



November 9, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Processional in G

by John Stanley

Like a Shepherd

by John M. Rasley

Prelude in G

by J.S. Bach

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

This Joyous Morning

by Sandra Eithun

Handbell Choir

Prelude

Pass It On

by Fred Boch

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

A Blessing for a Good Pause

by Kate Bowler

This is the moment. I can feel it,
It is the microsecond pause
Before the habitual override
That sends me into motion again.
Barreling ahead instead of paying attention
To what my body is trying to tell me,
To what pulls on my mind,
To your spirits' wisdom, so hard won.

**We are here now, in the blessed in between,
The transition phase that isn't anything yet.**

It's a pivot point that would be a shame to waste again,
With mindless scrolling
Or what is happening in the news?

Right.

Stop.

Stay.

This is the sacred space of the nothing - yet,

A place where we can become aware that you are pulling at us, tugging at us.

Be present with us here,

In these whirling minutes,

At the tiny crossroads that is this moment,

Slowing us long enough to wonder:

Is that you, o God, tapping me on the shoulder?

All right. I'm Listening.

All right. We are listening. Let us worship the living Lord!

✦ **Praise Hymn 412**

God, Reveal Your Presence

ARNSBERG

Verse 1: Solo

Verses 2 & 3: ALL

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Personal Silent Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson

You are only as far away as the sound of our whispers will travel, Lord, yet we so often struggle to speak with you intimately. We make small talk sometimes, thanking you for sun and rain, for gentle breezes and low humidity. Though we may be grateful, we know that chatting about the weather is something we do with casual acquaintances and even strangers.

Hear our purposeful prayers.

We maintain substantial vocabularies—collections of words we use for term papers and interoffice memos and for bantering with our buddies. But do we use them to deepen the conversations we have with you?

Hear our purposeful prayers.

Forgive us when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from you without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with you. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same.

Hear our purposeful prayers.

Forgive us when we approach you begging for guidance and direction, but then neglect to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers.

Hear our purposeful prayers.

May we have another chance to appreciate the fullness of your love? May we try, once again, to shed our self-interest and find joy in serving your interests?

Hear our purposeful prayers. 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

Revive Us Again

by John Husband

Quartet: Jennifer Fogarty, Day Kennon, Darcel Tabb Meghan Usry

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Numbers 22

Pew Bible page 141

Readers' Theater

Charles Ardis, Aubrey Evans, Krista Firkus

Message

Guess Who? Balaam's Donkey

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Response 56

Sing Out with Joy to God Our Strength

SHEPHERDS' PIPES

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

Morning Had Broken
Handbell Choir

Arr. by Linda R. Lamb

✠Response 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

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.

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

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.

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✠ **Sending Hymn 661**

Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

SPARROW

✠ **Charge & Benediction**

✠ **Postlude**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

by Martin Luther



Worship Practices

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.

Congregational Meeting—A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 following worship for the purpose of voting on the Dissolution of the Terms of Call for Reverend Erin Morgan.

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.

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.

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.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Sara Chini
Tech Team | Laramy Wells
Acolytes | Lily Wells



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Catrina Crowe
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications</i>	Jahnyah Greene
	<i>& Operations</i>	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	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 Person—Neeley Rentz Lane
Facility/Security Response—Kenny Compton, Stan Hall, John McCarthy
Medical Response—Nichole Howell, Pam Stillerman

Officers

Reaching Out

Sara Chini	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>

Engaging

Charles Ardis	<i>Faith Formation (2025)</i>
Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Nichole Howell	<i>Worship (2025)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>

Belonging

Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>

Connecting (Deacons)

Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Dana Hall	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2025)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith & Fellowship (2027)</i>

More

Jodi Atkins	<i>Preschool (2026)</i>
Kenny Compton	<i>Facilities (2026)</i>
Jo Anna Fish	<i>Personnel (2027)</i>
John McCarthy	<i>Clerk of Session</i>
Danny Vining	<i>Personnel (2025)</i>

SOUL FEAST

DO YOU MAKE THE BEST CHILI? ENTER OUR CHILI COOK-OFF



NOV. 12

5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

RSVP by Nov. 10th by emailing 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!

Youth Cake Fundraising Auction!

Join us at Soul Feast for a cake fundraiser!!! We will be auctioning off cakes made by our youth to support the youth conference fund!

