

SMALL BOOKS BIG GOSPEL

AUGUST 2, 2026
Tenth 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

*Prelude in C
Trumpet Tune in D
I Will Come to You*

J.S. Bach
Henry Purcell
YOU ARE MINE

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

David Cherwien

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

For when you need a little hope

by Kate Bowler

Oh God, these feel like darkening days, with little hope to be found.

We cry out: Where are you God?

And where are your people, the sensible ones who fight for good?

Why does the bad always seem to squeeze out the good?

Oh God, help us in our exhaustion and in our desperation.

**When we're tempted to throw our hands up in surrender,
anchor us in hope.**

God, seek us out, and find us.

And lead us where hope lies,

Where your peaceable kingdom will come

and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Hope is an anchor dropped into the future.

We feel you pulling us toward it once again.

Let us worship the living God!

✠ Hymn of Praise 683

Lord of All Hopefulness

COURTNEY

✠ Call to Confession

Riley Taylor

✠Community Confession

Merciful God,

Pride is difficult to surrender. Forgive us when our ego keeps us from becoming the people you have created and called us to be.

Too often we elevate ourselves instead of making room for your holy presence to shape our lives. Remind us that you alone are sovereign and teach us to walk humbly in your ways. Forgive us when our pride causes us to wound our neighbors through our words, our actions, or our indifference. Search our hearts, lead us in honest self-reflection, and transform us by your grace, so that we may faithfully live as your people and bear witness to your kingdom on earth.

In Christ's 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

The Lord's Prayer

by Albert Hay Malotte

Krista Firkus, solo

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Obadiah 1:1-21

Pew Bible page 858

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Small Book, Big Gospel: Obadiah

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠Response 81

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

Affirmation of Faith

excerpt from The Belhar Confession

We believe

that God has revealed himself as

the one who wishes to bring about

justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,

is in a special way the God of

the destitute, the poor and the wronged

that God calls the church to follow him in this;

for God brings justice to the oppressed

and gives bread to the hungry;

that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

that God supports the downtrodden,
protects the stranger,
helps orphans and widows
and blocks the path of the ungodly;
that for God pure and undefiled religion
is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
that God wishes to teach the church
to do what is good and to seek the right;

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

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Alice Walker, organ

✠ Response 695

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the Potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✠ **Sending Hymn 772**

Live Into Hope

TRURO

✠ **Charge & Benediction**

✠ **Postlude**

Toccata

J.E. Eberlin



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.

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!

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!

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 | Pam Stillerman

Tech Team | Brad Hawley, Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | MaryRentz Lane, Sebastian Earwood, Emma Stillerman



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!**

Acolyte & Jr. Acolyte Training!

Become an acolyte and help assist in worship!

Our acolytes (2nd grade and up) act as our lamplighters and
our jr. acolytes (3K-1st grade) are our water pourers!

For any child who wants to acolyte, training will be held

Sunday, August 23 at 9:45am in the Sanctuary!

Sunday, August 2

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Heavenly Prep

9:45am LAST Summer Sunday School

11:00am Worship

12:00pm Popsicles on the Lawn

Monday, August 3

FPCP Pre-planning Begins!

1:00pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 4

12:00pm Lectio Divina

Wednesday, August 5

10:00am Coffee Club

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:30pm Handbell Choir Starts Back!

6:30pm Chancel Choir Starts Back!

Thursday, August 6

6:00pm FPCP Open House

Sunday, August 9

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rally Day!

Backpack Drive

9:45am Breakfast & Nametags

11:00am Worship - Preseason
with Communion

11:30am Blessing of the Backpacks & Educators

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!

BREAKFAST & NAMETAGS

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

GRAB A NAMETAG 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

**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



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Bob Woodham, Poppop of Braden Woodham—settling in at Prema
- ✦ 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

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
- ✦ Ella Coleman, student of Abby Hutchinson - recovering from heart surgery

- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - knee problems
- ✦ Mark Wells, loved one of Lily Wells

Independent and Assisted Living

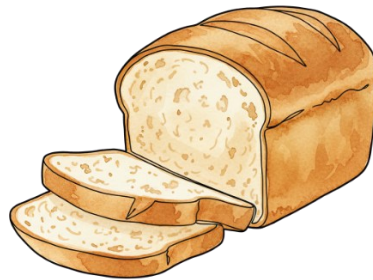
- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby - Pruitt Health
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Madison, GA
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Carol McGiboney - 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

BREAD MAKING CLASS

Monday, August 17 at 5PM in the Fellowship Hall

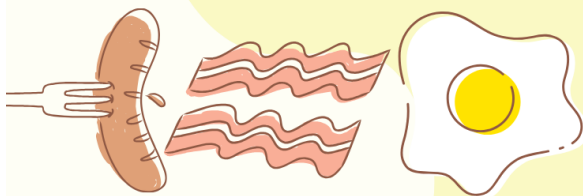


Space limited.
Signup with Neeley

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!

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.

All are also invited to join our interdenominational choir the

Singing Ambassadors!

Directed by FPC's Alice Walker and FUMC's Becky Ramsey

the Singing Ambassador's will hold their first rehearsal of the season at the First United Methodist Church in the music suite on **Thursday, August 13th at 2:00pm!**

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!

