

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

O Worship the King

Joyce Jones

Beautiful Savior

Silesian Folk Song

How Firm a Foundation

James H. Johnson

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

We have gathered in this place to worship,

because Jesus invites us to come!

We come as we are,

with our faith and our doubts,

with our successes and our failures,

because Jesus invites us to come!

We come with what we have,

bringing with us the events and experiences of this past week,

because Jesus invites us to come.

Come to me,

all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,

and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

for I am gentle and humble in heart,

and you will find rest for your souls.

Let's worship God together.

✠Praise Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past!

ST. ANNE

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.
A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

✠Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

✠Personal Silent Confession

✠Community Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

God, we think we can handle it all.
We say, "I'll just do it."
We neglect to care for ourselves,
and we take pride in being overworked.
We convince ourselves that what we produce
is where our value lies.
We fail to accept help,
too stubborn and hard-headed to listen
to those who offer support.
Accepting advice feels like failure.
We push ourselves too thin,
ignoring your quiet voice saying,
"Take care of yourself."
Forgive us, Lord,
for not listening to the wisdom of others,
for neglecting to hear You
calling us to rest, to breathe,

to remember that our worth
comes not from what we do,
but from who we are in You.

Amen.

✠ Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Water: Michael Dobbs

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

Harvest Song

by Ruth E. Schram

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Readers Theater

Exodus 18

Pew Bible page 64
Bob Tabb, Curtis Watson

Reflection

Guess Who? Jethro

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ Response 309

Come, Great God of All the Ages

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Luke Usry

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Luke Usry

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

Meditation on Faith of Our Fathers
Alice Walker, organ

Charles Callahan

✠ 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 Gratitude

Written by First Presbyterian Community Preschool kids

**God,
We are thankful for...
our hearts
going to the park
mommy
baby sister
daddy
all the kids
all the teachers
Pastor Neeley
goo goo, gaa gaa
Papa and Meme
Valentines
family
fishing
Jesus
Christmas
stroller rides
milk
the roof over our heads
everybody.
Amen.**



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

GREEN TYLER

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Toccata on "To God Be the Glory"

Joel Raney



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 pastor. *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.

Congregational Meeting—At the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, November 16, the congregation of Covington First Presbyterian Church voted to dissolve the terms of call for Pastor Erin Morgan.

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. Cover art: "Moses & Jethro" by Frank Harmon Myers, 1899-1956



Serving Today

Guest Worship Leader | We would like to thank Krista Firkus for sharing her musical gifts with us by directing the Chancel Choir and leading the congregational hymns!

Usher Chair | Sara Chini

Acolytes | Kali Smith, Rose Ralston

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Kraig Howell

Liturgists | Yvonne Hill-Davenport, Bob Tabb, Luke Usry, Curtis Watson



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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>	Jahniyah 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>

Services this Advent at FPC

IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK

Sundays at 11:00am

Nov. 30 Insisting on Hope This Advent

Dec. 7 Lessons & Carols
with communion

Dec. 14 Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 21 Give Me Your Hand

Dec. 28 Breakfast & PJs

Jan. 4 STAR WORDS

Evening Services

Christmas Eve

Wed. Dec. 24 at 6:00pm

The Longest Night

Wed. Dec. 17 at 5:30pm

**Join us in creating the FPC
"All Are Welcome" Tree
for Lights at Legion!**

Help make "I am loved"
paper dolls before and after
worship on Nov. 23 and 30.
Then help decorate the tree
at Legion Field on December
4th at Noon or 5:15 PM. For
more details, contact Neeley.



SOUL FEAST CHRISTMAS PARTY



DEC. 10

5:15pm in the
Fellowship Hall

**ON THE MENU:
FRIED CHICKEN & SIDES**

**Sunday, November 23
Christ the King Sunday**

9:45am Sunday School

10:00am Scholastic Children's Book Fair

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Scholastic Children's Book Fair

12:30pm Session Meeting

12:30pm Decorating the Church for Advent

3:00pm Retreat Planning Team Meeting

**Thursday, November 27—
Friday, November 28**

Office CLOSED for Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 29

9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery

**Sunday, November 30
First Sunday of Advent**

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal



SCHOLASTIC CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

Sponsored by First Pres
Community Preschool

**TODAY before and after worship
in the Gathering Room!**

Come explore our wonderful selection of books
and find something special for your little reader!

**We will be passing
out doughnuts and
hot chocolate at the
Covington Christmas
Parade on Dec. 6th!**



We will have a table in front of the church and
will meet at 9:00am to set up before the parade
starts at 10:00am! Talk to Stephanie
Scarborough to signup!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Glen Kitts, friend of Chris Martin - in hospital with collapsed lung
- ✦ Dan Walden - bone marrow transplant
- ✦ Berklee, family of Kim McSwain
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Virginia, mother of FPCP teacher Tammi Welch
- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Jane Parker

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Terri Fullerton
- ✦ James Eason, grandfather of Hannah Freeman
- ✦ Ricky, friend of John Leavitt - colon cancer

- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Sherri Thomas, friend of Kim Lindsey - recovering from blood clot removal
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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

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



The Witness Committee is collecting donations for the Warming Center. A collection bin will be in the Narthex. The following items are being requested for the Warming Center:

- instant oatmeal
- instant grits
- granola bars
- pop tarts
- bottled water
- microwaveable cups of noodles/soup
- backpacks
- new gloves
- new socks
- new underwear (adult)
- baby wipes
- gloves
- hats
- travel size toiletries

Sunday School

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



**2025
HOLIDAY
HELP**

Donations to Alcovy CASA Holiday Help directly benefit 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!



Staff Love Gift

Each year during the Christmas Season, we at FPC Covington, like to show our appreciation and gratitude to our church staff members who give so much of themselves on our behalf throughout the course of each year. We ask for your participation in this effort by making a contribution to the **"Staff Love Gift" fund by Sunday, December 14th**

Help us decorate the church!

We'll be decorating for Advent and Christmas **TODAY starting at 12:30pm!**