

SMALL BOOKS BIG GOSPEL

JULY 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

My Jesus, I Love Thee

GORDON

Tim Stewart, organ

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

Tim Stewart, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Minute for Ministry

Undie Sunday & Mission Mania

Curtis Watson

✠ Call to Worship

Lord, we come before you this day as part of the human family.

Inspire us, O God; open our hearts.

We come in our diversity to catch your vision of unity.

Inspire us, O God; open our eyes.

We come to hear your challenging word of truth.

Inspire us, O God; open our ears.

We come to thank you for your gifts of beauty, joy, and hope.

O God of love, vision, and truth, we praise your blessed name.

✠ Hymn of Praise 630

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

✠ Call to Confession

Chuck Williams

God of freedom, whether we like to admit it or not, we do not treat everybody with equality. We silently judge others based on appearance, social status, and even race. Please give us the courage to meet others who are different from us, to learn from them, and to partner with them.

Please give us a willingness to set aside our own safety and comfort for the sake of others as we silently confess our sins to you now.

✠Community Confession

God,

I am sorry. I have failed to see the face of Christ in others. I haven't treated my neighbor, my sister, my brother, my siblings the way you taught us through the teachings of Jesus. In our pride, we have withheld forgiveness from others. In fear, we have chosen distance rather than relationship. Yet you call us a new creation. Holy Spirit, give us humility and courage as we seek reconciliation with others. May your forgiveness remind us of the goodness of giving forgiveness.

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

The Sibling Shirt

by Ruby & Lily Wells

Anthem

The Tallest I Can Stand

by Depp Britt

Danny Vining, solo

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

For Loving Someone When Differences Divide Us

by Kate Bowler

New Testament Reading

Philemon 1:1-21

Pew Bible page 215

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Small Book, Big Gospel: Philemon

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Hymn of Response 306**

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Commissioning

Montreat Middle Conference Attendees & Chaperones

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Tim Stewart, organ

✠ **Response 647**

Give Thanks

GIVE THANKS

See next page for the hymn words.

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;

give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";

let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"

Give thanks. Give thanks.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Chuck Williams

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Church, you are invited to partake with bread and cup upon hearing the words "The gifts of God for the people of God." We recognize Christ is present with us as the Body of Christ in our sanctuary and in our homes this day. May the Holy Spirit dwell with you as we participate in the sacrament of communion together. One bread, one body!

See our Worship Practices section for more details.



Being the Church in the World

✠ **Sending Hymn 761**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

✠ **Charge & Benediction**

✠ **Postlude**

Triumphal March

T.G. Stewart

Tim Stewart, organ



Worship Practices

Communion - All are invited to come forward to take communion. The ushers will guide you to two stations on either side of the Lord's table to receive the bread and the cup. You may choose to receive prepackaged communion elements or a gluten-free option which are available at the Lord's table. If you are not physically able to come forward and would still like to receive communion, please let an usher know and it will be brought to you. Communion elements are taken to the nursery for children to participate in the sacrament. If you would not like to receive communion, you are welcome to stay in your seat for a time of prayerful reflection.

Small Books, Big Gospel - A four-part series from Jonah P. Overton on some of the Bible's briefest books. The shortest books in the Bible don't pull any punches. These letters and visions may be brief, but they're fierce - wrestling with justice, power, community, and the gospel's radical call. Some are warm and intimate. Others are weird, wild or downright engaging. But all of them have something urgent to say. These books challenge us. They remind us that the Bible isn't afraid to take risks and make us uncomfortable. And if we let them, these books might just change how we understand the gospel itself - calling us to deeper belonging, sharper discernment, and a holy, liberating resistance to the powers of the world.

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 Organist - We welcome Dr. Timothy Stewart to worship this morning as a guest organist and we thank him for sharing his musical gifts with us at FPC!

Dr. Timothy Glen Stewart has served many churches in the Atlanta area as organist or organist/music director since 1975, including over 25 years at First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, GA. He also served in a vice-presidential role for what was once a part of the Moller Pipe Organ Company and helped maintain over 140 pipe organs throughout the Southeast, including the Mighty Mo' Organ of Atlanta's Fox Theatre. Tim retired from his own business in which he played and/or repaired organs, harpsichords, and pianos of all types.

Tim has a BS in Chemistry from Georgia State University, an MS in Metallurgical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a PhD in Music Psychology from Georgia State University.

As a musical disciple of Virgil Fox and as a member of the American Guild of Organists, the American Theatre Organ Society, the Royal College of Organists (UK), and the Reed Organ Society, Tim has focused his varied academic interests onto improving the public image of the organ and its sacred associations. In his lifetime, Tim has played over 1,400 organs of various types in the United States and Great Britain. He has composed over 250 works in primarily neo-Baroque and Irish/Celtic styles, performed many solo concerts, and produced over 30 digital recordings. Tim shared his music and devotionals through his "Alone with God" Facebook ministry from 2020 to 2025. He is always seeking new organ experiences, developing concert ideas, and looking to assist organists in need.

Usher Chair | Chuck Williams **Tech Team** | Jonny Atkins, Kenny Compton
Acolytes | Kali Smith, McKenna Boston

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	Senior Pastor & Head of Staff	Nursery Staff
Mark Fiddie	Dir. of Music & Worship Arts	Hattie Bellinger
Denise Gabriel	Dir. of First Presbyterian Community Preschool	Akeelah Fletcher
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator	Jahniyah Greene
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations	Laina Lalane
Riley Taylor	Dir. of Children & Youth	Sarah Puckett
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO	Shelby Sharpe
Chuck Williams	Parish Associate	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

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

Salem Camp Meeting will be July 10-17

Salem Campmeeting

Alice Walker & her sister Becky Ramsey will be playing dual pianos for each service.

On Monday July 13, our Seasoned Older Saints will meet at FPC to carpool to Salem for the 11:00am service followed by lunch. The service will feature Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane doing the prayers and the Singing Ambassadors as the choir!

Our Chancel Choir will sing with the FUMC Choir at the 7:30pm service on Thursday, July 16 and Neeley will be doing the prayers!

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! 



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.

Sunday, July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30am Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship—Communion
- 5:00pm Youth Service Sunday

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
- 5:30pm Montreat Middle Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, July 15–Sunday, July 19

Montreat 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

Monday, July 20–Friday, July 24

Mission Mania

Wednesday, July 22

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

Thursday, July 23

- 4:00pm Finance Team Meeting

Saturday, July 25

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels delivery

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Summer Sunday School
- 10:30pm Summer Choir
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:00pm Welcome Riley!
- 5:00pm Kids' Cabin Day

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Peter McIntosh, friend of Chuck & Bob—medical procedure
- ✦ Bob Woodham, Poppop of Braden Wooham—moving to Georgia with family
- ✦ Pat Woodham, grandma of Braden Woodham—stage 4 cancer
- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt
- ✦ Lynda Patrick—moved into Prema at Ashton Hills Memory Care

Ongoing prayer requests

Requests will be removed after six 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
- ✦ 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

Prayer requests and updates

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

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.

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

Military Service

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

FPC KIDS

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

MISSION MANIA

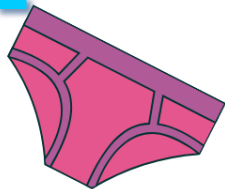
Donations needed for
CASA activity bags:

- Board games
- Playing cards
- Little arts & crafts
- Coloring books

Bring items to the narthex by July 20

JULY 19 UNDIE SUNDAY UNDERWEAR DRIVE FOR FOSTER CARE

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



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!