

October 19, 2025
Nineteenth 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

I Love to Tell the Story

Michael J. Glasgow

A New Name in Glory

Henry Slaughter

Trumpet Tune

John Stanley

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Welcome & Announcements

Stewardship Moment

Kenny Compton

✦ **Call to Worship**

Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed

Can you imagine unfettered love? Free and bold, wild and true, the kind of love that changes you? Can you imagine a home—safe and bright, With impromptu dancing, meals around table, and laughter late into the night? Can you imagine faith like a compass That guides the way you shop and vote, the way you love and hope; That asks questions and yet still believes, even despite uncertainty? Can you imagine a world where trees, bees, and all living things grow wild and free? Where peace is the narrative and hope the currency? A world where news stories are testimonies and funerals are far between? Can you imagine?

Yes, we can imagine.

Today in worship, dare to dream. Dare to imagine what could be.

And pay attention, for God is here, in wandering thoughts, hopes, and prayers.

Let us worship holy God, that great unfettered love.

✦ **Praise Hymn 681** *This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made* NUN DANKET ALL UND BRINGET HER

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Personal Silent Confession**

✠Community Confession

God of Grace, You invite us to dream of a better world,
But instead we bury our heads in the sand.
We are afraid to recognize how much must change.
We are afraid, because if we know the truth,
then don't we have a job to do?

So instead, more often than not, we maintain the status quo.

We passively allow things to stay the same.

We don't speak out; we don't imagine a new day.

We don't dream of a world without racism, sexism, bigotry, or shame.

Instead we allow ourselves to believe that some things will never change.

Forgive us. Show us the way. Teach us to dream.

Teach us to imagine again.

Humbly we pray, Amen.

✠Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Water: Valerie Morgan

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

Chuck Williams

Anthem

Make Me a Servant
Chancel Choir

by Benjamin Harlan

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:38-44
Leviticus 19:9-1, 25:8-12

Pew Bible page 49
Pew Bible page 106

Message

Our Generosity Story: Reimagine

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 689**

When the Morning Stars Together

WIESSE FLAGGEN

✠ **Affirmation of Faith**

Charles Ardis

We believe in God the Creator, who, like a painter with a canvas, imagined creation and breathed it into being. We believe in Jesus, who many years later, walked this hurting world and showed us a new way to love. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who prods us and pulls us, leads us and guides us, carries us and loves us into new life, day after day. And we believe in the power of imagination, a gift from God that allows us to dream dreams, create anew, start over, try again, and live lives of hope. So in response, together, as God's church, We dare to dream. We strive to love. We try to imagine a new day. And we walk together, All with God's help. Amen.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Charles Ardis

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

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

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
Alice Walker

by Rick Pounds

✠ Response 606

Doxology

OLD HUNREDTH

***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

Jesus of Nazareth, In scripture we hear of a woman who gave her last coin away.
You pointed her out, but you did not say, "Go and do likewise."

**So we cannot help but wonder—did you point her out to ask,
"Why does this one have so little when others have so much?"**

Did you point her out to help us see the injustice that led to her suffering?
Maybe.

**So today, for her, and for you, and for every person who cannot afford to
give to God and put food on the table, we offer our gifts. We pray that
you would use them for your good. Right what is wrong. Balance the
systems of injustice. Use these gifts to build the world that we can only
imagine but you can bring forth. In hope we pray, Amen.**



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

God's Salvation Is Come to Earth

J.S. Bach



Our Generosity Story

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.

Cover Art—Today's worship guide cover art is a digital painting inspired by Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:8-12 titled *Jubilee* by Lauren Wright Pittman. The artist's statement was written in April 2020, in the surge of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19; however, the artist hopes the message of rest is relevant to you no matter when you read these words. The following is the artist's statement on the piece:

In the Year of Jubilee, God offers rest—a break for farmers, relief for those experiencing economic injustice, and Sabbath for the land. This radical rest is counter to the rhythm of our lives; it resists valued ideologies like efficiency and productivity and has broad economic implications. Jubilee has remained a theoretical, hopeful concept tucked away in scripture. This kind of radical slowing down is difficult to imagine, however... so is a global, economy-halting pandemic.

Rest feels unnatural in a pandemic, but it's available to us if we are willing to receive it. Rest slows our vision and illuminates gifts that normally whirl by us. While sheltering in place, I've searched for positivity, and during such great loss, I've found more—more time, space, and color. I found a patch of mint in my yard, and the scent became my soul's balm. Rest offers recovery. The earth is thriving with a break from

humanity. Scientists are seeing significant decreases in air pollution and animals are returning to previously uninhabitable waterways.

Rest offers perspective. God does not want us worn ragged, reaping the maximum extent of our harvest. God wants new eyes for us to recognize broken systems so we can enact change that sustains everyone: “You shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God” (v.10). God is found in the connective tissue of our relationships to our neighbor—particularly those most vulnerable.

