

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA



January 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

❖ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Joel Raney

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Douglas Wagner

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

John A. Behnke

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father

SWEDISH FOLK MELODY

Welcome & Announcements

Darcel Tabb

❖ Call to Worship

Darcel Tabb

Today we celebrate a special baptism;
the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.

God says:

Look! See my chosen servant,
the One in whom I utterly delight;

**I have placed my Spirit on him,
he will bring true justice to the nations.**

When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up,
and Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:

**"This is my dearly loved Son,
with whom I am delighted."**

The joy of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

❖ Hymn of Praise 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

❖ Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

†Community Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord.

**We have entered the season
in which your light has been given to the world,
your blessings have been poured out on the world,
and yet all we can think about is our own problems,
our own needs, our own desires.**

Help us to desire you, Lord.

Help us to yearn for your presence.

**Pour your baptismal waters over us again,
cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance.**

Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you.

**Wash away our jealousy, greed,
and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way
of our truly being the people you have called us to be.**

**Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation,
in the birth and baptism of Jesus,
and in the ministry of the saints of light.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

†Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

Water: Audrey Fullerton

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

Aubrey Evans

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Aubrey Evans

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Keith Christopher

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-3

Pew Bible page 670

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible page 3

Message

Breakfast at Epiphanies

Rev. Larry Kennon



Responding to the Word

❖ Response 486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

KINGDOM

❖ Affirmation of Faith

excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Charles Ardis

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,

and binds us together with all believers

in the one body of Christ, the Church.

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

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

Charles Ardis

You are invited to "Text to Give" your offering! Text FPCCOV to: 73256 and follow the link to give online, or scan the QR Code to visit the giving page! Select "**2026 Pledge**" if you made a pledge during stewardship season. Select "Non-Pledge" for a general offering.*



Offertory

Honor, Honor

Mark Fiddie, solo

Arr. Hall Johnson

❖ **Response 480**

Take Me to the Water

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

Yvonne Hill-Davenport



Being the Church in the World

❖ **Sending Hymn 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYDY NOS

❖ **Charge & Benediction**

❖ **Postlude**

Prelude in A Minor

J.S. Bach



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.

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. Art: *Baptism of Jesus*, by Liz Valente from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59319> Original source: Liz Valente, <https://www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/>

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.

Congregational Meeting—We will have a congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, January 25, 2026. The purpose of the congregational meeting is to hear a report from Pastor Neeley on the State of the Church, an update from our Finance Team on our 2026 Operating Budget, and approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.



Serving Today

Guest Worship Leader | Rev. Larry Kennon

Liturgists | Charles Ardis, Aubrey Evans, Yvonne Hill-Davenport, Darcel Tabb

Usher Chair | Hardy Sideris

Acolyte | Kali Smith

Tech Team | Kraig Howell, Laramy Wells

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	Senior Pastor & Head of Staff
Alisa Castilla	Interim Dir. of Children & Youth
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

Nursery Staff	
Hattie Bellinger	
Catrina Crowe	
Akeelah Fletcher	
Jahniyah Greene	
Jordyn Williams	
Sylvia Woods	

Officers

Reaching Out

Yvonne Hill-Davenport	Witness (2028)
Stephanie Scarborough	Witness (2027)
Bob Tabb	Thriving Congregations (2028)

Engaging

Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)
Hardy Fortson Sideris	Worship (2027)
Chuck Williams	Faith Formation (2028)
Angie Woodham	Worship (2028)

Belonging

Gary Boteler	Finance (2027)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome (2026)
Bethany Wells	Welcome (2028)

Connecting (Deacons)

Cathy Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Denny Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Beverly Kratz	Faith & Fellowship (2028)
Darcel Tabb	Faith & Fellowship (2027)

More

Jodi Atkins	Preschool (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish	Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session

