



April 12, 2026
Second Sunday of Easter



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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Morning Has Broken
God of Grace and God of Glory
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Charles Callahan
CWM RHONDDA
LLANGLOFFAN

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Simple Gifts

American Shaker Melody

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Through the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,

we have been born anew into a living hope;

we have been given an inheritance that will never pass away!

Blessing and glory

and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever!

Amen.

✠ Hymn of Praise 249

Because You Live, O Christ

VRUECHTEN

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Merciful God,

we thank you for the living hope you have given us

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Yet we confess that we do not always live as Easter people.

We cling to what is perishable

instead of trusting the inheritance you have kept for us.

We lose heart in trials,

forgetting that you are at work in our lives.

Forgive us for the times we doubt your goodness.

God of Hope, though we have not seen you,

we long to love you more fully.

Strengthen our faith where it is weak,

restore our joy where it has grown dim,

and teach us to trust your presence with us

even in the midst of trials.

We confess our sins before you,

trusting in your grace and hope that does not fade.

In Jesus' name, 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**

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

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

El Shaddai
Victor Tapia, solo

arr. by Amy Grant

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Pew Bible page 232

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Living Hope and Inexpressible Joy

Alisa Castilla



Responding to the Word

✠Response 244

This Joyful Eastertide

VRUECHTEN

***This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.***

Refrain:

***Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.***

***My flesh in hope shall rest
and for a season slumber
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number. (Refrain)***

***Death's flood has lost its chill
since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver. (Refrain)***

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

Wonderful, Merciful Savior
Alice Walker, organ

Dawn Rogers & Eric Wyse

✠ Response 240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and has risen.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Prayer of Dedication



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body! See our Worship Practices section for more details.

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 238**

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

Praeludium und Fuge in F-Dur

J.S. Bach



Serving Today

Guest Worship Leader | We welcome *Rev. Courtney Pittman* to worship as a guest worship leader and we thank her for sharing her gifts with us at FPC!

Guest Musician | We welcome *Victor Tapia* to worship this morning and we thank him for sharing his vocal musical talents with us!

Usher Chair | Stephanie Scarborough

Tech Team | Laramy Wells, Brad Hawley

Acolytes | Emmalin Whisnant, William Whisnant, Michael Dobbs



Worship Practices

Communion—All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

First time visiting? We're so glad you're here!—Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor 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. *Visit* 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 are available in the narthex. 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.



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>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jordyn Williams
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	Sylvia Woods
Chuck Williams	<i>Parish Associate</i>	

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.

- ✦ Steven Gibbons—fractured ribs
- ✦ Brenda Howell—recovering from stroke
- ✦ Carter, friend of Paisley Lane - broken wrist
- ✦ Glen Eason, uncle of Hannah Eason - recovering from car accident
- ✦ Tom Crews - moved into Prema at Ashton Hills Assisted Living
- ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment
- ✦ Ken Walker
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - rehab
- ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth Vining - prostate cancer treatment

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay
- ✦ Olaava MacKenzie, daughter of Julie & Jeff MacKenzie - praying for safe travels
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer

- ✦ Douglas Hatfield, husband of Mary Hatfield
- ✦ Kelly Folden, friend of Jennifer Buckelew - father diagnosed with cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining , brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Virginia, mother of Tammi Welch
- ✦ Norma C. Couch, friend of Starr & Taryn Puckett - recovering from heart transplant
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Jonathan Paschal, father of Jon Paschal
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker
- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Julia MacKenzie - recovering from eye surgery

Celebrations

✦ We are joyful to announce that Chuck Williams will serve as our Parish Associate, primarily providing support with pastoral care duties! Chuck will continue to serve in his role representing the faith formation team on Session. Welcome Chuck!!!

- ✦ Louise White turned 100 years old on March 30, 2026! Her mailing address is below for anyone who feels called to send her birthday wishes!

10050 Eagle Drive Apt 205
Covington, GA 30014

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Tom Crews - 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
- ✦ Benjamin Iannucci, III - Air Force

Prayer requests and updates may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to catherine@fpccov.org

**Do you have a
someone you'd like to
see be an Elder or
Deacon?**

**Fill out the officer
nomination form!**

*The officer nomination form
is a way to share who you*

see within the church that has the gifts to serve as an officer!

Find the nomination form in the narthex or in the e-news!

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, turned in to the church office, or emailed to Nominating Committee Chair

Pam Stillerman at pam@alcovyfitness.com

**HYMN SING
& SCOUT SUNDAY**
Sunday, April 19th
During 11:00am Worship at FPC
Join us as we revisit our favorite hymns
and rejoice the Lord in song!
All current and former scouts are invited
to wear their uniform to worship as well!

FPC KIDS
LOGOS Night
Wednesday, April 15
in the Fellowship Hall
from 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Dinner Provided

MISSION MANIA

*join FPC for
local missions
this Summer!*

July 20-23
For more info visit
fpccov.org/signup

Support our Women Build!!
First Presbyterian Church Covington is
doing a Habitat for Humanity Women

Build on May 14!

Join us through

donations to
Habitat or
sign up to
bring a
hammer and hardhat!!



Join the fun this April with
FPC's Seasoned Older Saints
Signup with Neeley!

Lunch Bunch
**Oxford
College
Cafeteria**
Thursday, April 16
at 11:30am

**Monastery
in Conyers**
Monday, April 20
Meet at the church
to carpool at
10:00am
S.O.S. Adventure



**WOMEN
BUILD**

ROLL-ER DERBY TOILET PAPER DRIVE

APRIL 19

Bring toilet paper, paper towels, and feminine hygiene products to worship!



In partnership with Repairers of the Breach

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship on

April 26th

Legacy of Love Church Family Lunch

Hosted by our
Endowment Team

Free lunch
No RSVPs
needed!

Join your FPC Family as we celebrate the past, present, and future of our Church

Sunday, April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 12:00pm Welcoming New Members
- 12:30pm Faith Formation Team Meeting
- 5:00pm Youth Study Shindig

Monday, April 13

- 12:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 14

- 1:30pm PW Coordinating Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 5:00pm LOGOS
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 16

- 11:30am Lunch Bunch

Saturday, April 18

Cheerios Challenger Water Table

Sunday, April 19 Third Sunday of Easter

Roll-er Derby Toilet Paper Drive

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Hymn Sing
- 11:30am Godly Play after the Children's Moment
- 12:15pm Session Meeting
- 5:00pm Youth Service Sunday

Join us before & after worship
Sunday, April 26

Silent ART Auction

Help us raise money for our
Youth Conference Fund!

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 School

Sunday School classes
are held at 9:45am.

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