

AUGUST 9, 2026

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



TRIPP



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
GOVINGTON, GA

✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Voluntary (Allegro)

Peter Prelleur

Sing Unto the Lord with I Will Sing of the Mercies

Arr. Mark Hayes

Hymn of Promise

Natalie Sleeth

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

If With All Your Hearts (from "Elijah")

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

As the Lord calls us together to work as one team
with Christ Jesus leading the way,
we unite ourselves in Christ's service.

As the Lord calls us to look beyond our differences
and to see the ways in which we belong to one another,
we unite ourselves in Christ's service.

As the Lord calls us to stand firm in our beliefs,
relying upon the grace of God and the love of neighbor,
we unite ourselves in Christ's service.

May we come together today.
May we come together tomorrow.
May we come together, always.

✠ Hymn of Praise 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

✠ Call to Confession

Chuck Williams

✠Community Confession

Holy One, we want so badly to “win” at life that often we get in our own way. We foul out. We false-start. We drop the ball. We behave selfishly. We allow our tongues to cut deep and our actions to hurt those around us. Lord, when we fumble, forgive us. Give us grace when we cannot look beyond ourselves. Give us understanding when we allow our arrogance to take the lead. Give us compassion when we forget that you created us to work as one.

In your name we pray...

(Silent prayers)

Amen.

✠Assurance of God’s Love & Forgiveness

Hear the good news: while there are no “redos” in football, or in basketball, or in baseball, there are plenty of “redos” in life. May we bless those chances for growth and give thanks to the God who forgives, over and over and over again. 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

Blessing of the Backpacks

Riley Taylor

Children's Anthem

In the Highways
Children's Choir

by Mother Maybelle Carter

Anthem

It Is Well With My Soul
Jim Patrick, trombone

Arr. Stephen DeCesare

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

New Testament Reading

Philippians 1:27-30

Pew Bible page 197

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Preseason: Teamwork

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 372**

O for a World

AZMON

Verses 1, 2, 3, 5

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

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Alice Walker, organ

Robin Milford

***We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.***

***We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever-present Friend.***



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.

Prayer After Communion



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 733** *We All Are One in Mission* ES FLOG EIN KLIENS WALDVOGELEIN

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* David Cherwien



Worship Practices

Preseason Sermon Series - Our current sermons series was created by Rev. Courtney Pittman of Chattering Chapel Studio.

Football season is almost here! Across the country, teams are in the middle of "preseason" -- the time of preparation before the actual season of bright lights, rowdy crowds, and big games begin. For each team, preseason consists of long days of learning the playbook, building strength, developing the right attitude, and discovering what it means to play as one cohesive lineup.

What if our faith needs a preseason too?

Join us as we journey through the book of Philippians and prepare our hearts for a new season of following Christ. Together we'll train our minds and spirits, strengthen our faith, encourage one another, and discover the kind of people God is calling us to be!

It's almost game time. Let's train together for the life God has called us to live!

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.

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. Liturgy by Rev. Courtney Pittman of Chattering Chapel Studio. Cover art by Wallace Tripp.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman

Tech Team | Brad Hawley, Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | Wesley Freeman, Lily Wells, Lorene Atkins



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

First Presbyterian Church Staff

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

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

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!**

We will also be hearing about some of the progress
being planned in our community by our friends from
the Downtown Planning Committee!

**BLOOD
SHORTAGE**

Blood donors needed now

First Presbyterian Church
Covington, GA
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, August 20th, 2026
12:00PM-5:00PM
Fellowship Hall

FPC YOUTH GROUP
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH
FROM 5:00PM-7:00PM
+ PARENT MEETING Youth Parent informational meeting in
the fellowship hall starting at 6:00pm
Send questions to Riley Taylor
riley@fpccov.org

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

Monday, August 10

RSVP for Soul Feast

9:00am FPCP First Day of School!

Tuesday, August 11

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

Wednesday, August 12

10:00am Coffee Club

10:00am FPCP Chapel

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:15pm Soul Feast
with the Downtown Planning Committee

5:45pm Youth Group

6:30pm Chancel Choir Starts Back!

Thursday, August 13

9:00am SOS Adventure to Fernbank

2:00pm Singing Ambassadors start back at FUMC

Friday, August 14

Montreat Women's Conference

Saturday, August 15

8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Regular Sunday School Starts Back!

11:00am Worship - Preseason

11:30am Godly Play following Children's Moment

12:15pm Directory Photos
—4:00pm

5:00pm Youth Group

6:00pm Youth Parent Meeting

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!**

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Lewis Compton, brother of Kenny Compton—cancer
- ✦ Those mourning the loss of Justin, friend of Pat Harper's granddaughter
- ✦ 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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Tootles Tingler - knee problems
- ✦ Ashley Hamby, friend of Miriam Wheeler

- ✦ Lauren Egeland, loved one of Lily Wells - cancer treatment
- ✦ Carol Joe, mother of Audra Ralston - recovering from hip surgery
- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane
- ✦ Joe Denny, friend of Mary Hatfield - cancer
- ✦ 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

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

Independent and Assisted Living

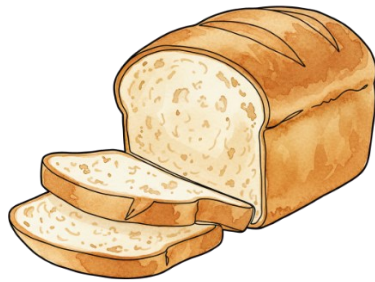
- ✦ Reid Buckelew - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- ✦ Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- ✦ Lee Ellen Digby - Pruitt Health
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Madison, GA
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Carol McGiboney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

Sunday School

Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.
Children's Class (PreK-4th) | Youth Class (5th+)
Foundations Adult Class | The Wired WORD

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

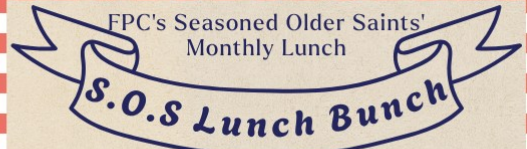
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH

8:00AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



RSVP DEADLINE:
AUGUST 9TH!

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



Chicken Salad Chick

Aug. 20
at 11:30am

Signup with Neeley!

4153 Hwy 278 NE



**WE ARE MAKING A
NEW CHURCH
PHOTO DIRECTORY!
NEW TIME
SLOTS ADDED!**

Photos will be taken in the Fellowship Hall on
**Sunday, August 16
&
Sunday, August 23
from
12:15pm-4:00pm**

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

