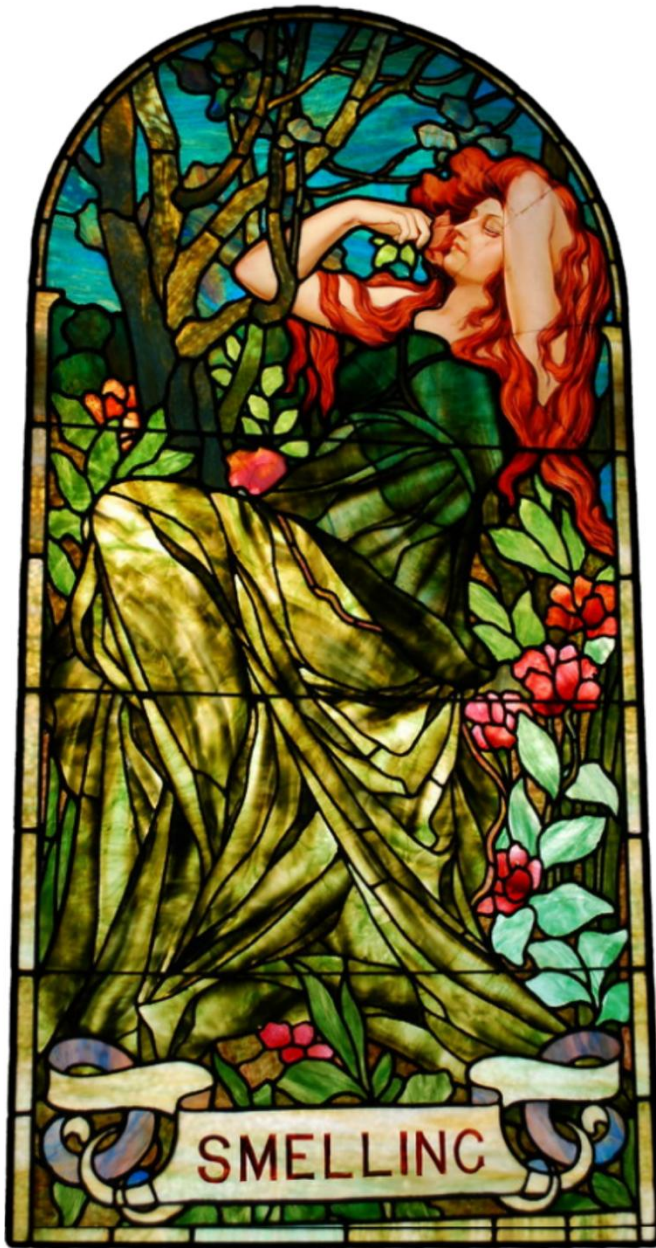


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA



June 7, 2026

Second Sunday after Pentecost

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Trumpet Tune
Holy, Holy, Holy
Fugue in C

John Stanley
Marilyn Arison
J.S. Bach

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Andante in D

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship** *When You Need a Little Motivation to Change* by Kate Bowler

I am rummaging through this day

in search of evidence that tomorrow could be different.

As many times as I wake up

determined to bend the future with each effort and expectation,

my conviction evaporates by the day's end.

Lord, we are given so few chances to direct the course of our lives.

So with what little is in my control,

could you help me try?

Let me know the satisfaction of sleep exhausted by my effort.

Walk me to the edge of comfort

and keep me there long enough to reach for something more.

Rescue me from familiar self-hatred.

(You'll never do it. You can't do it.)

Refine my ambition into honest goals.

Quiet my mind when it is already certain

that nothing could possibly be different.

**And rekindle a tenderness in my uncertain heart
for my own small moments of courage
for you've given me nothing to do but what's mine to be done.
Let us worship you with Joy!**

✦ **Hymn of Praise 15** *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFREUEN

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

written by Moira Laidlaw

Lord Jesus Christ, as your followers

we are called to be people shaped by your ethical and selfless life—
one that is so much at odds with accepted lifestyles of today.

We confess how easy it is to be drawn into these worldly lifestyles

and we need your constant help to make our behavior consistent with yours.

Forgive us when our words have been less than truthful—

inform us with your Spirit

so that we speak the truth—your truth—at all times. (silence)

Forgive us for using anger to manipulate and to control—

direct us with your Spirit

that we might handle our anger responsibly. (silence)

Forgive us when our actions have lacked total integrity—

mold us with your Spirit

so that all our dealings are carried out honestly and ethically. (silence)

Forgive us when our words have been thoughtless and offhand—

instruct us with your Spirit

so that our words truly bring grace to those who hear. (silence)

Renew us with your Spirit

so that our words and actions bring you pleasure and not pain. (silence)

Fall afresh on us, O Holy Spirit,

and make our lives true reflections of Jesus' life,

so that we live, love, and forgive

as graciously and compassionately as he did.

Amen.

✦ Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

We are enabled to be kind to one another, to be tenderhearted, to forgive one another, and to be forgiven, because Jesus feeds us with his life. A life given to save us from sin.

Hear, then, the good news: those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come

Thanks be to God!

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

Grace Alone
Mark Fiddie, solo

by Scott W. Brown
& Jeff Nelson

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Pew Bible page 194

Readers' Theater

Beatrice Briggs, Kately Lane

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Sensing Faith: Smell

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✦ Response 316

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

Affirmation of Faith

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Commissioning

Montreat Youth Conference Attendees & Chaperones

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

Children of the Heavenly Father
Alice Walker, organ

American Folk Melody

✦ 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 710

We Lift Our Voices

OFFERING

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Toccata

Johan Ernst Eberlin



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Bob Tabb

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Kenny Compton

Acolytes | MaryRantz Lane, Rose Ralston, Willie Ralston



Worship Practices

Sensing Faith - A 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.

