

August 30, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



***Youth
Sunday***

***First Presbyterian
Church Covington, GA***

✠ *You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit* ❖

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Intermezzo on LYONS
Prelude and Fugue in G Major
Rejoice the Lord Is King

Johann M. Hayden
J.S. Bach
Michael Larkin

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Anna Laura Page

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

Kora Howell, Paisley Lane

How would you want God to wake you up?

With a song

With peace

**With eyes open to the reality of our world—
and hope for the day, that it will be better**

With the brightness of God's presence

Well-rested, and ready to begin again

God wakes us to a new day, not because the world is perfect,
but because God is still at work in it.

**So we wake up, we open our eyes, we open our hearts,
and we come to worship the Lord.**

✠ Hymn of Praise 388 (Sing 3 times)

Come All You People

UYAI MOSE

✠ Call to Confession

Parker Firkus, Ruby Wells

Confession isn't about beating ourselves up when we make mistakes. It's about taking ownership of our actions, apologizing when we do the wrong thing, and saying what's on our mind while being honest with ourselves. God already knows us, our mistakes, our wrongs, and things we wish we'd done differently.

We do not confess to shame ourselves, but instead to make room for God's grace. Let us confess to God together.

✠ **Community Confession**

Greer Holder

Gracious God,

We are sorry for the times we have been unkind to others.

**We are sorry when we have not taken responsibility for our actions,
when we have left our homework or chores unfinished,
and when we have not done what we said we would do.**

**We are sorry for the things we have done and said over the past few weeks
that have hurt others or hurt our relationship with you.**

**We are sorry for the times we have been jealous of what other people have,
instead of being thankful for what you have given us.**

**Help us to be honest about our mistakes,
to take responsibility when we do something wrong,
and to have the courage to try again.**

Remind us that your love does not disappear when we mess up.

Thank you for forgiving us and giving us new chances each day. Amen.

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

Kora Howell

Friends hear the good news! Our sins are washed away because God loves us,
God is always with us and will always forgive us.

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**

Amelia Evans

*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

Revolution Energizer

Paisley Lane, Ruby Wells

✠ **Hymn 700**

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Rose Ralston

New Testament Reading

Luke 24:13-25

Pew Bible page 90

Message

"Wonder & Wander" Montreat Youth Conference

Beatrice Briggs

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 16

Pew Bible page 12

Message

"Wonder & Wander" Montreat Youth Conference

Holden Evans

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

Pew Bible page 10

Message

"Wonder & Wander" Montreat Youth Conference

Kately Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response**

My Lighthouse

by Rend Collective

In my wrestling and in my doubts

In my failures You won't walk out

Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea,

You are the peace in my troubled sea

(continues on next page)

***In the silence, You won't let go
In my questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea
Chorus: My Lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh) Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh) Safe to shore
I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea,
You are the peace in my troubled sea [Chorus]
Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms
(Repeat 4 times) [Chorus]***

Affirmation of Faith

Harper Holder

**We believe in God. A God who is kind and accepting, powerful and present, in everything and everyone and is in our hearts.
We believe in Jesus Christ. Who walks with us along our path, gives us hope, and reminds us we are never alone.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is working in us and through us, guiding us, strengthening us, and helping us see God in one another.
We believe in the church, a place where everyone belongs, where we can be ourselves free of judgement, and where we can grow together in our faith.
We believe God is with us in our questions, joys, struggles and in everything we do. God is our hope, our guide and our everything.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Post-It Note 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

Kali Smith

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

People Need the Lord

by Greg Nelson & Phil McHugh

Paisley Lane, Kali Smith, Ruby Wells (trio)

✠ 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

Amelia Evans, Ruby Wells

Dear God,

Thank you for all the gifts you have given us. For our families and friends, parents and teachers, and the people who encourage us and help us grow. Thank you for our church family, for a church where we can feel loved, where we can be kind and accepting, and know we have a place where we belong. Thank you for the things that bring us joy.

For dance, for music, for theater, for YouTube, and for all the ways we can laugh, create, and express ourselves. Thank you for love and kindness, for the people who show us what those look like. And for the opportunities we have to show them to others. Help us to not take these gifts for granted. Teach us to use them to love and serve others and make our world a little kinder. We give thanks to you Oh God. Amen.



