



World Communion Sunday



OCTOBER 5, 2025

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

*First Presbyterian
Church Covington*



✠ *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

Fugue on BACH #3

Robert Schumann

Welcome & Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Randy Layton & Beth Vining

✠ **Call to Worship**

from Iona Abby Worship Book

We gather here in your presence, O God,

In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

**Font Side: We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,
 And you know by experience what human life is like.**

**Choir Side: We come with our faith and our doubts,
 Our hopes and fears, our triumphs and tears.**

**ALL: We come as we are, because you invite us to come,
 And you promise to never turn us away.**

✠ **Hymn of Praise 515**

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

At this time all are invited to bring forth your items from home and place them on the communion table!

***I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.***

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.*

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Personal Silent Confession

✠ Community Confession

As we come today to your great table, O God,
we realize how small we have made our own.
Our vision of your grace is too narrow.
Our awareness of your mercy is too limited.
Our understanding of your kingdom always falls short.
We forget we are all connected as one human family.
Hear our prayers and forgive our shortcomings.
Raise our eyes, lift our hearts, and inflate our spirits,
so that we may live joyfully and abundantly in the manner of Jesus.
Amen.

✠ Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Water: Thornton Holder

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 instruments 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

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Pew Bible page 211

Message

Rekindle

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response**

Pass It On

From the United Methodist Hymnal

Unison

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire
 2. What a won - drous time is spring, when all the trees are
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that

go - ing, and soon all those a - round can
 bud - ding; the birds be-gin to sing, the
 I've found; you can de-pend on him, it

warm up in its glow-ing. That's how it is with
 flow - ers start their bloom-ing. That's how it is with
 mat - ters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the

God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you spread his love to
 God's love once you've ex - pe-ri-enced it; you want to sing, it's
 moun-tain-top; I want my world to know; the Lord of love has

ev - ery-one; you want to pass it on.
 fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 come to me, I want to pass it on.

WORDS: Kurt Kaiser, 1969
 MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON
 Irr.

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

✠Response 525

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

✠Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2025

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.

Blessed are you, O God our Creator,

whose image dwells in every face of the human family.

In the faces of the matriarchs and patriarchs of Israel,

we see your desire to raise up a chosen people.

In the faces of judges and rulers,

we behold the sanctity of your law.

In the faces of your priests and prophets,

we witness your passion for justice and righteousness.

So now, joined with the global chorus
of our siblings in Christ around the world,
we glorify you and pray for the day when
the earth will be filled with the knowledge of you
as waters upon the face of the sea.

When the world could wait no longer,
you sent your Son into the world
to show us your many faces:

**Unexpected child,
Unwelcomed refugee,
Unhoused wayfarer,
Teacher and rebel,
Healer and provocateur,
Lover of the unlovable,
Toucher of the untouchable,
Forgiver of the unforgiveable,
Loved by the least, feared by authority,
Friend of the weak, foe of the strong.**

In all of these faces,
we beheld love's true form
until the world could stand him no longer,
so we made him a cross.
When heaven could wait no longer, O God,
you the broke powers of death
and raised Christ to new life.

**Come, Mighty Spirit, upon this bread and cup
that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.**

As once you set your face to Jerusalem to relieve your people's suffering once
and for all—send now your Holy Spirit to
the children around the world, starving and tired of being starved...
the people of Burundi, impoverished and tired of being impoverished...
the people of Ukraine, war-ravaged and tired of being war-ravaged..
the people of El Salvador, corrupted and tired of being corrupted...

the people of North Korea, silenced and tired of being silenced...
the people of the United States, divided and tired of being divided.

**By your Spirit unite all peoples in Christ
until we feast with him and all the saints in light.**

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God,
now and forever.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Whatever you have done in your past, whatever you may be in your future,
you are present here and this table is for you!

These are the gifts of God
for the people of God!

*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.*

Communion Music

Crowded Table

The Highwomen

Jodi Atkins, Aubrey Evans, Bethany Wells (trio)

Prayer After Communion

**We thank you, God, for the bread of new creation with which we have been
fed. We thank you, for being guests of the risen Christ in whom we have**

been blest. Now send us, as leaven from heaven, abounding with your healing grace, to love and serve and never cease until the world fills with Christ's peace. Amen.



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 498** *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* BEACH SPRING

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude** *Fugue on BACH #5* Robert Schumann



Worship Practices & Notes

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!

Cover art—Today's worship guide cover art is painting titled "The Lord's Supper" from the 1973 Cameroonian JESUS MAFA series. JESUS MAFA is a response to the

New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

Stewardship—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. These give us an estimate of what we expect our financial resources to be and 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—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 is that through our creative process in bringing this mandala to life it will be a gift to our church family!

