



the good news is..

great love for  
God & neighbor

February 22, 2026

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

First Presbyterian  
Church Covington, GA



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



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*  
*Trumpet Tune*

Walter Buszin  
William P. Rowan

## **Invitation to Worship**

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Prelude**

*Gathering Music*

William Faulkes

## **Welcome & Announcements**

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed!

**Let us worship our compassionate God.**

## ✠ **Hymn of Praise 14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

## ✠ **Call to Confession**

## ✠ **Community Confession**

**Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?**

**Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?**

**Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?**

**Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes?**

**Did we come up with every excuse in the book?**

**God, we long to be people who love our neighbors  
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.  
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.  
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the  
way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.  
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

✦ **Hymn of Response 695**      *Change My Heart, O God*      CHANGE MY HEART

***Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.  
You are the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.***

✦ **Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Faith family,  
even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even  
when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back  
on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again.**

**Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

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**

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

**And also with you!**



## *Proclaiming the Word*

### **Wondering with God's Children**

#### **Anthem**

*I Surrender All*

Arr. by Tom Fettke

Chancel Choir

### **Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding**

#### **Scripture Reading**

*Luke 7:36-50*

Pew Bible page 66

This is the Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Message**

*The Good News is...Extravagant Love*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✠ **Response 451**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

OPEN MY EYES

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable**

and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.

Thanks be to God! 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

*Adagio from Sonata III*  
Alice Walker (organ)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

## ✠ Response 697

*Take My Life*

HENDON

***Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.***

## Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

*Tell Me Something Good*

You are invited to write down Good NEWS on the leaf cut out found in your  
bulletin! As you exit worship we ask that you place the leaves in the offering  
plates located at the exit doors! Your Good News will be added to our  
worship art each week of Lent! **How have you witnessed or participated  
in loving your neighbor this week?**



# Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 203**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHEREPONI

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

*Tidings of Joy*

J.S. Bach



## Worship Practices

**Tell Me Something Good Lenten Series**—Our 2026 Lenten series, “*Tell Me Something Good: grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent*” was created by the creative team at Sanctified Art. The following is their message on the series:

*Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this Lenten series, we studied what was central to Jesus’ life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus’ teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.*

*This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world. This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.*

**Worship Art**—Look at the art on the cover of this worship guide. Notice how deconstructed details are entwined together. What parts of the image draw your attention the most?

Today’s worship guide cover art is an acrylic, marker, and paper collage on canvas by Rev. Nicolette Faison titled “LL Cool J” inspired by Luke 7:36-50. The following is from the artist’s statement on the piece.

*Ladies love Cool Jesus. For real. Women absolutely loved Jesus, and the woman with the alabaster jar is a great example of that. Who else shows up to an event unannounced with expensive oils to not only anoint someone’s feet but to then offer their tears and use*

*their hair to wipe the feet clean? I don't think people comprehend the drama within that part of the story. This was an act of love, admiration, and prophecy. To me, this interpretation of the story gives the woman the attention she deserves.*

*When I thought about the theme, "Tell Me Something Good", I realized I had spent much of my year guest preaching at classic church buildings with stained glass windows which told the parishioners the good news of Jesus. It felt most appropriate to bring the concept of stained glass into my art. Instead of the maximalist collage approach that I often use, I chose to let the paint tell the story. The color choice is both bright and vibrant yet softer than other pieces. I selected the yellow purposely to contrast the purple hair. In an attempt to clearly separate the blue sky glass from the rest of the piece, I layered patterns with a red/pink color scale to make the art pop, emphasizing the distinct glass shapes one could find on a church window.*

*Several aspects of the piece are deconstructed, such as the woman's head and the foot of Jesus, both detached from bodies. I intentionally emphasize these elements to not distract us from the core of the story. The woman was intimately entwined with the feet of Jesus, her hair entangled with his leg. She released tears that would nourish his toes as the rich oil replenished his skin. To be cared for, to be seen, to be loved, that is something good.*

**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!

**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. Lenten Series: "Tell Me Something Good" | Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | Art: "LL Cool J" by Rev. Nicollet Faison | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



## Serving Today

**Usher Chair** | Angie Woodham    **Tech Team** | Kraig Howell, Dan Walden

**Acolytes** | Parker Firkus, MaryRantz Lane, Willie Ralston



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

### First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rantz 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 Rantz 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.*

- ✦ Ken Walker - pneumonia
- ✦ Brad Phillips, son-in-law of Tricia & Harry Hinton - recovering from knee surgery
- ✦ Beth Vining - knee & back pain
- ✦ Sybil Carter, grandmother of Luke Usry - hospice
- ✦ Jonathan Paschal, father of Jon Paschal
- ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker
- ✦ Julia MacKenzie - recovering from eye surgery
- ✦ Kevin Gabriel, husband of Denise Gabriel - kidney surgery & testing
- ✦ Seth, nephew of FPCP teacher Jannie Smith - surgery

### Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Starr Puckett - rotary cuff surgery
- ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay
- ✦ Mary Alice Clark, cousin of Denny Dobbs - serious blood illness

- ✦ Aviya Castilla, sister of Alisa Castilla
- ✦ Ariana Donaldson, friend of Hannah Freeman
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Virginia, mother of Tammi Welch
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Mark Wells, family of Lily Wells
- ✦ Bob Woodham, family of Angie Woodham - recovering from a fall

### Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Jane Williams, including her husband Jon Williams, as they mourn Jane's passing on February 10, 2026. A private service will be held at a later date.

### Celebrations

- ✦ Sarah Davis is turning 90 on March 25! Her family is holding a drop-in birthday party at Merryvale Assisted Living today, March 1st from 12:30-3:30pm for anyone who would like to come celebrate with her!

- ✦ If you feel called to send her a birthday card her mailing address is:

Sarah Davis  
11980 Hwy 142, Room 57  
Oxford, GA 30054

### 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)



*Lenten  
Lectio  
Divina*

**DEVOTIONAL STUDY**  
Tuesdays at 12pm  
in the Parlor  
Join Pastor Neeley this  
Lent as we discuss the  
Good News

**On March 15th  
our friends at  
Southern  
Crescent Habitat**



**Southern Crescent  
Habitat  
for Humanity®**

**for Humanity will be speaking at our church!**

They will lead a group discussion in the Foundations Sunday School Class and will hold a Minute for Mission in worship!

**Come and hear about their mission  
in our community!**

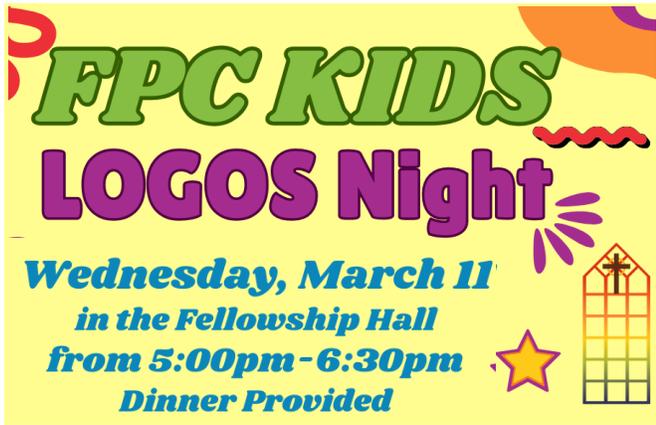
FPC and GUMC are bringing our congregations together for the "Seven Last Words"

**Community  
Good Friday  
Service  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm**

Hosted by Grace United Methodist Church  
3145 Washington Street

**Sunday School** classes are held at 9:45am.

Children's Class (PreK-4th) | Youth Class (5th+) | Foundations Adult Class | The Wired WORD



### Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings for March

**Rahab Circle** will meet in the Parlor on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm with childcare provided.

**Elizabeth Ann Circle and Martha Circle** will have a combined meeting on Tuesday, March 3rd in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom beginning at **10:00am**.

Liz Pope (Barbara Martin's daughter) will lead the discussion on Lesson #7.

Visit [fpcov.org/zoom-links](http://fpcov.org/zoom-links) to join online!

**After the presentation, the Circles will meet to select a new Presbyterian Women Co-Moderator.**



#### Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

Undie Sunday

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Tell Me Something Good

5:00pm Youth Study Sunday

#### Tuesday, March 3

10:00am PW Elizabeth Ann & Martha Circles

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

#### Wednesday, March 4

10:00am Coffee Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm PW Rahab Circle

6:30pm Chancel Choir

#### Saturday, March 7

10:00am The Sacred Arts Collective in Atl

#### Sunday, March 8

#### Third Sunday in Lent

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Tell Me Something Good

## EASTER LILIES



Dedicate an Easter Lily for the Sanctuary to a loved one

Deadline to donate and submit names is March 29th  
Find the form in the narthex, in the e-news or at [fpcov.org/lent](http://fpcov.org/lent)

The suggested minimum donation is \$14.

Donations over the cost of flowers will be contributed to the Newton County Community Food Pantry and to our work with our Partner in Education Fairview Elementary School.



**March 1 - Study Sunday**  
**March 15 - Serve Sunday**  
**March 22 - Shindig Sunday**

## 2026 Lobby Day

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH @ 8:00AM**  
**AT CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**IN ATLANTA. REGISTER AT [P4BG.ORG](http://P4BG.ORG)**

**To learn more and to join the carpool**  
**email [neeley@fpcov.org](mailto:neeley@fpcov.org)**