times seven,

To love our neighbors as ourselves,

And to live like the body of Christ.

Why is it so hard to remember the right things?

Release us from our muscle memory and

Re-center us in a new place,

A fresh place,

A space grounded in your love.

Help us to receive your word anew,

And to consider stewardship not with the world's rules,

But with your rules.

Help us remember.

With hope we pray,

Amen.

✠ **Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Water: Parker Firkus

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✠ **Hymn 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)
We invite our children to come forward and to play shakers during this song!

***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	<i>He's Got the Whole World in His Hand</i>	Arr. by Margaret Bond
	Children's Choir	

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding	<i>Check Pulse Prayer</i>
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Scripture Reading	<i>Exodus 16:1-18</i>	Pew Bible page 62
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Gospel Reading	<i>Luke 22:1-23</i>	Pew Bible page 86
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Message	<i>Our Generosity Story: Remember</i>	Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane
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Responding to the Word

✦ **Response 691**

Lord, When I Came into This Life

LAND OF REST

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that creation was made good,
and Sabbath is necessary.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that we belong to one another,
for we are bone of bone and flesh of flesh.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that reconciliation between siblings is holy,
and slavery of any kind is evil.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that the wilderness is real,
and that God will be with us—
raining down manna and speaking in a still, small voice.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**that love looks like healing the sick,
eating with the outcast,
making room for the children,
and seeing the unseen.**

The story of God calls us to remember—

**because if we forget,
we risk making God, love, and reconciliation small.**

So as we remember, may we declare—

**we believe in a God who made all things good,
who stands with the suffering,
walks with us in the wilderness,**

**sees the overlooked,
loves with an untamed heart,
and makes room for all at God's table.**

Amen.

Prayer for Remembering

As you entered worship, you were handed a gold or silver pipe cleaner. We will use this pipe cleaner now for a kinesthetic prayer for remembering:

Friends, I invite you into a time of embodied prayer. You can leave your eyes open or close them—do what is most comfortable for you. Throughout our prayer, when you hear the word, “remember,” I invite you to slowly curl your pipe cleaner by holding one end in your hands and turning the tip inward. By the end of the prayer, your pipe cleaner will be curled into a round spiral. We will collect your pipe cleaner creations as part of our offering as a way to mark that we remember God is faithful and good. Our creations will be added to our mandala mosaic art project. While holding and shaping our pipe cleaners, let us pray.

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 last year’s stewardship season. Select “Non-Pledge” for a general offering.*



Offertory

*Elijah Rock
Chancel Choir*

Arr. by Roger Emerson

✠Response 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

***Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.***

(cont.)

*Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

*Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.*

✠Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

Gracious God,

As we come to you today in prayer, we admit that giving is complicated.
At times it is easier to remember our shame or guilt around giving,
as opposed to your joy or generosity.
We all have our money narratives, and they affect us in different ways.
So today as we offer our gifts to you,
we pray that you would re-center our narrative.

Remind us that we do not give out of shame or guilt.

We do not give out of obligation.

We do not give to feel worthy.

And we do not give to buy your grace.

We give out of a desire to participate.

We give as a sign of gratitude.

We give because we belong to one another.

We give to build a more just and equitable world.

We give because we love, and that's what love does.

So take these gifts and remind us that we belong to one another.

Remind us that all money narratives are welcome at this table.

**Remind us that whatever shame or guilt we bring with us
will be washed away with your empathy and love.**

Remind us, and then help us to build that more beautiful world.

In hope we pray,

Amen.



Being the Church in the World

✦ Sending Hymn 748

Go with Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON

***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.
(Repeat)***

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude



Our Generosity Story

Stewardship—"Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." *Luke 3:11*

We all have a generosity story. It might not be giving our second shirt to another, but it could be donating our time and resources to a local food pantry. It could be contributing to our congregational youth so they can experience celebrating and strengthening their faith with their peers at the Montreat Middle School Conference. It could be putting your offering in the collection plate at worship that allows us to hire and support our amazing FPC staff that keep our church running.

Generosity makes an impact. Whether we are aware of it or not, generosity changes the lives of others for the better and is a tool that allows us to love our neighbor as ourselves, as we are called to do from Jesus.

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 story so that we can all be a part of the story God is calling us to.

