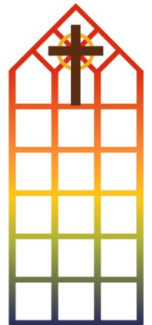
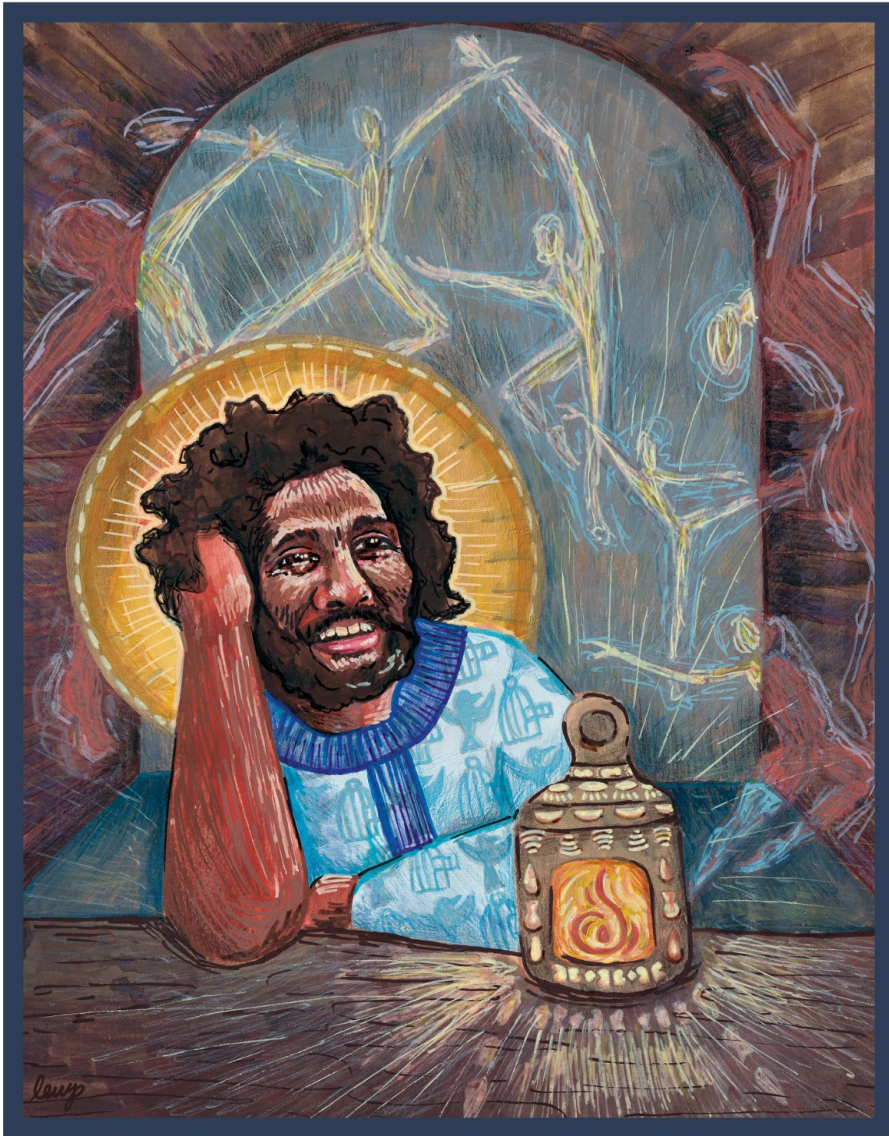


A Festival of Lessons & Carols



December 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA

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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Together

Today's opening worship sequence seeks to love and support the sensory needs of our baptismal infant's family. This support includes refraining from loud or sudden noises so today's gathering music and prelude will be on the piano. We ask that everyone refrains from clapping or using flash photography during this time while we love, support, and uplift our FPC Family!

Gathering Music

Soft Christmas Selections

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

O Holy Night

Adolfe Adam

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Day & Larry Kennon

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

I see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠ **Call to Worship**

Water: Wesley Freeman

Family of faith, God is at work!

God is healing and creating,
redeeming and dreaming,
calling and sending,
listening and loving.

Yes, indeed, God is at work!

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

Baptism of Theodore Edward Goddard

Baptismal Elder Jodi Atkins

Following worship all are invited to sign Theodore's Bible. It will be in the narthex for everyone to highlight their favorite passage or add a small note to Theodore Goddard.



A Festival of Lessons & Carols

✠ Congregational Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.
True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo, He shuns not the virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.***

(Verse 3: Chancel Choir only)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.

Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.

The First Lesson *Adam and Eve rebel against God* Neeley Rentz Lane
Genesis 3:8-15

Carol *God Walked in Eden's Garden Fair* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
Chancel Choir Original Material by Hal H. Hopson

The Second Lesson *God promises to faithful Abraham that* Braden Woodham
his descendants will be a blessing of the earth Genesis 22:15-18

Carol *The God of Abr'am Praise* LEONI
Chancel Choir Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

The Third Lesson *Christ's birth and rule of* Yvonne Hill-Davenport
peace and justice are foretold by Isaiah Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Carol *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* Arr. by Hal H. Hopson
Chancel Choir

The Fourth Lesson *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown* Chuck Williams
Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN' ROS' VENI EMMANUEL
Chancel Choir Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

The Fifth Lesson *The angel Gabriel announces to Mary* Ansley Holder
that she will be the mother of Jesus Luke 1:26-35, 38

The Sixth Lesson *Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus* Ansley Holder
Matthew 1:18-23

Carol *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO
Chancel Choir Arr. by Hal H. Hopson

The Seventh Lesson *The shepherds go to Bethlehem* Janet Carmichael
Luke 2:8-16

The Eighth Lesson *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus* Angie Woodham
Matthew 2:1-11

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 *Silent Night/Away in a Manger* Franz Gruber/William Kirkpatrick
Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

✦ **Congregational Carol** *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

(Verses 2 & 3: Chancel Choir Only)

**See Him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

✦ **The Ninth Lesson** *John unfolds the great mystery
of the Incarnation* Neeley Rentz Lane
John 1:1-14

An Advent Prayer



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

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

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 Congregational Carol

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,

and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

(Verse 3: Choir Only)

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of His righteousness,

and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,

and wonders, wonders, of His love.

✠ Charge & Benediction

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit.

May you reach for each other's hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid.

Amen.

✠ Postlude

ADESTE FIDELES

John Frances Wade

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ



Advent Notes

A Festival of Lessons & Carols—*Today's worship service is primarily composed of "A Festival of Lessons and Carols" by Hal H. Hopson. The following is an excerpt from Hopson's performance notes and historical background on the piece:*

Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral (England) on Christmas Eve 1880, when a service of scripture and supporting carols was developed by the Bishop of Truro, F.W. Benson. Some 38 years later in 1918, this format was adapted for Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The BBC broadcast from King's College helped to popularize the Service of Lessons and Carols, and it was quickly duplicated by cathedrals and small churches throughout the world. The heart of the service continues to this day - that is, the retelling of the Christian's story of faith from the fall of Adam to the coming of the Word Incarnate. This edition of *A Festival of Lessons and Carols* has several unique characteristics. A variety of carols are included - some familiar, some unfamiliar. The lessons have been updated using today's English to reflect important linguistic considerations, such as inclusive language, natural poetic phrasing, and clarity of expression.

What Do You Fear? Advent Series—*Our 2025 Advent series "What Do You Fear?: Insisting on Hope This Advent" was created by the creative team at Sanctified Art. The following is their message on the series:*

This Advent series takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. We will look at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

As you journey through this season, may your hope become gritty and resilient. May you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

Worship Art—*This week's worship guide cover art is work made with gouache, paint pens, colored pencils and ink on paper by Lauren Wright Pittman titled "Hope Like a Dancer" inspired by Matthew 11:1-11. The following is an excerpt of the artist's statement on the piece:*

In this image, John sits in prison, letting the disciples' testimony settle in. People with hearing, visual, and physical impairments experience new senses and mobility. Those with skin diseases are cleansed. Those with little material comfort are offered irrepressible hope, and the lungs of the dead are filled with the breath of life. I decided to image this good news through the dancing light of a lantern in John's prison cell. I chose dancing figures because dancing feels like a primal response to the radical healing taking place outside the prison walls. As these six dancers illuminate the cell, I imagine John, even if for a moment, breaking into a bit of laughter at the magnitude of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was quite literally doing the unimaginable. He was removing barriers so that the marginalized were no longer reduced to begging and sitting on mats, shoved to the edges of society. He was not only healing physical ailments; perhaps more importantly, he was restoring people to community.



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.

Baptism—Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; Communion is the other. The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world. Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). When we are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's own baptism.

Presbyterians celebrate baptism as a communal act of public worship! Today we, as the body of Christ, will say "YES" to walking alongside Theodore Goddard as we seek to nurture and love him as his family of faith!

We invite you to speak to Pastor Neeley if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.

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.

