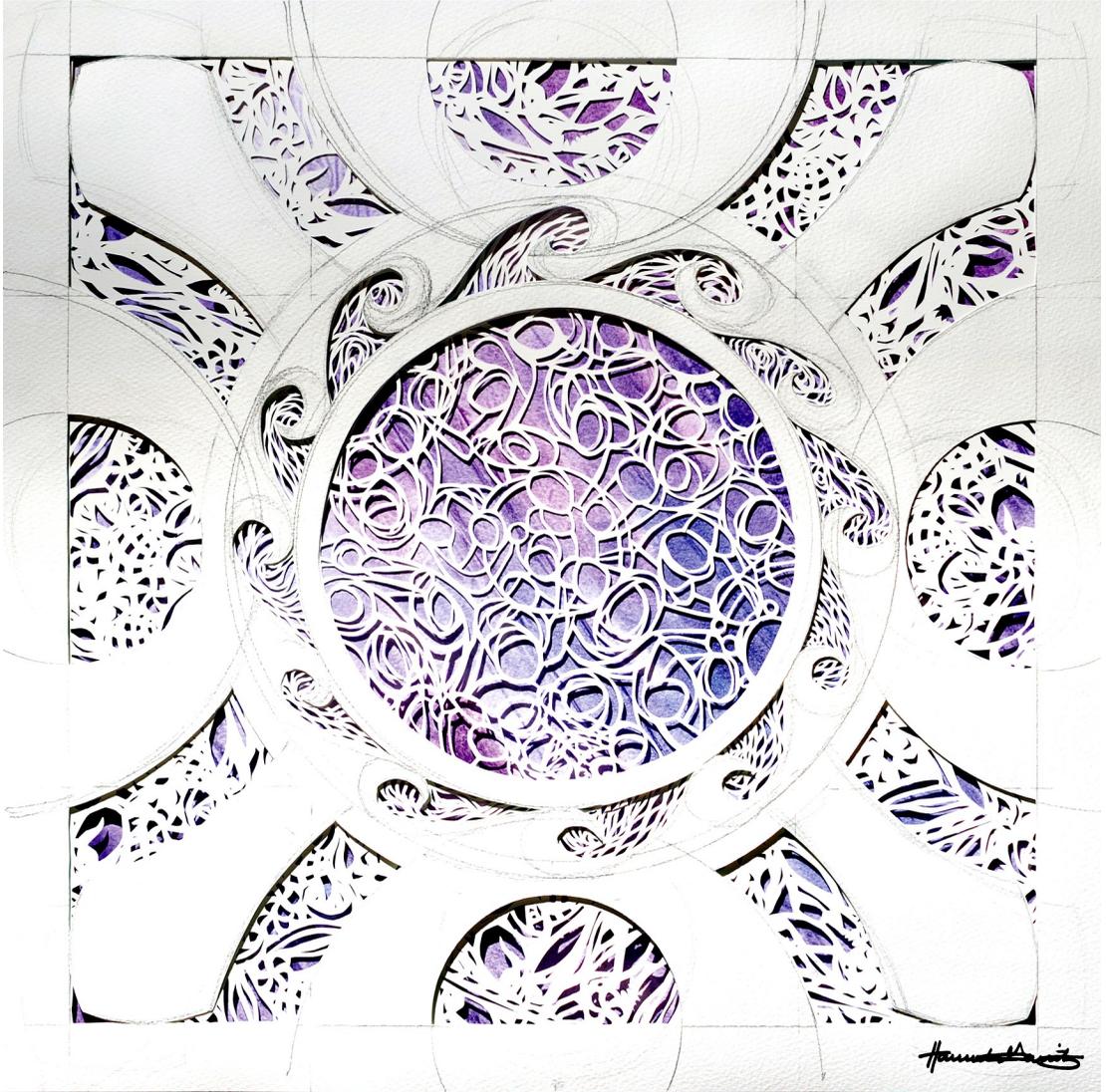
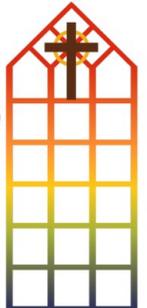


First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA




the good news is...
together, the impossible
is possible

THIRD SUNDAY
IN LENT
March 8, 2026



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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Thanks Be to God G.F. Handel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach
Meditation on MARTYRDOM Hugh S. Livingston

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

HYMN OF PROMISE Natalie Sleeth

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

If you need good news,

settle into this space. We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,

then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,

then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

then know that this is God's house

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 20

All Things Bright and Beautiful ROYAL OAK

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

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

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, good news.

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

When in Our Music God is Glorified

arr. by Harriet Ziegenhals

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Readings

Mark 6:32-44

Pew Bible page 41

Message

The Good News is... together, the impossible is possible Alisa Castilla



Responding to the Word

✦ **Response 182**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

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

All the Way My Savior Leads Me
Alice Walker, organ

Robert Lowry

✠Response 649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

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 the impossible?***



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 712** *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* FOREST GREEN

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude** *Lord, Lift Me Up and Let Me Stand* Susannah Keeney



Worship Notes

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. In the artwork, waves represent the twelve disciples. Why do you think the artist rendered the disciples this way?

