



July 5, 2026  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

David Cherwien

*Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

John Carter

## Invitation to Worship

## Chiming of the Hour

## Prelude

*Ready to Rejoice Medley*

Mark Hayes

Alice Walker, piano

## Welcome & Announcements

Darcel Tabb

## ✠ Call to Worship

Chuck Williams

Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

**Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!**

Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

**Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.**

Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

**Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. Amen.**

## ✠ Hymn of Praise 408

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

## ✠ Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

## ✠ Community Confession

written by Bill Wessner

What if God paid us back in full

for all the wrong we have done?

*(pause)*

○ Lord we seek your mercy...

**yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged.  
We think it "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate  
and use harsh words  
and withdraw from relationships.**

**The forgiveness you offer on our account  
is larger than we can comprehend,  
still we withhold forgiveness  
and carry the grudge over petty items.**

**We are eager to do your judging.**

**And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts  
to secure your forgiveness  
while avoiding honest repentance.**

**Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our hearts.**

**Save us Lord from the sins we hide.**

*(pause for reflection and self-examination)*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and has not dealt with us according to our sins.

Instead, God has chosen the sacrifice of God's own son on our account.

It is because Jesus Christ pays the last full measure  
that our sins are forgiven.

This gift of forgiveness makes us able,

with the power of Holy Spirit,

to choose to forgive, renew and live again

in right relationship with each other and with our God.

In the name of Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## ✦ **Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness**

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

Hear the good news! We are a new creation! We are made new!

We are not the same as we were yesterday!

May we splash in the waters of God's grace and mercy.

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** Darcel Tabb

*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** Darcel Tabb

**Anthem**                      *I Love to Tell the Story*                      William G. Fischer  
   Alice Walker, piano

**Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding** Chuck Williams

**New Testament Reading**                      *Matthew 18:21-35*                      Pew Bible page 20  
This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**                      *Forgiveness Provides Freedom*                      Chuck Williams



# Responding to the Word

## ☩ Response 435

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

***There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.  
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful,  
we would gladly trust God's Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving  
for the goodness of our Lord.***

## Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

**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

written by FPC Youth

**Dear God,**

**We pray today for people who are unhoused, longing for food, and in desperate need of belonging. We lift up our siblings in Christ who lack clean water. Hear our prayer for all suffering from the acts of political violence around the world. We ask for your presence to surround those**

who aren't able to get sufficient mental health assistance. We pray for the prayers deep within us that are difficult to name. May we be ever mindful that you are with us in the beautiful, the hard and the messy. Hear our prayers as we pray together:

## The Lord's Prayer

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

**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

Chuck Williams

*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

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*  
Alice Walker, organ

John A. Behnke

## ✠ Response 606

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

***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 754

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

BARONITA

## ✠ Charge & Benediction

## ✠ Postlude

*Molto Maestoso*

Benedetto Marcello



## *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.



## *Serving Today*

**Usher Chair** | Chuck Williams

**Tech Team** | Brad Hawley, Laramy Wells

**Acolytes** | Parker Firkus, Thornton Holder, Emmeline Usry



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
COVINGTON, GA**

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014  
 fpccov.org 770-786-7321

**First Presbyterian Church Staff**

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor &amp; Head of Staff</i>
Mark Fiddie	<i>Dir. of Music &amp; 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 &amp; Operations</i>
Riley Taylor	<i>Dir. of Children &amp; Youth</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 &amp; Fellowship (2028)</i>
Darcel Tabb	<i>Faith &amp; 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>

**FPC KIDS** Monday, July 13  
**Trail Walk & Scoops** 6:00pm  
Meet at Legion Field and walk with us to Scoops!

*Come Welcome Riley!*  
**SUNDAY, JULY 26**  
Join us after worship in the fellowship hall for punch & cookies as we welcome our new Director of Children & Youth Riley Taylor!

August 2nd | 9:45am  
RSVP to Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane  
to neeley@fpccov.org

**Heavenly Prep:**  
A Workshop for End of Life Planning

All are invited to join us for this workshop to receive practical tools and worksheets for End of Life Planning.

**Mon., July 13**  
**Salem Campmeeting**  
Join us for the 11am service with our friends in the Ambassador Choir followed by lunch in the Salem Lodge  
Meet at church to carpool at 10am  
Signup with Neeley by July 10!

**FPC at Salem Camp Meeting!**

Salem Campmeeting will be July 10-17 Alice Walker & her sister Becky Ramsey will be playing dual pianos for each morning & evening service. Our Chancel Choir will sing with the FUMC Choir at the 7:30pm service on Thursday, July 16.

**Sunday, July 5**  
**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Tuesday, July 7**

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina–Pastor’s Bible Study

**Wednesday, July 8**

- 10:00am Coffee Club

**Thursday, July 9**

- 11:30am Lunch Bunch

**Sunday, July 12**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17**

FPCP Summer Camp

**Monday, July 13**

- 10:00am SOS Adventure Carpool for Salem
- 11:00am Ambassador Choir at Salem Campmeeting
- 6:00pm Trail Walk and Scoops

**Tuesday, July 14**

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina–Pastor’s Bible Study

**Wednesday, July 15–Sunday, July 19**

Montreal Middle School Conference

**Wednesday, July 15**

- 10:00am Coffee Club

**Thursday, July 16**

- 7:00pm Chancel Choir at Salem Campmeeting

**Sunday, July 19**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Undie Sunday for Foster Care

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

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

## Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt - in the hospital
- ✦ Lynda Patrick—moved into Prema at Ashton Hills Memory Care
- ✦ 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

### Prayer requests and updates

may be given the pastor, put in the offering plate, or emailed to [catherine@fpccov.org](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)

## Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Ella Coleman, student of Abby Hutchinson - recovering from heart surgery
- ✦ Donald Vining , brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - knee problems
- ✦ 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

## Military Service

- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy
- ✦ Benjamin Iannucci, III - Air Force

## Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with those mourning the loss of former member Grant Moss following his passing on June 30, 2026.
- ✦ Our prayers are with the loved ones of Mikey Laib as they mourn his passing. A service will be held in the sanctuary on July 18 at 11:00am.
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Lynda Patrick - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Louise White - Prema at Ashton Hills

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!**

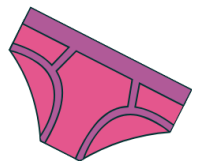
**FPC KIDS**

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

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

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

**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

## CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS

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



## 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!