







### Gathering As God's Beloved People

**Gathering Music** 

Rise Up, Ye Saints of God These Things Shall Be Am I a Soldier of the Cross?

FESTAL SONG by Seth Bingham by Carolyn Hamlin

**Invitation to Worship** 

**Choral Introit** 

Life is a Gift Chancel Choir

by Joseph Martin

**Prelude** 

Make Me a Servant

by Kelly Willard

**Welcome & Announcements** 

**Stewardship Moment** 

Aubrey Evans & Ruby Wells

**†Call to Worship** 

Liturgy by Sarah Are Speed

In worship we tell a story:

A story of an unfettered love that changed the world.

In worship we tell a story:

A story of how we live and how we long to live.

In worship we tell a story:

Because we are forgetful people.

So may we remember who we are.

May we release the narratives that trap us.

May we reimagine this world to see what God sees.

And may we work toward restoration.

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

Let us worship holy God.

#### **†Call to Confession**

We invite you into a time of embodied prayer using the pipe cleaner you were handed as you entered worship this day. During our communal prayer of confession, you may slowly shape your pipe cleaner into a heart. As we pray, may we remember all the ways God's love restores us no matter the harm we have caused or neglected or received. Let us pray:

#### **†Personal Silent Confession**

#### **†Community Confession**

Holy God,

To restore is to bring back;

So today we bring our hearts back to you,

our thoughts back to love,

and our prayers back to peace.

We try to stay in this place, but we confess,

it's never been that easy for us.

We flirt with reconciliation

and then back away.

We come face-to-face with an opportunity for justice,

but get scared.

We are offered an opportunity to re-write our story,

but we lose our way.

Bring us back to this moment.

Bring us back to your story

where neighbors extend grace to one another

and even the one who denied it was forgiven.

Bring us back. Restore us. Forgive us. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

#### **†Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

Water: Lorene Atkins

**†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

Stewardship Stories from our Youth

**Children's Anthem** 

Magic Penny Children's Choir by Malvina Reynolds

**Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding** 

Scripture Reading John 21:1-19 Pew Bible page 116

**Special Music** Goodness of God by Cece Winans

**Ansley Stewart** 

Message Our Generosity Story: Restore Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

## Responding to the Word

**†Response 697** 

Take My Life

**HENDON** 

#### **†Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a restoring God,

Who restores our bodies through the gift of Sabbath.

We believe in a restoring God,

Who restores our souls through the gift of grace and second chances.

We believe in a restoring God,

Who restores this hurting world through the gift of mercy and God's son Jesus Christ.

And we believe in a restoring God who invites us to join in this restoration work.

As people of faith, we seek to restore creation to God by feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors, forgiving seventy times seven, welcoming the children, seeing all, loving all, and living like we belong to all.

And so we will work until God's promised day.

This we believe. Amen.

# **A Litany for Reformation Sunday**Compiled by Rev. Susan Carter Wiggins Composed of excerpts from the Creeds, Catechisms,

and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

#### ONE:

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

#### ALL:

We confess and acknowledge one God alone distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,

to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.

#### CHOIR:

We believe that

we belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **ORGAN SIDE:**

We believe that

all things are governed by the Providence of God.

#### **FONT SIDE:**

We believe that

the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

#### **CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

We believe that the chief end of humankind is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

#### ALL:

We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

#### CHOIR:

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

#### MEN:

We believe that the life, death, resurrection,

and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

#### WOMEN:

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ.

Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force.

At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought.

Our unity must become visible to the world.

#### ONE:

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ.

Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

#### ALL:

With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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

Give A Little Bit
Ansley Stewart

by Roger Hodgson

#### **†The Commitment of Our Treasures**

You should have received a pledge card and a Time & Talent survey in your worship guide today. We invite you to walk these and/or your offering to the front of the Sanctuary and place it on the Lord's Table! If you've already submitted your pledge, we invite you to write your prayer for 2026 in the space provided on the back of the pledge card so you can still take part in this symbolic commitment of our time, talents and treasures.

**†Hymn of Response 700** I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me I'M GONNA LIVE

I'm gonna live so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

#### **Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude**

Gracious God, we give you these gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Send us into the world to share all that we have, knowing that it is yours, with joyful and trusting generosity, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.