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. "What Do You Fear?" Advent Series | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | "Hope Like a Dancer" by Lauren Wright Pittman | Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

A Festival of Lessons and Carols by Hal H. Hopson | Editor: Gwyneth Michel Proofreader: Jim Gensel | Production: Diane Laucirica | © Copyright 1997 Jubilate Music Group, LLC | All Rights Reserved.



Serving Today

Many thanks to our Chancel Choir, musicians, and lesson readers for their heartfelt preparation to provide a beautiful and meaningful Festival of Lessons & Carols service.

Usher Chair | Jodi Atkins

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, MaryRantz Lane

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Jonny Atkins

Liturgists | Janet Carmichael, Yvonne Hill-Davenport, Ansley Holder, Day Kennon, Larry Kennon, Chuck Williams, Angie Woodham, Braden Woodham

Guest Pianist | Loucy Hay

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rantz 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 Rantz 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>

Advent Poinsettias

The poinsettias that are decorating the Sanctuary this Advent season were provided through donations in memory and in honor of the following people.

Donations over the cost of flowers are divided and given to both CarePortal and FaithWorks.

Fill out the form available in the Narthex and at fpccov.org/advent and submit it to the office by Wednesday to have your dedication added in the following Sunday's Worship Guide.

In honor of:

- ◇ Memama *Neeley Rentz Lane*
- ◇ Our children and grandchildren
Curtus & Carolyn Watson
- ◇ Carol McGiboney *The Weesners*
- ◇ Eleanor Scarborough,
Sherri Bolton,
Betty Bailey *Miriam Wheeler*
- ◇ Miriam G. Wheeler
Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler

Given by:

In memory of:

- ◇ Brenda Buckelew
Jennifer & Reid Buckelew
- ◇ JoAnn Crews *Tom Crews*
- ◇ Michael Dobbs
Cathy & Denny Dobbs
- ◇ Our parents *Larry & Day Kennon*
- ◇ Frank Colladay *Neeley Rentz Lane*
- ◇ Jim Stillerman *Pam Stillerman*
- ◇ Our parents *Curtis & Carolyn Watson*
- ◇ Guy McGiboney,
Grady Daugherty,
Barbara & Jack Weesner *The Weesners*
- ◇ Marvin Wells *The Wells Family*
- ◇ Penny Blakeney,
Doug Bolton,
Jack Wheeler *Miriam Wheeler*
- ◇ Jack Wheeler,
James & Miriam Gardner
Miriam Witherspoon-Wheeler

Given by:



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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

SOUL FEAST CHRISTMAS PARTY



DEC. 10

5:15pm in the Fellowship Hall

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

RSVP for dinner by Dec. 8th to catherine@fpcov.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 wear their favorite Christmas sweater!
We will be visited by the Oxford Youth Singers' Carolers for some classic caroling!



Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14th at 5:00pm
Meet at FPC to carol in Dorchester Place



YOUNG-ISH ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY!

DEC. 16 | 5:30PM
AT THE LANE'S HOUSE
Ask Neeley if you need the address

Childcare at FPC beginning at 5:00pm

Children's Christmas Pageant!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
DURING 11:00AM WORSHIP

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**

Sunday, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

Deadline for CASA Holiday Help

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Lessons & Carols with Communion

Monday, December 8

RSVP for Soul Feast

- 12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting
- 6:00pm Faith Formation Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 9

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 10

- 10:00am Coffee & Conversation
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm LOGOS for Kids
- 5:15pm Soul Feast Christmas Party
- 5:45pm Youth Christmas Party
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 11

- 10:00am FPCP Chapel
- 11:30am Lunch Bunch
- 4:00pm Finance Team Meeting
- 5:00pm Witness Team Meeting
- 6:00pm Session Meeting

Sunday, December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

Staff Love Gift Deadline

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Children's Christmas Pageant
- 12:30pm Retreat Planning Team Meeting
- 5:00pm Christmas Caroling



**11:30AM | DEC. 11
AT TAVA'S DINER**

Come enjoy lunch with FPC OASIS at Tava's on Thursday, December 11 at 11:30am
January lunch at Oxford Cafeteria on Jan. 8

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Norma C. Couch, friend of Starr & Taryn Puckett - awaiting a heart transplant
- ✦ Glen Kitts, friend of Chris Martin - in hospital with collapsed lung

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Dan Walden - bone marrow transplant
- ✦ Berklee, family of Kim McSwain
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining

- ✦ Virginia, mother of FPCP teacher Tammi Welch
- ✦ 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

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 Longest Night

Bring your grief.
Bring your weariness.
Bring your fatigue,
and allow yourself
a quiet space to reflect
and draw near to God
in this quiet service
of healing.