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

OASIS OUTING MADISON, GA
Georgia Safari Conservation Park
NOVEMBER 17, 2025
Carpool will leave FPC at 9:30am
Cost: \$31 plus lunch
RSVP to Neeley by November 11

NEELEY'S NOOK LEADERSHIP BOOK CLUB
VISIT [FPCCOV.ORG](https://fpccov.org)/ZOOM-LINKS TO JOIN!
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10
AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM TO DISCUSS
GONE FOR GOOD?: NEGOTIATING THE COMING WAVE OF CHURCH PROPERTY TRANSITION BY MARK ELSDON

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sat., Nov. 15 8:00am
at Town House Café

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

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

CLUB 234 BOOST & STEVI B'S
A time for our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders to connect in fellowship!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 5:00PM-7:00PM MEETING AT BOOST TRAMPOLINE PARK

Sunday, November 9
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—Communion
12:00pm Faith Formation Team Meeting

Monday, November 10

RSVP for Soul Feast
5:30pm Move For Me at Alcovy Fitness
7:00pm Neeley's Nook Book Club

Tuesday, November 11

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastors' Bible Study
5:30pm Good Enough Book Club
6:30pm Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 12

RSVP for Lunch Bunch
10:00am Coffee & Conversation
3:30pm Staff Meeting
5:00pm LOGOS for Kids
5:15pm Soul Feast Chili Cook-off
5:30pm Youth Cake Fundraiser
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, November 13

10:00am FPCP Chapel
11:30am Lunch Bunch
5:30pm A House United Follow Up

Friday, November 14

5:30pm High Rise Bingo Event

Saturday, November 15

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:00am Pastoral Care Workshop

Sunday, November 16
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Thornwell Special Offering
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—Confirmation
11:30am Godly Play
12:00pm Congregational Meeting
5:00pm Club 234
5:30pm Youth Group

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Jane Parker
- ✦ Terri Fullerton
- ✦ James Eason, grandfather of Hannah Freeman
- ✦ Ricky, friend of John Leavitt - colon cancer
- ✦ Dan Walden - bone marrow transplant
- ✦ Sherri Thomas, friend of Kim Lindsey - recovering from blood clot removal

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Austin Belknap, friend of Angie Woodham - breast cancer

- ✦ Parker Ford, friend of Angie Woodham - cancer
- ✦ Ruth Bradshaw, mother of Kim Lindsey - home for physical therapy after fall
- ✦ Mr. Mosley, friend of Ruby Wells - seizures
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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

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 the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

Join us as we gather our congregations in worship.



Community Thanksgiving Worship

Tuesday, November 18th at 6:00pm with Communion

Donations will support **Family Promise of NewRock**

Hosted by
The Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal
4140 Clark St.



Childcare will be available.
A meal will follow worship.



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

**11:30AM | NOV. 13
AT OXFORD CAFETERIA**

**Come enjoy lunch with FPC OASIS
at the Oxford College Cafeteria on
Thursday, November 13 at 11:30am**



**2025
HOLIDAY
HELP**

Donations to Alcovy CASA Holiday Help directly benefits children and teens experiencing foster care!

Help us collect gift cards to ensure families can afford food, gasoline, and more for the holiday season. CASA is asking for gift cards in increments of \$25 or more to places like Kroger, Walmart, ALDI, and Publix.

Donations are due by December 7th!

Send questions to Neeley!



MOVE FOR ME
Monday, November 10th



5:30PM - 6:45PM



Join us at Alcovy Fitness for special fundraising classes! For a \$15 minimum donation to "Love4Aul" you can enjoy HIIT, BootCamp, or Yoga classes from Alcovy Fitness!

This event is raising money to rent movie theaters for individuals with autism, allowing them to fully be themselves while they enjoy a movie.

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



ROOTED IN **FAITH**



Join us in celebrating

EMPHASIS MONTH



Thornwell
BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES

ROOTED IN FAITH FOR 150 YEARS

Since 1875, Thornwell has been rooted in faith! It is through our faith that God calls us to care for the most vulnerable and know that He will provide. Thornwell began as dream of a young Presbyterian minister, Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, and the faithful gift of fifty cents from a 10-year-old boy named Willie Anderson. That seed of hope grew into a ministry that has served thousands of children and families with love, healing, and support.

Now, 150 years later, Thornwell continues to serve children and families through a Christ-centered continuum of care, supporting children, teens, young adults, and parents through programs across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Each November, churches like yours join in Thornwell Emphasis Month to celebrate this legacy and continue the work Dr. Jacobs began, helping families grow strong and stay rooted in faith. Whether through a prayer, a post on social media, or coins dropped into a beloved Tom the Turkey bank, your gifts make a lasting difference.

Let's continue the legacy, ***rooted in faith and growing in love.***

Check out the suggestions below for some ideas on how your family can be involved! We can't build tomorrow's families without you.

ROOTED IN YOUR FAMILY

- Read the bible and pray together as a family.
- Show kindness and appreciation to each other.
- Set aside “phone-free” time to enjoy each other’s company.

ROOTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Serve a neighbor: mow a lawn, drop off a meal, or run an errand.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup.
- Support foster families with meals, childcare, or prayer.

ROOTED IN MISSION WITH THORNWELL

- Pray for the children and families Thornwell serves.
- Encourage your children to return a full Tom the Turkey this month.
- Share Thornwell’s mission and impact on social media.
- Make a financial gift, volunteer, or learn more at **thornwell.org**.