

# 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

**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	Nursery Staff
Alisa Castilla	Interim Dir. of Children & Youth	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Catrina Crowe
Denise Gabriel	Dir. of Community Preschool	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Jahniah Greene
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	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	
<b>Reaching Out</b>	
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	Witness (2028)
Stephanie Scarborough	Witness (2027)
Bob Tabb	Thriving Congregations (2028)
<b>Engaging</b>	
Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)
Hardy Fortson Sideris	Worship (2027)
Chuck Williams	Faith Formation (2028)
Angie Woodham	Worship (2028)
<b>Belonging</b>	
Gary Boteler	Finance (2027)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome (2026)
Bethany Wells	Welcome (2028)
<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Cathy Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Denny Dobbs	Pastoral Care (2027)
Beverly Kratz	Faith & Fellowship (2028)
Darcel Tabb	Faith & Fellowship (2027)
<b>More</b>	
Jodi Atkins	Preschool (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish	Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session



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



**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**DAY OF SERVICE**  
**JANUARY 19, 2026**  
**11:00AM-1:00PM**  
 Lunch with our neighborhood:  
 serving soup & sandwiches  
**FREE TO THE COMMUNITY**

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**

**FPC KIDS**  
**LOGOS Night**  
**& Parent Info Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 14**  
*in the Fellowship Hall*  
**from 5:00pm - 6:30pm**  
*Dinner and Childcare Provided*




## 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 Loebler, 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](mailto: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

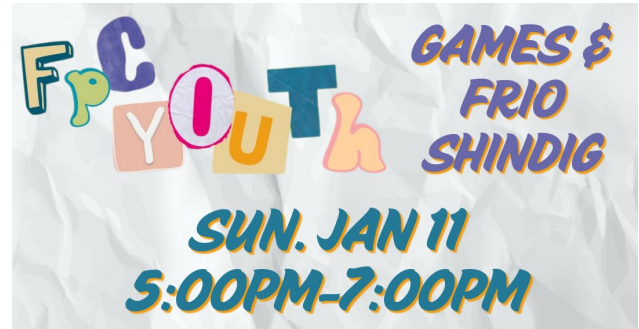
**Prayer requests and updates** may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

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](http://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**.