



May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*O God Our Help in Ages Past
He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him
Toccata from Cathedral Suite for Organ*

William Croft
J.S. Bach
Gordon Young

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Keith Uppercue

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Noticing Beauty

by Kate Bowler

It's not every day that you see it,
But sometimes beauty sneaks up on you
With a tenderness, a sweetness, so lovely it hurts.
It sings to the heart
And makes it glad
That ever a baby laughed
Or a parent smiled
At the hilarious solemnity of play.
Beauty brings a kind of grief.
Because its perfection rings so true
It calls out everything else
That has fallen short.
In me. In us. In everything.
But that's the thing.
It's just the way of it:
That beauty will always be crushingly lovely.
We are grass. We are fireflies.
We are the day that the Lord has made.

Let us worship God!

✠ **Hymn of Praise 177**

I Will Come to You

YOU ARE MINE

✠ **Call to Confession**

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

✠ **Community Confession**

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

Holy One,

You tell us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," yet we confess that our hearts are often full of fear, anxiety, and doubt. We place our trust in ourselves, in circumstances, and in things that cannot sustain us, rather than fully believing in You.

You promise us a place with You yet we live as though this world is all we have. We cling to control, resist Your leading, and forget that You are guiding us home.

Forgive us for not trusting Your promises. Forgive us for losing sight of the way You have set before us. Forgive us for the ways we turn from You, even when You have made a way for us to be with You.

You are the way, the truth, and the life. Restore our faith. Teach us to trust in Your presence and Your promises. Draw us near to you and remind us we are never alone. 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

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal Elder Luke Usry

Sebastian Earwood

McKenna Boston

Isadora Gibbins

Children of Steven and Paige Gibbins

✦ **Baptismal Response 188**

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

***Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.***

Little ones to him belong.

They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,

as he loved so long ago,

taking children on his knee,

saying, "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Anthem

Unbounded Grace

by Dan Wyrzten

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

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Readers' Theater

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

John 14:1-14

Kenny Compton, Amy Fraser, Laramy Wells

Pew Bible page 108

Message

Let not your heart be troubled

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ **Response 825**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

SWING LOW

✦ **Affirmation of Faith**

excerpt from PCUSA's *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,

whom alone we worship and serve

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Chuck Williams

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

His Eye Is On the Sparrow
Janet Carmichael (soloist)

by Hal Hopson

✠ Response 679

Let the Whole Creation Cry

SALZBURG

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."

Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King."

Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!

Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold;

join with children's songs of praise; worship God through length of days.

From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:

"Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!"

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

SHOWALTER

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet



Serving Today

We welcome and celebrate artist Wanda Reagan who is sharing her gifts during worship by creating a work of art reflecting today's scripture!

Usher Chair | Jodi Atkins

Tech Team | Kraig Howell, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Wesley Freeman, Braden Woodham, Lorene Atkins



Worship Practices

Baptism—Baptism is one of two sacraments practiced by Presbyterians; Communion is the other. The act of baptism is deceptively simple—but in a handful of water, there is a deep well of mystery and meaning.

In baptism, we are called to a new way of life as Christ's disciples, sharing the good news of the gospel with all the world. Presbyterians describe baptism as a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. In baptism, God claims us as beloved children and members of Christ's body, the church, washing us clean from sin as we renounce the power of evil and seek the will and way of God.

All four Gospels report the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13–17; Mark 1:9–11; Luke 3:21–22; John 1:29–34). When we are baptized with water in the name of the Trinity, we share in Christ's own baptism.

Presbyterians celebrate baptism as a communal act of public worship! Today we, as the body of Christ, will say "YES" to walking alongside Sebastian, McKenna, and Isadora as we seek to nurture and love them as their family of faith!

We invite you to speak to Pastor Neeley if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.

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.

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!



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>	<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>



Presbyterian Women
End of the Year
Celebration!

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

SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT

MAY 13 5:15PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



ON THE MENU: BRADLEY'S BBQ

RSVP for dinner by May 11th to catherine@fpccov.org or by putting a "serve" card with your name in the offering plate

Adults: \$8
Kids: \$5
Family max: \$30

Athens Botanical Gardens

Wednesday, May 13
Meet at the church to carpool at 8:30am



FPC's Seasoned Older Saints
Signup with Neeley!

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sat., May 16th
8:00am at Town House Café

Sunday, May 3
Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Monday, May 4

5:30pm PW End of the Year Celebration

Tuesday, May 5

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

Wednesday, May 6

10:00am Coffee Club
10:00am FPCP Chapel
5:45pm Handbell Choir
6:30pm PW Rahab Circle
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 7

10:00am FPCP Chapel

Sunday, May 10
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Caring Hands Mothers' Day Special Offering
Graduate Submission Deadline
Talent Show Signup Deadline

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

VOLUNTEER FOR
VBS at FPC

JUNE 15-18
9:00AM-12:00PM

Mandatory training
MAY 31
at 9:45am
during Sunday School

Email Neeley to signup!
neeley@fpccov.org



To register campers, visit fpccov.org/vbs

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.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Will Allfather, cousin of Kim Lindsey - cancer treatment
- ✦ Clements Middle School
- ✦ 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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Carter, friend of Paisley Lane - broken wrist
- ✦ Jill Chandler, sister of Brad Hawley - cancer
- ✦ Glen Eason, uncle of Hannah Freeman - recovering from car accident

- ✦ Steven Gibbons - fractured ribs
 - ✦ Brenda Howell - recovering from stroke & heart attack
 - ✦ Patrick Carmichael
 - ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment
 - ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - rehab
 - ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth Vining - prostate cancer treatment
 - ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
 - ✦ Greg Brickell, friend of Sam & Loucy Hay
 - ✦ Olaava MacKenzie, daughter of Julie & Jeff MacKenzie - praying for safe travels
 - ✦ Douglas Hatfield, husband of Mary Hatfield
 - ✦ Kelly Folden, friend of Jennifer Buckelew - father diagnosed with cancer
 - ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
 - ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
 - ✦ Virginia, mother of Tammi Welch
- Military Service**
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
 - ✦ Benjamin Iannucci, III - Air Force

Condolences

- ✦ Our 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 prayers are with Jean Elder as she mourns the recent passing of several loved ones including her sister Jackie, her nephew Robert, and her dear friend Shirly.
- ✦ Our prayers are 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

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

We welcome everyone into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!

Sunday, May 31st
Talk to Neeley if you are interested!



GIVE HOPE THIS SPRING.
Give blood.

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

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



On Mothers' Day, May 10 we will collect a special offering for the Caring Hands Fund supporting Presbyterian Homes of Georgia.

The Caring Hands Fund provides financial support to ensure that all elderly residents in PHGA will have a home there for as long as they need it.

Southern Crescent
Habitat for Humanity

WOMEN BUILD

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 & hardhat!!*

