

AUGUST 16, 2026

TWELFTH 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

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Gaham Kendrick

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Amazing Grace

Arr. Ted Smith & Donald Hustad

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Welcome & Announcements

Darcel Tabb

✠ Call to Worship

Chuck Williams

We enter this sacred space as a community; each of us fearfully and wonderfully made by God and known intimately by our Creator. And yet we also enter this sacred space with our own agendas, with our own viewpoints and priorities. We enter into this sacred space as individuals who are learning how to work as a team. We enter into this sacred space as individuals learning to put community before self.

Let us unite our voices in song. Let us unite our voices in praise. Let us unite ourselves as people of God. With humble hearts, let us worship the God who calls us together.

✠ Hymn of Praise 35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✠ Call to Confession

Yvonne Hill-Davenport

✠ Community Confession

Lord, being humble is hard and at times feels unnatural. It is far easier to think of ourselves than it is to think of others. But we know that being

humble is also holy... so holy that your Son humbled himself to the point of crucifixion.

Holy God, create in us hearts and souls that breathe compassion and selflessness. Strengthen us with arms that lift up our neighbor. Fashion in us an attitude of tenderness. Forgive us every time we advocate for the “me” instead of the “us” and remind us again and again what it means to be Christ-like.

In your name we pray...

(Silent prayers)

Amen.

✠ **Assurance of God’s Love & Forgiveness**

For those who seek forgiveness; for those who seek acceptance; for those who seek being truly known, hear this: the same God who created the cosmos and the earth; who created the lion and the lamb; who created the sinner and the saint is the very same God who loves you no matter what.

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

Riley Taylor

Anthem

Make Me a Servant
Chancel Choir

by Benjamin Harlan

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Chuck Williams

New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:1-5, 12-13

Pew Bible page 197

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

What's in Your Wallet?

Chuck Williams



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 729**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Affirmation of Faith

A Brief Statement of Faith excerpt

Luke Usry

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples

long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in
our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for
God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Luke Usry

**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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Arr. Ted Smith & Don Hustad

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

✠ Response 300

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

Luke Usry



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 767**

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

God of Grace and God of Glory
Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

John Hughes
Arr. Don Phelps



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!

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 | Kenny Compton, Dan Walden

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, Parker Firkus, Nova Puckett



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 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
 Jahniyah Greene
 Kyler King
 Sarah Puckett
 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	<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>

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**

SPIRIT NIGHT

**Friday, August 21st
5-8pm
Your Pie
Covington Square**

Don't cook! Head to Your Pie for our first spirit night of the year. A portion of proceeds from sales will be donated to the Prechool!

**Sunday, August 30th
11:00am in the Sanctuary**

Youth Sunday

Our High School Youth will be leading worship and we will hear from them about their experiences at the Montreat Youth Conference 2026

Sunday, August 16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Regular Sunday School Starts Back!
- 11:00am Worship - Preseason
- 12:15pm Directory Photos
- 4:00pm
- 5:00pm Youth Group
- 6:00pm Youth Parent Meeting

Monday, August 17

- 5:00pm Bread Making Class

Tuesday, August 18

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

Wednesday, August 19

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 10:00am FPCP Chapel
- 3:30pm Staff Planning Retreat (Office Closed)
- 5:30pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir
- 6:30pm Stewardship Team Meeting

Thursday, August 20

- 11:30pm Lunch Bunch
- 12:00pm Blood Drive
- 5:00pm

Friday, August 21

- 5:00pm Preschool Spirit Nigh at Your Pie
- 8:00pm

Saturday, August 22

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery

Sunday, August 23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Acolyte Training
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship - Preseason
- 12:15pm Directory Photos
- 4:00pm
- 12:30pm Children's Volunteer Training

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.

- ✦ Miriam Wheeler - heart catheter
- ✦ Jim Gregory - broken wrist
- ✦ Debby Barr, friend of Jo Anna Fish - brain cancer
- ✦ Garrett Long, co-worker and friend of Steve & Louly Kapp - recovering from brain surgery
- ✦ 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

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Dan Lindsey - lung cancer treatment
- ✦ Philip Abston, father of Mary Catherine Whisnant - hospitalized after a fall
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - knee problems

- ✦ Maverick, former student of Denise Gabriel - third open heart surgery
- ✦ Michelle Whitaker, daughter-in-law of Judy & David Pettis - lung issues
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Graham Wade, son of Theodosia & Billy Wade - recovering from herniated disc back surgery

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

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

Prayer requests and updates

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

Sunday School

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

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



Presbyterian Women
Kick-off Meeting
2026-2027

August 31, 2026 at 5:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall & on Zoom!

All women of the church are welcome to join us for dinner as we gather for a new year of circle meetings!

PW is a way to connect with other women in the church over fellowship and monthly Bible study meetings.



*United Through Christ,
Bound to Each Other*
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

This year's Bible study

FPC's Seasoned Older Saints' Monthly Lunch
S.O.S Lunch Bunch

Chicken Salad Chick

Aug. 20
at 11:30am

Signup with Neeley!

4153 Hwy 278 NE