## Being the Church in the World

**†Sending Hymn 539** We Will Go Out with Joy

WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

**†Charge & Benediction** 

**Postlude** 

Wonderful Words of Life

by Marilyn Arison

# 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.

Included in this worship guide is a Pledge Card and our Time & Talent survey. 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 John 21:1-19 titled *Safety Net* by Hannah Garrity. 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 restoration is relevant to you no matter when you read these words. The following is the artist's statement on the piece:

How does this miracle text relate to our present fear? Right now, in the midst of COVID-19, people are dying, people are losing their livelihoods, people are isolated, people are going to run out of food, people are going to run out of money, people are going to lose their family members, people will lose their homes. This moment in our story delivers scarcity in ways that we have not seen in living memory. Our whole precious global society could unravel.

Can we be the safety net?

Three weeks into stay-at-home orders, our local food banks are being tapped more heavily than normal. Economic stimulus checks are arriving in American bank accounts. Factories are retooling to build medical equipment. The public is following the stay-at-home measures. Legislative consensus should ensure that unemployment will be enough for many to survive on. All of these miraculous actions are funded by each of us.

In the artwork, patterned fish represent the miracle that Jesus performed that morning so many years ago. This miracle convinced the disciples that they must tell the story of Jesus and act out the love Jesus modeled. This miracle continues to inspire us to contribute and act as God's disciples in this critical time for humanity.

We are the safety net.

As I worked with this text, I contemplated that money has a lot to do with saving lives. Therefore, the background of this piece is woven with a guilloché pattern, reminiscent of currency. It portrays the flow of financial resources from government support, to charities, to crowdfunding, to church missions that are the fabric of the net that will catch us all.

Jesus inspires us in this text—and in this moment—to weave God's safety net.

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!



## 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 "Safety Net" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



# Usher Chair | Gary Boteler

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kraig Howell

Acolytes | MaryRentz Lane, Elizabeth Fraser Browning

#### First Presbyterian Church Staff Neeley Rentz Lane Senior Pastor Nursery Staff Erin Morgan Associate Pastor Hattie Bellinger Mark Fiddie Dir. of Music & Worship Arts Catrina Crowe Denise Gabriel Dir. of Community Preschool Akeelah Fletcher Peni Kehoe Finance Administrator Jahniyah Greene Catherine Laseter Dir. of Communications Jordyn Williams & Operations Sylvia Woods 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	n <i>Witness (2027)</i>						
Engaging							
Charles Ardis	Faith Formation (2025)						
Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)						
Nichole Howell	Worship (2025)						
Hardy Fortson Sideris	Worship (2027)						
Belo	nging						
Gary Boteler	Finance (2027)						
Pam Stillerman	Welcome (2026)						
Connecting (Deacons)							
Cathy Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)						
Denny Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)						
Dana Hall F	aith & Fellowship (2025)						
Darcel Tabb F	aith & Fellowship (2027)						
More							
Jodi Atkins	Preschool (2026)						
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)						

Personnel (2027)

Clerk of Session

Personnel (2025)

Jo Anna Fish

Danny Vining

John McCarthy



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#### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

#### Most recent prayer requests

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

- † Dan Walden bone marrow transplant
- Sherri Thomas, friend of Kim Lindsey recovering from blood clot removal
- **†** Patrick Carmichael
- Austin Belknap, friend of Angie Woodhambreast 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

**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.

- † Pam Stillerman recovering from surgery
- Glenn Hayes, brother of Brenda Howell third consecutive foot surgery
- Kayla Legg, friend of Kim Lindsey praying for a healthy pregnancy
- ♦ Bill Loeble, friend of Billy Wade cancer
- Nancy, friend of Mark & Jennifer Fogarty stage IV pancreatic cancer
- ♦ Louly Hay recovering after hospital stay
- Vonda Wiebe, daughter of Peggy Stallingsrecovering 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 Wheelerrecovering from fall & hip surgery

#### 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



#### Pastoral Care Workshop: Emotional Health

Led by Neeley Rentz Lane

Learn to care for your emotional health through grounding support systems reflection

Saturday, November 15

9:00am-12:00pm | Fellowship Hall \$10 per person, incl. lunch Childcare available Space is limited, register by emailing neeley@fpccov.org

# BLESSING OF THE



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

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

# —— 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



First Presbyterian
Church Covington, GA
American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Thursday, November
20th 12:00PM-5:00PM
Fellowship Hall

For an appointment visit redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code **firstprescov** 

# MONSTER MASH BASH

OCTOBER 26TH

5:00PM-7:00PM

#### **TONIGHT!**

**RAIN OR SHINE!** 

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



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!