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. Art: JESUS MAFA. The Lord's Supper, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48272> [retrieved October 2, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>



Serving Today

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

Usher Chair | Gary Boteler **Acolyte** | Kali Smith

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

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.



1169 Clark Street SW Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org 770.786.7321

SOUL FEAST



OCT. 8
5:15PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP for dinner by Oct. 6th to
catherine@fpc cov.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!

**PANCAKES &
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!

**FPC YOUTH
GROUP**
OCTOBER 5TH
5:00PM-7:00PM

**UPCOMING
DATES:**
OCT. 5
OCT. 19
NOV. 2

**PLUS SOUL
FEAST NIGHTS**
OCT. 8TH
@ 5:15PM



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!

Sat., Oct. 11 at 8:00am
Town House Café

**Men's
Prayer
Breakfast**



Sunday, October 5
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School
9:45am Officer Training
11:00am Worship—World Communion Sunday
5:00pm Youth Group

Monday, October 6

RSVP for Soul Feast

12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
5:30pm Young-ish Adults

Tuesday, October 7

10:00am PW Elizabeth Ann Circle
10:30am PW Martha Circle
12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
4:00pm Endowment Team Meeting
5:30pm Good Enough Book Club

Wednesday, October 8

10:00am Coffee and Conversation
3:30pm Staff Meeting
4:00pm Worship Art Story
5:00pm LOGOS for Kids
5:15pm Pancakes & PJS Soul Feast
5:30pm Youth Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 9

10:00am FPCP Chapel
11:30am Lunch Bunch
5:00pm Personnel Team Meeting

Saturday, October 11

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, October 12
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School
9:45am Officer Training
11:00am Worship

**JOIN US ON THE
BAR OSCAR PATIO**

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

**YOUNG-ISH
ADULTS**

Childcare at
FPC beginning
at 5:00pm

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Cathy Dobbs - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Pam Stillerman - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Alice Walker - COVID
- ✦ Ken Walker - recovering at home from hospital stay
- ✦ Glenn Hayes, brother of Brenda Howell - third consecutive foot surgery
- ✦ Louly Hay - recovering after hospital stay
- ✦ Vonda Wiebe, daughter of Peggy Stallings - in hospital recovering from accident
- ✦ Dale Evans, friend of Billy Wade & former member - recovering from 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.

- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Theodosia Wade - recovering from shoulder surgery
- ✦ Peggy Harrison, friend of Miriam Wheeler - recovering from fall & hip surgery
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty - stage IV pancreatic cancer

- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo

- ✦ Bill Loebke, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Penny Hale Blakeney as they mourn her passing on Saturday, September 27, 2025. A service will be held at Wheeler Funeral Home on October 6 at 10:00am.

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ 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

MONSTER MASH BASH

OCTOBER 26TH | 5:00PM- 7:00PM

Come dressed to impress in your creepiest, funniest, or most creative Halloween costume . Enjoy a costume contest, bounce house, Kona Ice, time and talent fair, trunk or treat, and more.

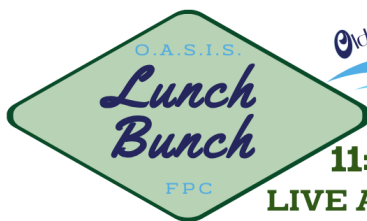
The Monster Mash Bash is in part Stewardship's Commitment Sunday Celebration AND a Halloween event!

If you'd like to signup for a "Trunk or Treat" parking spot contact Pastor Erin Morgan or if you'd like to sign your group or ministry up for a table at the Time & Talent Fair contact Erin Stillerman. Trunk and Table sign ups are due by October 19th!

Change the World Day is on October 25th from 11am-2pm

Witness committee is asking for diaper donations to help families in need. Drop your donations into the bin in the narthex by Oct. 19!

Our witness team will have a booth at Change the World Day to let us reach out and connect to people in our community of all ages! If you'd like to volunteer **please reach out to Stephanie Scarborough, Sara Chini, or Erin Morgan!**



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

11:30AM | OCT. 9

**LIVE AT LUNCH CONCERT
ON THE SQUARE**

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

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 2026 FPC STEWARDSHIP STORY

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

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

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

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

Stewardship Worship Art

For our creative addition to our mandala mosaic this week, we are curious...

What or who is a gift to you?

What is a gift you have been giving that you are thankful for?

How can you be a gift to the world?

Your answers will be added to our stewardship worship art this week! Join us as we prayerfully place your answers on our mosaic on October 8 from 4pm-5pm in the Sanctuary.

You may place your answers in the offering plate when it comes by or the baskets in the narthex when you leave worship.