You can find Pledge Cards and our Time & Talent survey available in the Narthex, at fpccov.org/stewardship and in the e-news. We ask that they be returned by Commitment Sunday on October 26th by placing them in the offering plate, mailing or bringing them to the office, or emailing them to peni@fpccov.org.

We fully understand that financial promises are often just guesses right now, and you are always free to adjust your pledge at any time if you find your circumstances change. However, having an estimate of what we expect our financial resources to be allows us to create a responsible and reasonable budget and an action plan for our ministries in 2026.

Please join us in creating a generosity story for FPC that will help us return our tithes and talents to God and our neighbors.

Worship Art—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. Perhaps you have not before experienced art and stewardship combined. Maybe you’ve even thought of these subject matters as incongruous or unrelated. However, stewardship, like art-making, is a spiritual practice.

Throughout the stewardship season we will create simple art elements through worship (no “art skills” required!) which will be pieced together to make a mandala mosaic banner to illustrate our generosity to the Lord, the church, and to each other. This project is designed to help us as a church family tangibly mark our progress throughout our stewardship season. Interweaving art elements into our worship we will create a mandala mosaic.

What is a mandala? Meaning “circle” in Sanskrit, a mandala is a geometric, circular design used in Buddhist and Hindu traditions for meditation and prayer. Often, the design of the mandala represents a cosmos or universe and is used for spiritual transformation and healing. The mandala template used in this project nods to this Eastern tradition. The imagery within the rings of the mandala correspond to the scriptures in our four-weeks-long stewardship series, “Our Generosity Story.” Our hope that through our creative process in bringing this mandala to life it will be a gift to our church family!

Cover Art—Today’s worship guide cover art is a digital painting inspired by Exodus 16:1-18 titled *Enough* by Hannah Garrity. The following is the artist’s statement on the piece:

We have enough... I have been contemplating this phrase for the last two years. We recently moved. In the process, we downsized. How could so many things that I remembered paying money for now become so irrelevant that I would choose to put them in the trash? My Honda Accord had to hold our bags, the inflatable bed, the two

children, and me. Sitting on my front stoop, I slowly realized that I had to send everything else to the dump. I had two hours.

For \$50/load, a junk mover would take everything left in the house in the back of a blue pickup truck. Four loads. I had always contributed one trash can per week to the landfill. This was different. It was jarring. I began to feel lighter, but heavier at the same time. Why had I purchased all of these things? Enough is better than more, more, more.

In this painting, I have overlaid my empty hand with sets of circles. The guilloché-style patterning is used by treasuries all over the world to secure paper currency by making it too intricate to counterfeit. Here, guilloché circles represent my deeply personal relationship with the money that supports our lives. Some money falls past my hand, some into my hand. Moses advises the people: take only what you need, one omer each. In this piece, the idea of enough money is layered with the idea of enough sustenance through manna. The manna is portrayed by another set of circles, reminiscent of the wafers that are used in some traditions as Communion bread. Enough. Thank you, God, for providing enough, that I would take what I need.



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. Stewardship series adapted from “Our Money Story” | Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed | Graphic design and mandala art template by Lauren Wright Pittman | Mandala art project designed by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Cover art “Enough” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Serving Today

Guest Organist | We welcome Phillip Skerrett 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 | Kenny Compton, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | Lily Wells, Valerie Morgan

First Presbyterian Church Staff		
Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor	Nursery Staff
Erin Morgan	Associate Pastor	
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Hattie Bellinger
Denise Gabriel	Dir. of Community Preschool	Catrina Crowe
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Akeelah Fletcher
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Jahniyah Greene
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	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	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	Preschool (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish	Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session
Danny Vining	Personnel (2025)



Ministry Spotlight

Intergenerational Summer Mission Trip

Each summer we offer a yearly opportunity to serve on a week-long mission trip. Mission trips combine service work with spiritual growth, giving participants the opportunity to deepen their faith while helping neighbors in need. If you are interested in helping us plan and/or organize the 2026 mission trip we invite you to check "Join the Mission Trip Planning Team" on your Time & Talent!

A word from our youth Audrey Fullerton about her time on the 2025 mission trip:

I thought the mission trip would be staying in a church the whole day in worship with only breaks for meals. Instead, the food was way better, and we went to kitchens and food pantries and worked. I learned how to make chicken salad. There were a lot of things for everyone to do, even kids, and make a difference. I enjoyed playing kickball with the other kids at Thornwell Children's Home.