# SOUL FEAST

DO YOU MAKE THE BEST CHILI? ENTER OUR

CHILI COOK-OFF

BY EMAILING ERIN@FPCCOV.ORC



NOV.12

5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP for dinner by Nov. 10th to catherine@fpccov.org or by putting a "Serve" card with your name in the offering plate

Adults: \$8 Kids: \$5 Family max: \$30

Everyone is invited to join our LOGOS kids for Western night and wear your best cowboy/cowgirl attire!



Following Soul Feast at 6:00pm we will hear from our friends from the Newton Walton Foster Parent Association!

# A HOUSE UNITED FOLLOW UP CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR UNHOUSED SIBLINGS IN CHRIST

Hosted by our Thriving Congregations Team

NOVEMBER 13 AT 5:30PM IN THE LIBRARY

#### **Sunday School**

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

# 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!

5:00pm Monster Mash Bash: Trunk or Treat, Time

& Talent Fair, & Costume Contest

#### Tuesday, October 28

All Saints' Name Submission Deadline

12:00pm Lectio Divina

5:30pm Session Meeting

#### Wednesday, October 29

10:00am Coffee and Conversation

3:30pm Staff Meeting

4:00pm FINAL Worship Art Story

5:30pm Confirmation Class

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, October 30

10:00am FPCP Chapel

#### Friday, October 31

10:00am- Sensory-Friendly

12:30pm Trick or Treat on Legion Field

4:00pm- Community-Wide

6:00pm Trick or Treat on Legion Field

# Sunday, November 2 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—All Saints' Sunday

4:30pm Blessing of the Animals

5:00pm Youth Group

#### We will have a table at

# TRICKORTREAT on Legion Field

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

Join us for the sensory-friendly event from 10:00am-12:30pm (volunteer with Sara Chini) or for the community-wide event from 4:00pm-6:00pm (volunteer with Stephanie Scarborough)

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 ama memberan	active visitorlooking to become a member
Check here if you typically need childcare so v	we can better plan for our nursery!
•	st Presbyterian Church. Please check the areas where you fice or offering plate. Where can you use your talents to? <b>Check ANY and ALL that call to you!</b>
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 phonesPrepare mailings Help print and prepare worship guide	Serve on the Worship TeamBe an UsherRead in worship as a Liturgist
	Serve on the Tech TeamAssist AcolytesVolunteer with the Children's Choir
	Sing in the Chancel ChoirRing in the Handbell ChoirPlay an instrument or sing in worshipHelp decorate for Christmas
Serve on the Welcome TeamGreet visitors on Sunday morningsReach out to visitorsBe a host family for new members	— Help with Special Worship Services  (World Communion, Maundy Thursday, etc.)  — Set up for Communion  — Bake bread for Communion
Help put together welcome bags	Help replenish offering cards in the pews

Serve on the Faith & Fellowship Team	Serve on the Faith Formation Team				
Help at Soul Feast	Join Good Enough Book Club				
Set UpCookCleanup	Lectio Divina: Pastors' Bible Study				
Help out with Campfire Church	Attend Young-ish Adult Nights				
Help prep for Lemonade on the Lawn	Help plan Young-ish Adult activities				
Join Coffee Club	Volunteer with the youth				
Attend Men's Prayer Breakfast	Volunteer with children				
Join Presbyterian Women	Godly PlayLOGOSNursery				
Sing with the Singing Ambassadors	Assist with Vacation Bible School				
Serve on the Pastoral Care TeamParticipate in OASIS OutingsAttend Lunch BunchFollow up with those on the prayer list	Organize worship bags for kids Be a Sunday School Teacher:ChildrenYouthAdults				
Help with funerals	Serve on the Witness Team				
Assist with pastoral care visits	Join the Mission Trip Planning Team				
Assist with pastoral care visitsAssist with at home communion	Volunteer at Blood Drives				
A3313t With at nome communion	Help with Change the World Day				
Serve on the Facilities & Grounds Team	Deliver Meals on Wheels				
Assist on scheduled work days to cleanup	Join the Sandwich Ministry				
around the building	Volunteer at the Community Food Pantry				
Help with minor repairs and improvements	Clean up Newton Trails				
at the church	Tutor at Fairview Elementary				
Assist with the Memorial Garden	Participate in advocacy work for the unhoused				
Water and care for indoor plants					
Help pickup recycling	We thank you for expressing your				
Serve on the Security Team	thoughtful interest in sharing your Time & Talents with us!				
Did we miss anything?					
Other ways I wish to volunteer at First Presbyteria	an Church				
Other ways I am involved in the community					



## First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Last Name\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_ 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

**PRESBYTERIAN** 

COVINGTON, GA

CHURCH

# 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!

