

# The Gospel According to

# BLUEY



RW

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday  
after Epiphany



✠ *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

*Psalms 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*  
Chancel Choir

Arr. Keith Christopher

**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*  
Alice Walker, organ

ROYAL OAK

## ✠ 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	<i>Senior Pastor &amp; Head of Staff</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children &amp; Youth</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>	Catrina Crowe
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications &amp; 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**

<b>Reaching Out</b>	
Sara Chini	<i>Witness (2026)</i>
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	<i>Witness (2028)</i>
Stephanie Scarborough	<i>Witness (2027)</i>
Bob Tabb	<i>Thriving Congregations (2028)</i>
<b>Engaging</b>	
Krista Firkus	<i>Faith Formation (2027)</i>
Hardy Fortson Sideris	<i>Worship (2027)</i>
Chuck Williams	<i>Faith Formation (2028)</i>
Angie Woodham	<i>Worship (2028)</i>
<b>Belonging</b>	
Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>
<b>Connecting (Deacons)</b>	
Cathy Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Denny Dobbs	<i>Pastoral Care (2027)</i>
Beverly Kratz	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; Fellowship (2027)</i>
<b>More</b>	
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>



## 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](mailto: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 the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto: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**

### Sunday School

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

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**



**American Red Cross**

**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**.

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!

"Peace Be with You, and Also with You"

## Spring Retreat 2026


**Saturday, February 28** from 9:00am-4:00pm

at the **Calvin Center** in Hampton, GA

Programing 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**

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](mailto: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!



**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

# 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