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

Clergy, Office & Music Staff

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

Nursery Staff

Hattie Bellinger
 Akeelah Fletcher
 Jahnyah 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	Witness (2026)
Yvonne Hill-Davenport	Witness (2028)
Stephanie Scarborough	Witness (2027)
Bob Tabb	Thriving Congregations (2028)

Engaging

Krista Firkus	Faith Formation (2027)
Hardy Fortson Sideris	Worship (2027)
Chuck Williams	Faith Formation (2028)
Angie Woodham	Worship (2028)

Belonging

Gary Boteler	Finance (2027)
Pam Stillerman	Welcome (2026)
Bethany Wells	Welcome (2028)

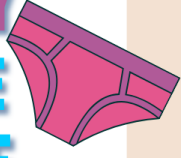
Connecting (Deacons)

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

More

Jodi Atkins	Preschool (2026)
Kenny Compton	Facilities (2026)
Jo Anna Fish	Personnel (2027)
John McCarthy	Clerk of Session

UNDIE SUNDAY UNDERWEAR DRIVE FOR FOSTER CARE



JULY 19

Bring **NEW** undies to worship to help children and youth in the transitions of foster care!



FPC at Campmeetings!

Smyrna Camp Meeting will be June 12-18. *Neeley Rentz Lane* will deliver the evening sermon on Tuesday, June 17 at 7:30pm with the *Singing Ambassadors* as the choir.

Salem Campground Meeting will be July 10-17. *Alice Walker* and her sister *Becky Ramsey* will be playing dual pianos for each morning and evening service. Our *FPC Chancel Choir* will sing with the *FUMC Choir* at the 7:30pm service on Thursday, July 16. The *Singing Ambassadors* will sing at the 11:00am service on Monday, July 13.

Share your wonderings, questions & epiphanies with *Neeley* as we journey through these books together!

**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE**
with *Pastor Neeley*

**SMALL
BOOKS
BIG
GOSPEL**

CHALLENGE:

In July read these four short books of the Bible

**PHILEMON JUDE
TITUS OBADIAH**

Don't let their size fool you... these small books carry a big message!

Let's grow together in God's Word this summer!

Sunday, June 7

Second Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship
- 1:00pm Depart for Montreat Youth Conference

Wednesday, June 10

- 10:00am Coffee Club

Sunday, June 14

Third Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 12:30pm Setup for VBS

Monday, June 15—Thursday, June 18

- 9:00am— Vacation Bible School
- 12:00pm

Tuesday, June 16

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

Wednesday, June 17

- 7:30pm *Neeley* preaching at Smyrna Campmeeting with the *Singing Ambassadors*

Thursday, June 18

- 3:30pm VBS Pool Party

Sunday, June 21

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Popsicles on the Lawn

FPC KIDS

June 29 | Pizza in the Park
Central Park | 5:00pm

July 13 | Trail Walk & Scoops
Meet at Legion Field for a group walk on Cricket Frog Trail to the square for ice cream | 6:00pm

July 26 | Weesner Cabin Day
Hamburgers, hotdogs, fishing fun!
RSVP to *Neeley* | 5:00pm

SUMMER

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Mikey Laib, former member—in hospital following car accident
- ✦ Ella Coleman, student of Abby Hutchinson - recovering from heart surgery
- ✦ Reid Buckelew - moved to Benton House
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - knee problems
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby, mother of Terri Digby - moved into Pruitt Health
- ✦ Aunt Shirley, aunt of Neeley Rentz Lane
- ✦ Alison Riley, friend of Chuck Williams - cancer
- ✦ Mark Wells, loved one of Lily Wells

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Danny Vining - prostate cancer treatment
- ✦ Ricky, friend of John Leavitt - recovering from colon surgery
- ✦ Brandon Vining, son of Danny & Beth

Vining - prostate cancer treatment

- ✦ Will Allfather, cousin of Kim Lindsey - cancer treatment
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Ruth McDaniel, former member - recovering from a brain bleed
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Rita Brown, loved one of Townes Pittman - skin cancer
- ✦ Andrew Rivas, loved one of Townes Pittman - collar bone & wrist injury
- ✦ 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

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with the loved ones of former member Bill Loeble as they mourn his passing on May 30, 2026. A service will be held in Columbia, SC.

Celebrations

- ✦ We are excited to welcome Riley Taylor as our new Director of Children and Youth. Riley will begin her time with us on July 1, 2026. We look forward with gratitude and anticipation to all that God will do through her presence among us!

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Benton House
- ✦ 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

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA turns 200 years old in 2027!

Contact Neeley to join the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee by July 15th!

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

FPC's Seasoned Older Saints' Monthly Lunch
S.O.S Lunch Bunch
Bradley's BBQ
July 9 at 11:30am
Signup with Neeley!
1160 Church St

Heavenly Prep:
A Workshop for End of Life Planning
August 2nd | 9:45am
RSVP to Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane to neeley@fpccov.org
All are invited to join us for this workshop to receive practical tools and worksheets for End of Life Planning.

CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS

Thursday, July 30th at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall
RSVP to Neeley! neeley@fpccov.org



Summer Sunday School at 9:45am!

Adults: We will combine our adult classes with a Feasting on the Word curriculum in the Gathering Room!

Youth: We invite our Youth to join us at Bread and Butter for a casual time of coffee and conversation. We will meet in the narthex at 9:45am to walk over together!

Children: Our children will continue regular Sunday School through the summer!

Summer Choir: We will have Summer Choir at 10:30am on Sunday mornings! All are welcome to pop in and help us prepare to lead the hymns in worship each week!