

The Gospel According to

BLUEY



RW

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday
after Epiphany



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

❖ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*Let All Things Now Living
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
This Is My Father's World*

THE ASH GROVE
Charles Callahan
TERRA BEATA

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Franklin Ritter

Welcome & Announcements

❖ Call to Worship

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

Praise the Lord!

❖ Hymn of Praise 413

Come into God's Presence

COME INTO HIS PRESENCE

❖ Call to Confession

❖ Community Confession

God, sometimes I say things I shouldn't.

I speak too quickly.

**I let frustration leak out of my mouth,
and before I know it, I've put my foot in it.**

My words can be sharp. My tone can be heavy.

My sighs, my muttering,

the things I say under my breath—
they aren't as quiet as I think.

And I'm sorry, God.

I know the kids heard me—
in the car, on the phone,
in the small moments I assumed didn't matter.

You know my heart, God.

You know I get tired.

You know I get overwhelmed.

But You also know that words can wound,
and I don't want to be someone who brings hurt into the world.

And other times, God, I don't say what I should.

I stay silent. I shrink back.

I'm afraid to speak up:

afraid of conflict,
afraid of being misunderstood,
afraid of the cost of telling the truth.

But my silence teaches too.

The children in my class, the ones at my dinner table,
the people around me in the community—
they witness what I do and what I avoid.

Forgive me for the times my words hurt and the times my silence did.

Forgive me for forgetting that the children are watching—
not to judge, but to learn

Teach me to speak with gentleness,
and to speak with strength.

Help me model what it looks like
to be honest, to be humble,
to repair what I've damaged, and to try again.

Amen.

†Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

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

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Keith Christopher

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 18

Pew Bible page 600

Message

The Gospel According to Bluey:

Our Children are Watching

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

†**Response 379**

We Shall Overcome

WE SHALL OVERCOME

❖ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

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 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

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Alice Walker, organ

❖ Response 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

❖ Sending Hymn 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

❖ Charge & Benediction

❖ Postlude

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

David H. Lowe



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Hardy Sideris

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, MaryRentz Lane, Emma Stillerman

Tech Team | Kraig Howell, Kenny Compton



Worship Practices

The Gospel According to Bluey—Many children and adults alike are fond of a Children's cartoon called *Bluey*. *Bluey* is a highly popular Australian animated children's TV show about an inexhaustible, imaginative 6-year-old blue Heeler puppy named Bluey, who lives with her parents (Bandit and Chilli) and younger sister (Bingo) in Brisbane, Australia. Bluey and her family turn everyday family life into playful, imaginative adventures with a focus on creativity, kindness, and family bonding. Created by Joe Brumm and produced by Ludo Studio, it's known as a "co-viewing" show, enjoyed by both kids and adults for its relatable themes and heartfelt messages.

I wonder what we as Christians, as disciples of Jesus Christ, as the church family of FPC, can learn from this extremely popular animated children's program of today! For the next four weeks we will be exploring how dogs can teach US a few tricks in our worship series "The Gospel According to Bluey." Through this series we will listen to the lessons embodied through Bluey and marvel in what scripture has to say to us!

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.

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!

First time visiting? We're so glad you're here!—Please take a moment to fill out the Connect Card in the pew pocket in front of you. After worship, let us know it's your first time—we have a gift for you with info about our church and a free treat from The Little Rabbit Bake Shop!

Want to learn more about our church family, baptism, communion, or Bible study? Just mark it on the card—we'd love to connect with you!

A Note For Those That Pledge Online Through REALM—When you schedule your pledge payment through REALM you must choose the “2026 pledge” fund (if you signed a pledge card) for it to post and accrue to your 2026 pledge. The Finance Administrator cannot make that change for you unless she has your banking or credit card information. So, please, if have recurring/automatic payments set up in Realm, go into your account and verify it is going to the correct fund. If you set up a scheduled payment for your 2025 pledge it does not update to the 2026 fund automatically and you will need to change your set up.

If you need help with changing or setting up online giving, Peni Kehoe will be glad to help when she is in the office. Office hours are: 10am–3pm on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. 470-782-8267 or email peni@fpccov.org. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministries of Covington First Presbyterian Church.

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: *Bluey* by Ruby Wells



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

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

Sara Chini *Witness (2026)*
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

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- † Sarah Davis - moved to Merryvale
- † Theodore Goddard - RSV
- † Aliya Castilla, sister of Alisa Castilla
- † Mary Alice Clark, cousin of Denny Dobbs - serious blood illness
- † Luke Crum, brother-in-law of Jenn Arndt - in the ICU
- † Ariana Donaldson, friend of Hannah Freeman
- † 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.

- † Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer

- † Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- † 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
- † 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

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
- † Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- † 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 to the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

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

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

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**.

Sunday School

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

Life at FPC

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

"Peace Be with You, and Also with You"



Saturday, February 28 from 9:00am-4:00pm
at the **Calvin Center** in Hampton, GA

Programming for all ages! Rain or Shine! *(Children and youth must be accompanied by a supervising adult)*
Light Breakfast, Snacks, and Lunch Provided
Cost per person \$25 (Family Max \$85) Scholarships available.

VOLUNTEER AT THE WARMING CENTER

A graphic with the text "VOLUNTEER AT THE WARMING CENTER" in large green letters. It features illustrations of hands, mittens, and a mug. Below the text, it says "FPC's week to help welcome guests to the Warming Center is February 16-22! Sign up today to be a volunteer! Send questions to neeley@fpccov.org!" and "Some ways to help the Warming Center: check in guests, wash bedding, make PB&J sack lunches, provide hot breakfast, or donate!"

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

Sunday, January 18
Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
4:00pm Child Protection Training

Monday, January 19

Office CLOSED
11:00am MLK Day of Service
—1:00pm

Tuesday, January 20

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
4:00pm Child Protection Training

Wednesday, January 21

10:00am Coffee & Conversation
3:30pm Staff Meeting
5:45pm Handbell Choir
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 22

10:00am FPCP Chapel
3:00pm Deacons Meeting
4:00pm Finance Team Meeting

Saturday, January 24

9:00am Officer Retreat

Sunday, January 25
Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—Officer Installation
12:00pm Congregational Meeting
12:15pm Welcoming New Members
4:00pm Kids Ice Skating