Today’s worship guide cover art is a paper lace with watercolor by Hannah Garrity titled “Scarce Abundance” inspired by Mark 6:32-44. The following is from the artist’s statement on the piece.

*In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion. This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning “bowels”) which has a sense of a visceral, gut-*

level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted Jesus to teach.

Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—What did he say?—repeating his words, passing them along.

In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief.

Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance.

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: “Scarce Abundance” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Angie Woodham

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Lilla Harris, Sebastian Gibbins, Emma Stillerman



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children & Youth</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>

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

Reaching Out

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>

Engaging

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>

Belonging

Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>

Connecting (Deacons)

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

More

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.

- ✦ Tom Crews - recovering from a fall
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Ken Walker - pneumonia
- ✦ Brad Phillips, son-in-law of Tricia & Harry Hinton - recovering from knee surgery
- ✦ Beth Vining - knee & back pain
- ✦ Jonathan Paschal, father of Jon Paschal
- ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Julia MacKenzie - recovering from eye surgery
- ✦ Kevin Gabriel, husband of Denise Gabriel - kidney surgery & testing
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's

- ✦ Seth, nephew of FPCP teacher Jannie Smith - surgery
- ✦ Starr Puckett - rotary cuff surgery
- ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay
- ✦ 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

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Luke Usry and his loved ones as they mourn the loss of his grandmother, Sybil Carter.

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

Holy Week at FPC

Palm-Passion Sunday

March 29 | 11:00am

Featuring the Children's Palm Parade & a Lenten Cantata from our Chancel Choir

Maundy Thursday

April 2 | 6:00pm

Experience communion with us around The Lord's Table

Good Friday

April 3 | 6:00pm

Community Worship hosted by our friends at Grace United Methodist Church experiencing the Seven Last Words

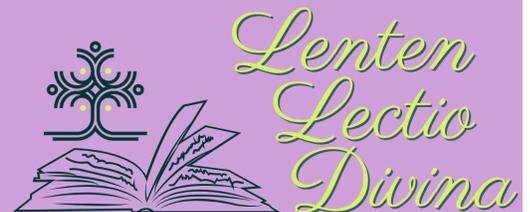
Easter Sunday April 20

Traditional Service at 11:00am in the Sanctuary
Sunrise Service at 6:45am in the Garden



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sat., March 14
8:00am at Town House Café



DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Tuesdays at 12pm
in the Parlor

Join Pastor Neeley this
Lent as we discuss the
Good News

LOGOS Night

Wednesday, March 18

in the Fellowship Hall
from 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Dinner Provided

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

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



Southern Crescent
Habitat
for Humanity®

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

S.O.S. Adventures!

FPC's Seasoned Older Saints' Monthly Outings

Thur., March 12
The Swan House

Meet at church to carpool at 9am

Signup with Neeley

Museum Cost: \$15

Cost does not include lunch



Instead of regular Youth Group, we will be supporting our friends in the Arts Association's production of *Alice in Wonderland* on March 15 at 3:00pm.

CHANGEMAKERS LAB VBS at FPC

JUNE 15-18

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

3 y/o - 5th grade

Register by May 14
to guarantee a t-shirt in your size!

To register, visit
fpccov.org/vbs



ALL ARE
WELCOME TO
JOIN THE FUN!

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Tell Me Something Good

Monday, March 9

12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Zoom

Tuesday, March 10

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

Wednesday, March 11

10:00am Coffee Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:45pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 12

9:00am SOS Adventure to the Swan House

5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

Friday, March 13

10:00am FPCP Chapel

Saturday, March 14

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Habitat for Humanity Sunday

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship—Communion

12:30pm Worship Team Meeting

2026
Lobby Day



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH
AT 8:00AM

AT CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN ATLANTA.

REGISTER AT P4BG.ORG

To learn more and to join the
carpool email
neeley@fpccov.org

Easter Lilies 2026



If you would like to help decorate the Sanctuary with lilies on Easter Sunday, make a donation to honor or memorialize a loved one. To do so, fill out this form and attach a check made out to FPC and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. Please put "lilies" in the memo space on your check or envelope.

Donations made online should be given under the dropdown fund option "Flowers-all". Please email catherine@fpccov.org with your dedications if you give online.

**The deadline to submit Easter dedications is Sunday, March 29, 2026.
A minimum donation of \$14 is suggested.**

Whatever donations we collect over the cost of the flowers will be divided and contributed to support the Newton County Community Food Pantry and to our work with our Partner in Education Fairview Elementary School.

Thank you!

Given by _____

Please print the names of your dedications as you would like them to be printed in the worship guide.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

please circle one cash check online