

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA



May 31, 2026
First Sunday after Pentecost

✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joel Raney

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Come, God Creator, Holy Ghost

J.S. Bach

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Blessed Assurance

Charles Callahan

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

from Caldwell United Methodist Church

If the human body, body of blood and muscle, is to live, it needs salt

If the body of Christ, body of peace and justice, is to live, it needs us!

If the earthly creation, bustling and blooming, is to flourish, it needs the sun's light

If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit's light!

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Our faith, our love, our hope – essential as salt and light.

But if salt isn't salty?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

And if a light doesn't shine?

It isn't what it's meant to be.

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ:

a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community,

a justice-making people, giving glory to God!

Let us worship the living God!

✦ **Hymn 314**

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Verses 1-3

✦ **Call to Confession**

Chuck Williams

✦ **Community Confession**

Merciful God,

You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, yet we confess that we often lose our distinct witness. We have hidden our faith when it was easier to stay silent. We have allowed fear, pride, and selfishness to dim the light You placed within us.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to bring healing, hope, and truth to those around us. Renew in us a desire to reflect Your goodness in our words, actions, and relationships. Restore our courage to shine with humility and love so that others may see You through us.

By Your grace, make us faithful disciples who live for Your glory and the blessing of our neighbors.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

At this time, you are invited to greet your neighbor! Share the peace of the Lord with a hello, high-five, handshake, hug, or however else you feel called!

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

And also with you!



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Elijah Rock!

Arr. by Roger Emerson

Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

Pew Bible page 4

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Sensing Faith: Taste

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 312**

Take Us As We Are, O God

ENDLESS FEAST

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Chuck Williams

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.*

Chuck Williams



Offertory

This Little Light of Mine
Alice Walker, organ

Jacqueline Haine

✠ Response 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDRETH

***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 & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

Shout to the Lord

John Carter



Worship Practices

Sensing Faith - A sermon series on deepening our faith through engaging the five senses.

Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and by God's grace, comes to us in a variety of ways. Sometimes faith comes to us through hearing: a song, a sermon, a conversation, a story. Sometimes faith comes to us through touch: a fresh breeze on a hot day, a handshake, a high five, a hug. Sometimes faith comes to us through taste: the bread and wine shared at the Lord's Table, a meal brought by a loved one, a dessert that recalls a celebration. Sometimes faith comes by seeing: a painting, a sculpture, a beachfront, or a mountaintop. Sometimes faith comes to us by smelling: incense, the pine scent of a Christmas tree, the baking of fresh bread for Communion. As being created in the image of God, we have been gifted with a variety of senses. In this sermon series, we will explore how faith is formed and nurtured through our five primary senses.

Worship Art - During this sensing faith sermon series our worship guide cover art will show "The Five Senses" stained-glass installation designed by Louis J. Millet, installed in the William Fox Developmental Center in Dwight, IL and photographed by Angela Orlando.

The priceless stained-glass windows were created for the Keeley Institute which pioneered scientific and humane addiction treatment. Installed in 1903 the windows represent the five human senses which are renewed during recovery: seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting and smelling.

The windows are from the Chicago studio of Louis J. Millet. In 1880, George L. Healy and Louis J. Millet began their very influential partnership, Healy & Millet. Their stained glass and decorating skills are associated with some of the most important structures built in Chicago after the Great Fire. The firm also exhibited at the 1889 Paris World's Fair where their entire exhibition of "American Glass" was purchased for installation in the national Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, France.

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.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Jodi Atkins **Tech Team** | Laramy Wells
Acolytes | Emmalin Whisnant, William Whisnant, Michael Dobbs

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Clergy, Office & Music Staff

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor & Head of Staff</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music & Worship Arts</i>
Denise Gabriel	<i>Dir. of First Presbyterian Community Preschool</i>
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>
Chuck Williams	<i>Parish Associate</i>

Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger
Akeelah Fletcher
Jahniyah Greene
Laina Lalane
Sarah Puckett
Shelby Sharpe
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

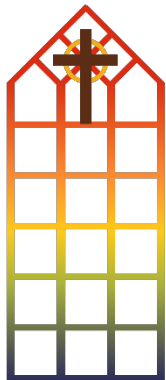
Gary Boteler	<i>Finance (2027)</i>
Pam Stillerman	<i>Welcome (2026)</i>
Bethany Wells	<i>Welcome (2028)</i>

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>



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