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



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA**

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



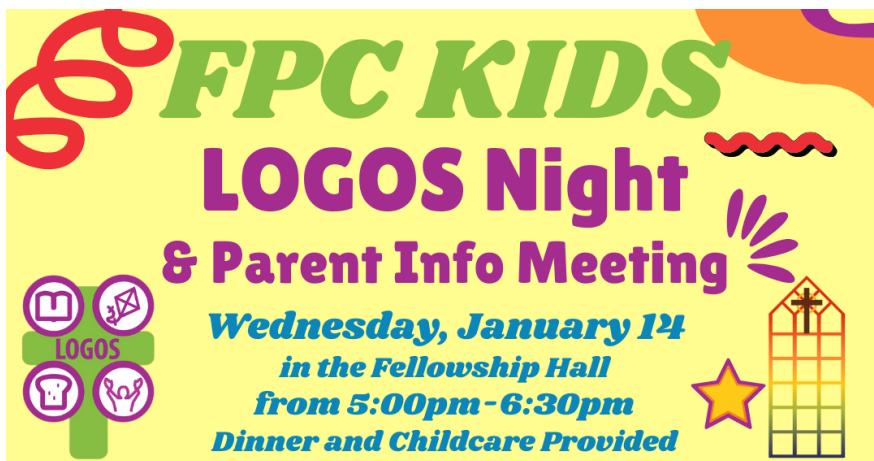
Come be a part of our day of service for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! Our youth will be leading but all are welcome to help us serve a free lunch to our community! Let Neeley know if you'd like to come help serve, setup or cleanup, or if you'd like to bring food like soup, chili, or sandwiches!

Child Protection Training

All who work with children and/or hold leadership positions in the church shall complete our Child Protection Policy. If you would like to sign up to participate in the training, please sign up for one of the following dates by emailing Neeley. She will send you the zoom information.

Sunday, Jan. 18 at 4pm

Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 4pm



Sunday, January 11 Baptism of the Lord

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

5:00pm Youth Group Shindig

Monday, January 12

12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting

3:30pm Staff Planning Meeting

5:30pm FPCP Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 13

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

4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting

5:30pm Personnel Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 14

10:00am Coffee & Conversation

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:00pm LOGOS

5:00pm Parent Informational Meeting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 15

10:00am FPCP Chapel

Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

4:00pm Child Protection Training

TACKLE HUNGER
 With The
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



**SUNDAY,
 FEBRUARY 8**

Bring donations to worship by February 8th to support the Newton County Community Food Pantry for the Souper Bowl of Caring

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- † Luke Crum, brother-in-law of Jenn Arndt - in the ICU
- † Ariana Donaldson, friend of Hannah Freeman
- † Felton Floyd, brother of Eleanor Scarborough - in the hospital
- † Otis Andrews, friend of the Buckelew/ McSwain family - in the ICU
- † Joy Bouchard, family of Sara Chini - pneumonia
- † Norma C. Couch, friend of Starr & Taryn Puckett - recovering from heart transplant
- † Aria Jo, friend of Ruby Wells - infant with poor immune system

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- † Patrick Carmichael
- † Bob Woodham, family of Angie Woodham - recovering from a fall

- † Mark Wells, family of Lily Wells
- † Glen Kitts, friend of Chris Martin - in hospital with collapsed lung
- † Dan Walden - bone marrow transplant
- † 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 Tammi Welch
- † 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

Condolences

- † Our thoughts and prayers are with Louly F. Hay and her loved ones as they mourn the passing of her sister, Florence Fowler Peacock.

Celebrations

† We are joyful to announce that Alisa Castilla will serve as our Interim Director of Children and Youth from January through May 2026. We are excited to welcome former seminary intern Alisa back to FPC! You are invited to send her words of welcome to her new email with us: alisa@fpccov.org

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

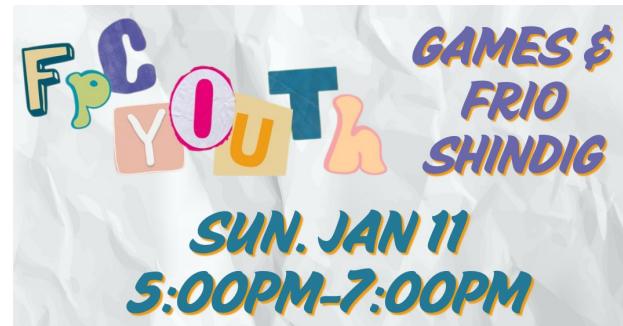
Prayer requests and updates may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

We welcome everyone into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!

Sunday, January 25th
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

All who have joined in the past six months are invited to our new member luncheon at 12:30pm on Sunday, February 1st



Sunday School

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

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something
GIVE BLOOD



First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA
American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Monday, February 2nd
12:00PM-5:00PM
Fellowship Hall

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).
You may also use the Red Cross Donor App
and enter sponsor code: **firstprescov**.