

AUGUST 23, 2026

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



TRIPP



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

To God Be the Glory
God Who Made the Earth and Heaven
How Firm a Foundation
Alice Walker, organ

Arr. Joel Raney
AR HYD Y NOS
James H. Johnson

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Larghetto form "Concerto"
Alice Walker, organ

G.F. Handel

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

In the seasons of life when our faith is not easy,

Christ walks the troubled road beside us.

In the moments when we forget that our faith takes practice,

God holds our hands on the journey.

In this world where things are difficult,

where there is so much to learn,

and where suffering is real,

The Lord teaches us.

The Lord guides us.

The Lord remains with us every step of the way.

✠ Hymn of Praise 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

✠ Call to Confession

Chuck Williams

✠Community Confession

God of redos, of edits, of adaptations, and revisions, we have blundered once again. We have sinned against our neighbor, against ourselves, and most importantly, against You.

We seem to forget that we need the strength and conditioning that comes with a strong faith. Forgive us.

At times, we do our very best, but at others, we fall short. We don't act as the hands and feet of Christ as we always should. Instead, we act selfishly and forget that we rely on You and Your holy grace.

In these staggering moments, steady our hearts of folly and remind us of our need to learn, to train, and to try our very best, for you are our God and we are your children.

For these things we pray...

(Silent prayers)

Amen.

✠Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

The good news of God is that through the righteousness of Christ, we are loved.

We are cherished and we are seen as beloved.

What a thing to celebrate!

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again. Alleluia. Amen.

✠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

Pam Stillerman, Riley Taylor

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision
Chancel Choir

by Keith Christopher

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:4-14

Pew Bible page 198

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Preseason: Strength and Conditioning

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN OF JOY

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

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him!
Alice Walker, organ

Roland H. Prichard

✠ Hymn of Response 658

God Is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD

***God is so good; God is so good;
God is so good; God's so good to me.
God cares for me; God cares for me;
God cares for me; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so;
God loves me so; God's so good to me.***

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 821

My Life Flows On

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory
Alice Walker, organ

John Hughes



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | Kali Smith, Thornton Holder, Emmeline Usry



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!

Congregational Meeting - A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, September 13, 2026 immediately following worship to hear the Nominating Committee's selections for our Class of 2029 Officers.

Accessibility - 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.

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!

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.



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
Peni Kehoe	Finance Administrator
Catherine Laseter	Dir. of Communications & Operations
Riley Taylor	Dir. of Children & Youth
Alice Walker	Organist CAGO, AAGO
Chuck Williams	Parish Associate

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	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



*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*

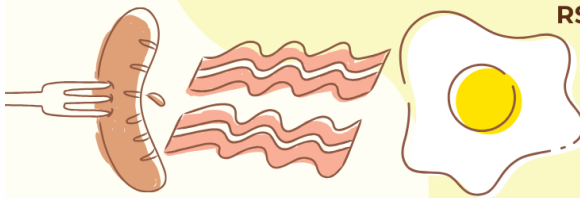
Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

This year's Bible study

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12TH

8:00AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL



RSVP to Chuck before Sept. 6 by emailing chuck@fpccov.org or by filling out a "Serve" card for the offering plate!

Sunday, August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 24

- 5:30pm FPCP Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

- 12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
- 5:30pm 200th Anniversary Planning Team

Wednesday, August 26

- 10:00am Coffee Club
- 10:00am FPCP Chapel
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Sunday, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship - Preseason
- 12:30pm Session Meeting



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PARENTING BOOK CLUB

First Meeting:

**Wednesday, September 9th
6:00pm-7:00pm in the FPC Parlor**

Parents and other grownups are invited to join us on the second Wednesday of the month for our NEW Parenting Book Club!

Childcare available through our monthly Kids LOGOS night and in the nursery.

Currently reading

The Anxious Generation:

How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is
Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness
by Jonathan Haidt

FPC KIDS

LOGOS Night

Wed., September 9

Dinner at 5:30pm (\$5)

LOGOS activities from 6-7pm

Parents are invited to join us in the parlor for our NEW parenting book club at 6pm!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Angelic Bellinger - recovering from a fall
- ✦ Quintess Johnson, great-great aunt of Ruby Wells—fallen trees from storm
- ✦ Debra & Bobby Hamby, friends of Miriam Wheeler—mourning the passing of their son Ashley Hamby
- ✦ Miriam Wheeler - heart catheter
- ✦ Jim Gregory - broken wrist
- ✦ Debby Barr, friend of Jo Anna Fish - brain cancer
- ✦ Garrnett Long, co-worker & friend of Steve & Louly Kapp - recovering from brain surgery
- ✦ Lewis Compton, brother of Kenny Compton—cancer

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Anne Cranford - cancer
- ✦ Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane—stem cell transplant
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Tootles Tingler - knee problems
- ✦ Lauren Egeland, loved one of Lily Wells - cancer treatment
- ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ 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

Military Service

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

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the following people and their loved ones as they mourn those they've lost:

- ✦ The Fullertons—mourning the loss of their friend Melissa Jo Feuer
- ✦ Mary Hatfield—mourning the loss of her cousin Greg Deitch
- ✦ Pam Iannucci—mourning the loss of her friend Pat Kennedy

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
- ✦ Bob Woodham - Prema at Ashton Hills

Prayer requests and updates

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

CLASSIC HYMN SING

Sunday, September 6th
During 11:00am Worship

Join us as we revisit old favorites and rejoice the Lord in song!

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 School

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

KIDS' WORSHIP CLASS!

Sunday, September 13th
at 12:30pm in the Sanctuary
for K-3rd graders

Come explore the various elements of worship and help plan a real service for

Children & Middle Youth Sunday
on September 27th

Have you been "visiting" for a while?
Presbyterianism 101
A three-week Sunday School class

In the Gathering Room during Sunday School at 9:45am
September 20th | September 27th | October 4th
Come learn what it means to be Presbyterian on a spiritual level **and** a functional one!
We suggest this class to visitors & new members at FPC!