Rest reminds us of our interconnectedness. Despite physical distancing, people are rediscovering one another while longing for and celebrating every moment of connection. Despite future insecurity, people are finding innovative ways to support one another. Rest uncovers the enoughness in our lives, and as my dear mentor used to say, “Enough is abundance.” What will we glean from this time of rest?

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. Our hope that through our creative process in bringing this mandala to life it will be a gift to our church family!

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		Preschool (2026)
Kenny Compton		Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish		Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy		Clerk of Session
Danny Vining		Personnel (2025)



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!

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 “Jubilee” by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Gary Boteler

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Dan Walden

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, Kali Smith



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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.

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Eleanor Scarborough
- ✦ Austin Belknap, friend of Angie Woodham - breast cancer
- ✦ Parker Ford, friend of Angie Woodham - cancer
- ✦ Ruth Bradshaw, mother of Kim Lindsey - returning home for physical therapy following fall
- ✦ Mr. Mosley, friend of Ruby Wells - seizures
- ✦ Sherri Thomas, friend of Kim Lindsey - recovering from blood clots in lungs
- ✦ Cathy Dobbs - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Pam Stillerman - recovering from surgery
- ✦ Alice Walker - asthma
- ✦ Ken Walker - recovering at home from hospital stay
- ✦ Glenn Hayes, brother of Brenda Howell - third consecutive foot surgery

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Louly Hay - recovering after hospital stay
- ✦ Vonda Wiebe, daughter of Peggy Stallings - recovering from accident
- ✦ Dale Evans, friend of Billy Wade & former member - recovering from surgery
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Kayla Legg, friend of Kim Lindsey - praying for a healthy pregnancy
- ✦ Bill Loebler, friend of Billy Wade & former member - cancer

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

- ✦ Dan Walden - chemo

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 was held on October 6.

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

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

CHANGE THE WORLD

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

Children's Class (PreK-4th)
Youth Class (5th+)
Foundations Adult Class
The Wired WORD

Change the World Day is on October 25th from 11:00am-2:00pm

Witness committee is asking for diaper donations to help families in need. Drop your donations into the bin in the narthex TODAY, October 19th!

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!***



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

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

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

NOVEMBER 2ND ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Submit names of loved ones who have passed within the last year by emailing catherine@fpccov.org OR by writing their names & "All Saints" on a "Pray" card for the offering plate.

Submission deadline to be included in the bulletin is October 28th



MONSTER MASH BASH

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

The Monster Mash Bash is both Stewardship's Commitment Sunday Celebration AND a Halloween event with FPCP!

If you'd like to signup for a "Trunk or Treat" parking spot contact Pastor Erin Morgan at erin@fpccov.org or if you'd like to sign your group or ministry up for a table at the Time & Talent Fair contact Erin Stillerman at erin.c.stillerman@gmail.com

Trunk and Table sign ups are both due TODAY, October 19th!



Come dressed to impress in your creepiest, funniest, or most creative Halloween costume. Enjoy a costume contest, bounce house, Kona Ice, Time & Talent Fair, Trunk or Treat, and more!

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 7:00PM
ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS

**GONE FOR GOOD?: NEGOTIATING THE
COMING WAVE OF CHURCH PROPERTY
TRANSITION BY MARK ELSDON**

FPC KIDS PUMPKIN PAINTING

OCT. 22ND

5:30PM-7:00PM

JOIN US IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL
FOOD PROVIDED



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Sunday, October 19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Trunk or Treat signup deadline

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Officer Training

11:00am Worship

11:30am Godly Play following Children's Moment

12:00pm Cider & Doughnuts on the Lawn

5:00pm Youth Group

Monday, October 20

5:30pm FPCP Board Meeting

7:00pm Neeley's Nook Book Club

Tuesday, October 21

12:00pm Lectio Divina

5:00pm FPCP YourPie Spirit Night
-8:00pm

Wednesday, October 22

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

3:30pm Staff Meeting

4:00pm Worship Art Story

5:30pm Kids Pumpkin Painting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, October 25

9:00am Meals on Wheels

11:00am Change the World Day
-2:00pm

Sunday, October 26

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Commitment Sunday!

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Officer Training

11:00am Worship—Committing our Time,
Talents, & Tithes for 2026!

12:00pm Witness Team Meeting

5:00pm Monster Mash Bash: Trunk or Treat, Time
& Talent Fair, & Costume Contest!

5:00pm Youth Group

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 4:30PM ON THE PLAYGROUND

GRAB YOUR LAWN CHAIR AND BRING ALL YOUR
BELOVED PETS FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING



OUR GENEROSITY STORY

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

For 2026, I/we will give (choose one):

_____ dollars weekly.

_____ dollars monthly.

_____ dollars annually.

**This pledge may be revised at anytime
by notifying our Finance Administrator**

Thanks to your gift of money, FPC
can continue existing to glorify God
by welcoming all of God's children
through serving, teaching, praying,
eating, crying, singing, and dancing
with the Holy Spirit.