Wednesday, December 17th
5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Christmas Eve

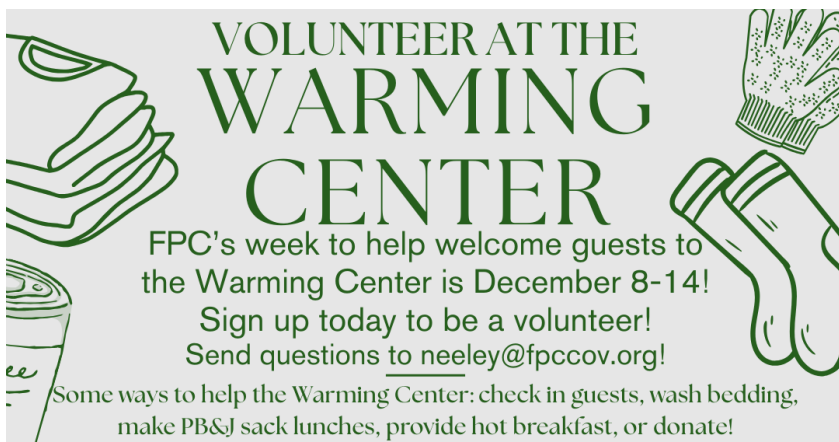
Wed. Dec. 24 at 6:00pm

IN THE SANCTUARY AND
ON FACEBOOK LIVE

SAVE THE DATE: Feb. 27-28, 2026

Calvin Center Intergenerational Church Retreat

Join us overnight on Friday or come for the day on Saturday! A time of fellowship, devotion, and play!
More details to follow! Send questions to Neeley!



VOLUNTEER AT THE WARMING CENTER

FPC's week to help welcome guests to the Warming Center is December 8-14!
Sign up today to be a volunteer!
Send questions to neeley@fpccov.org!

Some ways to help the Warming Center: check in guests, wash bedding, make PB&J sack lunches, provide hot breakfast, or donate!

Services this Advent at FPC

IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK

Sundays at 11:00am

- Dec. 14** Children's Christmas Pageant
- Dec. 21** Give Me Your Hand
- Dec. 28** Breakfast & PJs
- Jan. 4** STAR WORDS

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

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

Advent Symbols and Meanings

The Advent Wreath

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, represents the *unending love of God*. Evergreens adorning the wreath symbolize the *hope of eternal life* that God's people share. Even more, the various parts of evergreens have special Christian symbolism: the prickly leaves of holly remind us of the *crown of thorns*; cedar represents *strength and healing*; ivy reminds us of God's continuing *support and love* for us; the red berries remind us of *Jesus' sacrifice for us*; and pine cones, berries, nuts or seed pods used also symbolize *the life and the resurrection*. Finally, the four candles, 3 blue and 1 pink, set in the wreath *represent the four weeks until Christmas Day, as well as the thousands of years people awaited the coming of the Messiah*. The lighting of an additional candle each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the Light who came into the world at Jesus' birth. On Christmas an additional white candle is added *for Jesus as the light of the world*. **All together the Advent wreath stands for the new, everlasting life promised to us through Jesus Christ, who truly is Emmanuel, "God with us."**



The Chrismon Tree

The word "Chrismon" is a combination of parts of two words: Christ and monogram...a monogram of Christ. They are made in white and gold. White refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold to his majesty and glory. The white lights on the tree point to Christ as the Light of the World.



The **crosses** symbolize our redemption through the crucifixion of our Lord. The two kinds of crosses we have used are the Latin cross and the Greek cross which has equal arms.



The **shepherd's crook** refers to the eternal one, "the Lord is my Shepherd."



The **five-pointed star** is symbolic of the divinity of Jesus, the **rose** in the center symbolizes his humanness.



The **crowns** are symbols of the kingship of our Lord; his victory over sin and death.



An **equilateral triangle**, or three-part figure symbolizes the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

The **fish** was used by early Christians as a password during times of persecution. A fish that carries a basket of bread evokes a recollection of Jesus' miracles when he fed the multitude.



The **manger** symbolizes the baby Jesus and God as protector. A cross inside a circle is a symbol of eternity.

A circle symbolizes eternity. **Three entwined circles** are a symbol for the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons.



A **cross over an orb** (a ball) symbolizes our Lord's dominion over the earth. Does it remind you of the song, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"?

IHS stands for the first three letters of Jesus in the Greek alphabet.



Alpha and Omega, are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Since only God is before and after all things, it's a symbol of divinity.