



April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday
of Easter



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Morning Is 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

Early American Shake Melody

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Come, walk in green pastures.

We follow the Shepherd.

Come, lie down in green pastures.

We trust the Shepherd.

Come, dine at the table of abundance.

We are fed by the Shepherd.

Come, dwell in God's house.

We live in the Shepherd's care.

✠ Hymn of Praise 5

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

Gentle Shepherd,

You guide us in right paths,

You lead us in the ways of righteousness,

but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed,

and at times even hate, to direct our paths.

**We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share,
we have despised others that seem to have it all.
Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways.
Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep,
and You are our Shepherd.
Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice
and instead have acted in the ways of the world.
Guide us back to Your path,
to loving You and loving our neighbors.
Help us to unclench our fists
and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love.
In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.**

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

We are part of the flock, we are part of Christ's body.
In Christ we find wholeness and restoration.
Go forth and share this 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

Unbounded Grace

by Dan Wyrzten

Bill Clary, Day Kennon, Meghan Ursy, Danny Vining (quartet)

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

John 10:1-10

Pew Bible page 103

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

The Good Shepherd

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Response 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.

***In pastures fresh he makes me feed,
beside the living stream.***

***He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.***

***When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.***

***Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.***

*The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.*

✠ 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

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Alice Walker, organ

Graham Kendrick

✦ Response 606

Doxology

OLD HUNREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Dedication



Being the Church in the World

✦ Sending Hymn 187

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in F

J.S. Bach



Worship Practices

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.

Worship art—Today's worship guide cover art is a found material cardboard carving inspired by John 10:10-18 made by Scott Fuss during worship at First Presbyterian Church Covington on April 21, 2024. This work is on display in the gathering room.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Stephanie Scarborough

Tech Team | Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | Lilla Harris, Sebastian Gibbons

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff</i>	<i>Nursery Staff</i>
Alisa Castilla	<i>Interim Dir. of Children & Youth</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>	Akeelah Fletcher
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of Community Preschool</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Jordyn Williams
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Sylvia Woods
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	
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>



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In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Ruth McDaniel, former member - recovering from a brain bleed
- ✦ The loved ones and STEAM Academy schoolmates mourning the loss of Aiden.
- ✦ Maggie Gwin, family of Paisley Lane - welcoming baby McCoy!
- ✦ Rita Brown, loved one of Townes Pittman - skin cancer
- ✦ Andrew Rivas, loved one of Townes Pittman - collar bone & wrist injury
- ✦ Steven Gibbons - fractured ribs
- ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering from stroke & heart attack
- ✦ Carter, friend of Paisley Lane - broken wrist
- ✦ Glen Eason, uncle of Hannah Eason - recovering from car accident

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment

- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - rehab
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth Vining - prostate cancer treatment
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Katelyn Jackson, niece of Kim McSwain - stage 3 breast cancer
- ✦ Joann Usry, grandmother of Luke Usry - surgery & pacemaker

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Ken Walker, including his wife Alice, as they mourn Ken's passing on April 18, 2026. A visitation and service were held on April 23.
- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers with the loved ones of Joseph "Pat" Patrick as they mourn his passing on April 12, 2026.

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

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

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



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!
 ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!
 To register, visit fpccov.org/vbs

GIVE HOPE THIS SPRING.

Give blood.

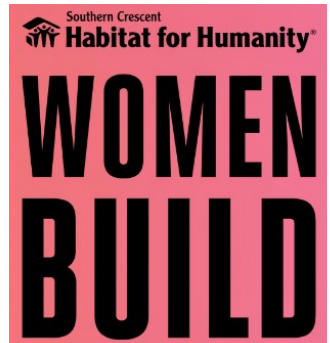
**First Presbyterian Church
 Covington, GA
 American Red Cross
 Blood Drive
 Tuesday, May 19th, 2026
 12:00PM-5:00PM
 Fellowship Hall**



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!!



Southern Crescent
Habitat for Humanity
WOMEN BUILD



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 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Silent Art Auction Supporting the Youth

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship—Blue Sunday
- 12:30pm Legacy of Love Lunch
- 5:00pm Youth Group

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 10:00am FPCP Chapel
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:45pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 30

- 10:00am FPCP Chapel

Saturday, May 2

- 9:00am The Sacred Arts Collective in Atl

Sunday, May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship

Silent ART Auction

Join us before & after worship
Sunday, April 26


Help us raise money for our Youth Conference Fund!

SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT

MAY 13 5:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
MORE DINNER DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Contact Darcel Tabb (darceltabb@yahoo.com) with your talent by May 10.



Presbyterian Women
End of the Year
Celebration!

Monday, May 4th
5:30pm-7:00pm | Fellowship Hall
Childcare provided.

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be May 17

All are invited to submit the names of their loved ones and the school from which they are graduating to by Sunday, May 10 for inclusion in the worship guide. You may write it on a Prayer card for the offering plate or email catherine@fpccov.org.

MISSION MANIA

Join FPC for local missions this Summer!

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

Today is Blue Sunday

Join us for a National Day of Prayer for child abuse victims and those who work to protect children.

Pray for the child/teen victims of abuse in our community:

- Courage to tell someone
- Ability to talk in detail to a forensic interviewer
- Strength to go through the trial process
- Insight to understand the need for therapy
- Support for them through the process

Pray for the people working the cases:

Law enforcement, DFCS, schools, CAC staff, medical providers, mental health practitioners, prosecutors, victim advocates, court staff, jurors

- Protection of their minds and hearts as they listen to the details of abuse
- Wisdom to know how to work the case
- Knowledge of the dynamics of abuse
- Strength for jurors to hear the details and make decisions
- Peace of mind that jobs were done well



**COURAGE TO TELL
SOMEONE**

**STRENGTH THROUGH
DISCLOSURE AND
TRIAL PROCESS**

**Pray for the
children/teen
victims of
abuse in our
community:**



**STRONG SUPPORT
SYSTEM AND ACCESS
TO MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES**

