

SMALL BOOKS BIG GOSPEL

JULY 26, 2026
Ninth 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

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

Pastorale

Cesar Franck

O for a Thousand Tongues

Carl G. Glazer

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Gesangbuch der H.W. Hofkapelle, 1784

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

We come to worship the God of grace.

God calls us not only to believe,

but to live lives marked by goodness and kindness

We long to be a people eager to do what is good.

We were once lost, but God, in mercy,

has washed us, renewed us, and made us heirs of eternal life.

We gather with grateful hearts

to worship the One who has made us new.

Come, let us worship God, whose grace transforms us from the inside out.

With joyful hearts, we worship the living God! Amen.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 409**

God Is Here!

ABBOT'S LEIGH

✠ **Call to Confession**

Chuck Williams

✠ **Community Confession**

Gracious and merciful God,

Your grace has appeared, bringing salvation

and inviting us into lives of love, integrity, and hope.
Yet we confess that we often settle for what is comfortable
instead of what is faithful.
We have been quick to judge and slow to listen,
eager to speak but reluctant to serve.
We have allowed selfishness, pride, and distraction
to shape our choices more than your Spirit.
Forgive us for the good we have left undone and for the ways
we have failed to reflect your kindness and generosity.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit.
Teach us again to live as your people
eager to do what is good,
rich in mercy,
and overflowing with love.
By your grace alone, make us new,
that our lives may bear witness
to the goodness of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
In his holy name we pray. 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

Riley Taylor

Anthem

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine
Aubrey Evans, flute; Alice Walker, piano

arr. by Gary Lanier

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

New Testament Reading

Titus 1-2

Pew Bible page 214

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Small Book, Big Gospel: Titus

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!***

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.***

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

(cont.)

***Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.***

***'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures
When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.***

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.*



Offertory

How Great Thou Art
Alice Walker, organ

Hine/Courtney

✦ 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 852

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

I'LL FLY AWAY

✦ Charge & Benediction

✦ Postlude

Let Your Light Shine

Mary McDonald



Worship Practices

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.

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 | Kenny Compton, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Emmalin Whisnant, Lily Wells, Kali Smith



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

First Presbyterian Church 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>
Riley Taylor	<i>Dir. of Children & 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 & 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>

SOUL FEAST



AUGUST 12
5:15PM IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP for dinner by August 10
to catherine@fpccov.org,
or visit fpccov.org/signup,
or put a "serve" card with your
name in the offering plate!



Adults: \$8 Kids: \$5 Family max: \$30

ON THE MENU:
HAMBURGERS & HOTDOGS
WITH COOK-OUT FIXINGS
BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE!

Dress in your pre-season training gear
or wear your favorite team's colors!

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Summer Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Welcome Riley!

5:00pm Kids' Cabin Day

Monday, July 27

11:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting

5:30pm 200th Anniversary Planning Team

Tuesday, July 28

12:00pm Lectio Divina

Wednesday, July 29

10:00am Coffee Club

Thursday, July 30

10:00am CPR & First Aid Certification Class

Sunday, August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Heavenly Prep Workshop

9:45am LAST Summer Sunday School

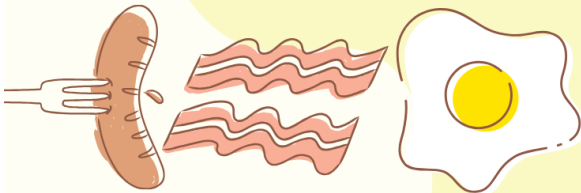
11:00am Worship

12:00pm Popsicles on the Lawn

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

8:00AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



RSVP to Chuck
by emailing
chuck@fpccov.org
or by filling out a
"Serve" card for
the offering plate!

WE ARE MAKING A NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY!

All in our FPC family
(members & non-members)
are welcome!

Photos will be taken in the
Fellowship Hall on

Sunday, August 16

&

Sunday, August 23

from

12:15pm-2:30pm

Visit fpccov.org/signup to
reserve your time slot!

Join us after
worship today 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



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

Music Ministry will start back on **Wednesday, August 5th!**

All are welcome to join! Send questions to Mark!

Handbell Choir at 5:30pm & Chancel Choir at 6:30pm

Childcare available upon request.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Dan Lindsey - lung cancer treatment
- ✦ Philip Abston, father of Mary Catherine Whisnant - hospitalized after a fall
- ✦ Maverick, former student of Denise Gabriel - third open heart surgery
- ✦ Michelle Whitaker, daughter-in-law of Judy & David Pettis - lung issues
- ✦ Lauren Egeland, loved one of Lily Wells - cancer treatment
- ✦ Ashley Hamby, friend of Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Carol Joe, mother of Audra Ralston - recovering from hip surgery
- ✦ Bob Woodham, Poppop of Braden Woodham—moving to GA with family
- ✦ Pat Woodham, grandma of Braden Woodham—stage 4 cancer

Prayer requests and updates

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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ 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

Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with those mourning the loss of former member Grant Moss following his passing on June 30, 2026.

Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ 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

CPR AND FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS

Thursday, July 30th at 10:00am
in the Fellowship Hall
Childcare provided!
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!

FPC KIDS Sunday, July 26 **CABIN DAY** 5:00pm at the Weesner's Cabin RSVP with Neeley to get the address

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

START OFF THE SEASON WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

FPC PRESEASON WORSHIP SERIES

WE INVITE EVERYONE TO WEAR THEIR GAME DAY COLORS TO WORSHIP AS WE BEGIN OUR "PRESEASON" WORSHIP SERIES!

BACKPACK DRIVE

BRING NEW BACKPACKS TO THE CHURCH NOW THROUGH AUGUST 9TH

DONATIONS LED BY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AS A PARTNER IN EDUCATION FOR FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BREAKFAST & NAME TAGS

BREAKFAST SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 9:45AM!

GRAB A NAME TAG BEFORE BREAKFAST OR WORSHIP AS WE GATHER WITH NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES ALIKE!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

BRING BACKPACKS, BRIEFCASES, & LAPTOP BAGS TO WORSHIP FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING TO START THE YEAR