

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA



June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Mary McDonald

Adagio

Peter Prellieur

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

David Cherwien

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Virginia Harmony, 1831

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

We gather together in God's
presence with expectation,
hungry for an encounter with God,
eager to hear God's Word.

**Open our eyes and ears
to the presence of the Holy Spirit.
May the seeds of God's Word
scattered among us this morning
fall on fertile soil.**

**May they take root in our hearts and lives
and produce an abundant harvest
of good words and deeds.**

✠ **Hymn of Praise 5**

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

JENNINGS-HOUSTON

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

written by Moira Laidlaw

Merciful God,

You plant each of us like seeds in the same field
and together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun.

We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain.

We are blessed by the knowledge

that you want us to grow towards what you call us to be.

When we deprive others of that same opportunity,

forgive us.

When we want to uproot those whom we believe

do not belong in our part of the field,

forgive us.

When we label others as good or bad

rather than accept them for who they are,

forgive us.

When we are reluctant to acknowledge

that we ourselves are a mixture of weeds and wheat,

forgive us.

When we are afraid to look into the fields of our own lives

to see what is growing there,

forgive us.

○ God, you know us inside and out, through and through.

You search us out and lay your hand upon us.

You know what we are going to say even before we speak.

So we pray that you will help us to reach out

to the uprooted and rejected,

the lonely and the outcast,

and to develop and grow the good

in ourselves, in others and in the world.

This we pray 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**

*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

Vacation Bible School Campers Sing!

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision
Jake McCarthy, violin

Irish Ballad; SLANE

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:1-23

Pew Bible page 13

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Sensing Faith: Hear

Rev. Courtney Pittman



Responding to the Word

✠ Response 714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

Verse 1 - Soloist

Verses 2, 3, 4 - ALL

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

Air from "Water Music"

G.F. Handel

Alice Walker, organ

✠ **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 771**

What Is the World Like

NEW WORLD

Verses 1, 4, 5

✠ **Charge & Benediction**

✠ **Postlude**

Hornpipe

G.F. Handel



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

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

Usher Chair | Bob Tabb

Tech Team | Kenny Compton, Dan Walden

Acolytes | Wesley Freeman, Nova Puckett



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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

POPSICLES ON THE LAWN

JUNE 21 AFTER WORSHIP



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
TITUS**

**JUDE
OBADIAH**

Don't let their size fool you...

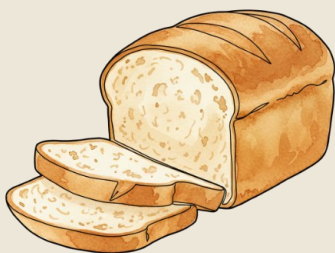
these small books carry a big message!

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



CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS

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



FPC Worship Team presents:

BREAD MAKING CLASS

Space limited.
Signup with Neeley

Wednesday, August 5 at 4PM
in the Fellowship Hall

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

Tuesday, June 23

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

Wednesday, June 24

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

Saturday, June 27

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery

Sunday, June 28

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:15pm Session Meeting

- 5:00pm Youth Pool Party

Monday, June 29

- 5:00pm Kids' Pizza in the Park

Tuesday, June 30

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
- 4:30pm Welcome Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 1

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting

Friday, July 3

Office CLOSED for Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship

FPC at Salem Campmeeting!

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.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Joe Denny, friend of Mary Hatfield - cancer
- ✦ Quintiss Johnson, loved one of Lily Wells
- ✦ Ron Layton, brother of Randy Layton - a-fib issues
- ✦ Addison & Eryn Storelli, infant & great-niece of Denny & Cathy Dobbs - complications with birth
- ✦ Graham Wade, son of Theodosia & Billy Wade - recovering from herniated disc back surgery
- ✦ Ella Coleman, student of Abby Hutchinson - recovering from heart surgery
- ✦ Reid Buckelew - moved to Benton House
- ✦ Tootles Tingler - knee problems

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Alison Riley, friend of Chuck Williams - cancer
- ✦ Mark Wells, loved one of Lily Wells
- ✦ 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

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with the loved ones of former member Mikey Laib as they mourn his passing. Service details will follow.
- ✦ Our prayers are with Brad Hawley and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his sister, Jill Chandler, on June 6, 2026

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Benton House
- ✦ Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby - Pruitt Health
- ✦ 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

MISSION MANIA

July 20-23

For more info visit fpccov.org/signup

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'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



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

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.

First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA turns 200 years old in 2027!
Contact Neeley to join the Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee by July 15!

Summer Sunday School at 9:45am!

Adults: Feasting on the Word curriculum in the Gathering Room!
Youth: Meet in the narthex then to Bread & Butter for coffee & conversation!
Children: Regular Sunday School through the summer!
Summer Choir at 10:30am: Help us prepare to lead the hymns in worship!