*"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*



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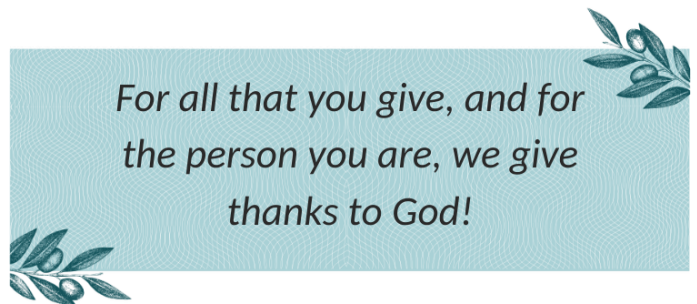
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

**Whether we are
aware of it or not,
generosity changes
the lives of others
for the better**



In 2026, I pray that
God will work
through FPC so that
together we can...

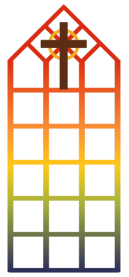
*For all that you give, and for
the person you are, we give
thanks to God!*





Time & Talent

2026 FPC STEWARDSHIP Survey



Giving our **Time & Talent** is an expression of gratitude for all the gifts God has given us.
As God's children we get to participate in God's work as a community and a church.
By Reaching Out, Engaging, Connecting, and Belonging we can reach our goal together!

Name _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Currently at FPCC I am ___a member ___an active visitor ___looking to become a member

___ Check here if you typically need childcare so we can better plan for our nursery!

*Listed below are the various ministry teams of First Presbyterian Church. Please check the areas where you feel called to serve then return this form to the office or offering plate. Where can you use your talents to help make us all faithful stewards of God's church? **Check ANY and ALL that call to you!***

___ **Serve the church as an Elder or Deacon**

___ Join the Thriving Congregations Team

___ Serve on Finance & Stewardship Team

___ Join the Stewardship Team

___ Help count and make church deposits

___ Serve on the Audit Team

___ Serve on the Endowment Committee

___ Volunteer in the office

___ Answer phones ___ Prepare mailings

___ Help print and prepare worship guide

___ **Serve on the Welcome Team**

___ Greet visitors on Sunday mornings

___ Reach out to visitors

___ Be a host family for new members

___ Help put together welcome bags

___ **Serve on the Worship Team**

___ Be an Usher

___ Read in worship as a Liturgist

___ Serve on the Tech Team

___ Assist Acolytes

___ Volunteer with the Children's Choir

___ Sing in the Chancel Choir

___ Ring in the Handbell Choir

___ Play an instrument or sing in worship

___ Help decorate for Christmas

___ Help with Special Worship Services
(World Communion, Maundy Thursday, etc.)

___ Set up for Communion

___ Bake bread for Communion

___ Help replenish offering cards in the pews

___ Serve on the Faith & Fellowship Team

- ___ Help at Soul Feast
- ___ Set Up ___ Cook ___ Cleanup
- ___ Help out with Campfire Church
- ___ Help prep for Lemonade on the Lawn
- ___ Join Coffee Club
- ___ Attend Men's Prayer Breakfast
- ___ Join Presbyterian Women
- ___ Sing with the Singing Ambassadors

___ Serve on the Pastoral Care Team

- ___ Participate in OASIS Outings
- ___ Attend Lunch Bunch
- ___ Follow up with those on the prayer list
- ___ Help with funerals
- ___ Assist with pastoral care visits
- ___ Assist with at home communion

___ Serve on the Facilities & Grounds Team

- ___ Assist on scheduled work days to cleanup around the building
- ___ Help with minor repairs and improvements at the church
- ___ Assist with the Memorial Garden
- ___ Water and care for indoor plants
- ___ Help pickup recycling
- ___ Serve on the Security Team

Did we miss anything?

Other ways I wish to volunteer at First Presbyterian Church

Other ways I am involved in the community

___ Serve on the Faith Formation Team

- ___ Join Good Enough Book Club
- ___ Lectio Divina: Pastors' Bible Study
- ___ Attend Young-ish Adult Nights
- ___ Help plan Young-ish Adult activities
- ___ Volunteer with the youth
- ___ Volunteer with children
- ___ Godly Play ___ LOGOS ___ Nursery
- ___ Assist with Vacation Bible School
- ___ Organize worship bags for kids
- Be a Sunday School Teacher:
 - ___ Children ___ Youth ___ Adults

___ Serve on the Witness Team

- ___ Join the Mission Trip Planning Team
- ___ Volunteer at Blood Drives
- ___ Help with Change the World Day
- ___ Deliver Meals on Wheels
- ___ Join the Sandwich Ministry
- ___ Volunteer at the Community Food Pantry
- ___ Clean up Newton Trails
- ___ Tutor at Fairview Elementary
- ___ Participate in advocacy work for the unhoused

We thank you for expressing your thoughtful interest in sharing your Time & Talents with us!