I think I made the most difference at the food pantry at Montmorenci UMC because there were so many people who came through for food, and many of them were immigrants. My job there was to work at a table where people could select food, but also to remind them to leave enough for the next family. I liked giving candy to the kids who came through the line.

During the trip I got to know Mrs. Julie better. I helped her get up the stairs and learned that it can be hard for her to get around in some places. I realized that in a lot of places where I can get around easily, some other people can't. Before the trip I didn't know her very well, but now I feel like I know her better. She is really nice.

I saw God in the people that worked or volunteered at each place. They seemed so enthusiastic to help people and to get other people to help.



**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.

- ✦ Louly Hay - recovering after hospital stay
- ✦ Pam Stillerman - upcoming surgery
- ✦ Ken Walker - in hospital with COVID & pneumonia
- ✦ Vinda Wiebe, daughter of Peggy Stallings - in hospital recovering from accident
- ✦ Penny Blakeney
- ✦ Dale Evans, friend of Billy Wade & former member - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer

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

- ✦ 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.

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer

- ✦ Bill Loebke, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Lenny Hastad, friend of the Hooten family - cancer

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

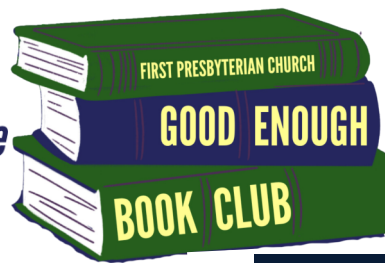
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

FPC's Good Enough Book Club just started a new book!

Join us in the Parlor at 5:30pm on Tuesdays as we discuss Richard Rohr's

The Tears of Things:

Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage



Sunday School

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

BE A PART OF OUR WORSHIP ART STORY

2026 FPC STEWARDSHIP

*We invite you all to join us
for a time of prayer and art
as we create together!*

*Meeting in the Sanctuary
Dates and Times:*

October 1st | 4:30-5:30pm

October 8th | 4:00-5:00pm

October 22nd | 4:00-5:00pm

October 29th | 5:00-6:00pm

*For more information contact:
neelely@fpccov.org*

**THREE INSTRUMENT
SONIC SPECTACULAR**
ORGAN & DUAL PIANOS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
AT 3:00PM**

Special Concert By
Bill Callaway, Becky Ramsey, Alice Walker

World Communion
Sunday WITH
STILLMAN COLLEGE

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

IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

SOUL FEAST



OCT. 8
5:15PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP for dinner by Oct. 6th to
catherine@fpccov.org
or by putting a "serve" card with
your name in the offering plate

Adults: \$8
Kids: \$5
Family max: \$30
Proceeds will support
FPCP programs!

**PANCKAES &
PAJAMAS**
hosted by First Pres
Community Preschool



Wear your favorite pajamas and come enjoy
some hot pancakes made by the Preschool Staff.
They can't wait to share what
they have been up to with you!

**JOIN US ON THE
BAR OSCAR PATIO**  **YOUNG-ISH
ADULTS**

OCT. 6 | 5:30PM
AT BAR OSCAR ON THE SQUARE

Childcare at
FPC beginning
at 5:00pm



Presbyterian Women

Rahab Circle: Meets Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

1st Wed. at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Childcare included!

Elizabeth Ann Circle: Meets Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

1st Tues. at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall & on Zoom!

Martha Circle: Meets Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

1st Tues. at 10:30am in the homes of circle members!



Order Adults Sharing In Service
O.A.S.I.S. at FPC

11:30AM | OCT. 9
LIVE AT LUNCH CONCERT
ON THE SQUARE

Sunday, September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Kick-off!

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Our Generosity Story

12:30pm Session Meeting

Monday, September 29

5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 30

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study

5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

6:30pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 1

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

4:30pm Worship Art Story

5:30pm Confirmation Class

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm PW Rahab Circle

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 2

Budget Requests Due

10:00am FPCP Chapel

7:00pm Sacred Arts Commission Meeting

Sunday, October 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Officer Training

11:00am Worship—Stillman College Choir

5:00pm Youth Group

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

**Pack a lunch and bring a lawn chair to hear
some live country music on the square with
your OASIS friends on October 9!**