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 188

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

✠ Charge & Benediction

Beatrice Briggs, Holden Evans, Kately Lane

✠ Postlude

Hornpipe

G.F. Handel



*Thank you to all of the youth & children
who have contributed to this service!*

Beatrice Briggs	Amelia Evans	Holden Evans	PJ Faulkner
Parker Firkus	Wesley Freeman	Greer Holder	Harper Holder
Kora Howell	Kately Lane	Paisley Lane	Rose Ralston
Ruth Ralston	Kali Smith	Ruby Wells	Braden Woodham



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Pam Stillerman **Tech Team** | Jonny Atkins, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | MaryRantz Lane, Lily Wells, Nova Puckett

Guitar | Dan Walden



Worship Practices

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.

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 - 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.

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!



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

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



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

Sunday, August 30
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 31

5:30pm Presbyterian Women Kick-off!

Tuesday, September 1

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

Wednesday, September 2

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

Sunday, September 6
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship - Classic Hymn Sing

Monday, September 7

Office CLOSED for Labor Day

Join our Sassy Old Saints for the Fuzz Walk on Friday, September 11!

Meet at Legion field at 8:30am to pick up packet. **Walk starts at 9:00am!** Neeley will meet you there!

Register for our team
at covingtonfuzzrun.com

Need help registering? Call Neeley.

Team Name: First Presbyterian
Sassy Old Saints

Promo code: walkymca26

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!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Anne Cranford - Encompass Health Piedmont in Athens
- ✦ Philip Abston, father of Mary Catherine Whisnant - blood cancer treatment
- ✦ Jim Carpenter, son-in-law of Beverly & Dan Kratz—leukemia diagnosis
- ✦ Kim Julius, friend of Meghan Usry - stage IV cancer
- ✦ Angelic Bellinger - recovering from a fall
- ✦ 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

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.

- ✦ Lewis Compton, brother of Kenny Compton—cancer
 - ✦ Graham Wade, son of Theodosia & Billy Wade - recovering from herniated disc back surgery
 - ✦ Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane—stem cell transplant
 - ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
 - ✦ Dan Lindsey - lung cancer treatment
 - ✦ Maverick, former student of Denise Gabriel - third open heart surgery
 - ✦ Michelle Whitaker, daughter-in-law of Judy & David Pettis - lung issues
 - ✦ Tootles Tingle - knee problems
 - ✦ Lauren Egeland, loved one of Lily Wells - cancer treatment
 - ✦ Angie, friend of John Leavitt
 - ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ### 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

Sunday School

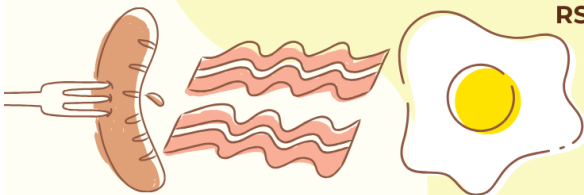
Sunday School classes are held at 9:45am.

Children's Class (PreK-4th)
Youth Class (5th+)
Foundations Adult Class
The Wired WORD

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

SATURDAY, 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!

CLASSIC HYMN SING

Sunday, September 6th
During 11:00am Worship



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!

Send us a picture of your front door for Stewardship!

This year, as we celebrate stewardship, we are thinking Beyond the Bricks and celebrating the homes, people, and gifts that help build us into a community of faith.

Our theme invites us to consider: **What are the building blocks of our faith?** How have our homes, families, church, and community shaped us? And how do those building blocks teach us to be good stewards of all that God has given us—our time, talents, resources, relationships.

To help bring our theme to life, we would love a picture of your front door!

We are collecting photographs of doors that are meaningful to our church family. We will bring these images together to create a special piece of worship art for our worship guides. This will serve as a visual reminder that **while each of our doors may look different, together they represent the many people, homes, stories, and gifts** that make up our church family.

Want to participate?

Simply take a vertical photo of a door that is important to you. It might be the front door of your home now, an old family home filled with memories, or another doorway that holds special meaning.

Every door tells a story. Every person brings a gift. Together, we are building something remarkable as the church of Jesus Christ.

Please email your picture to Bethany Wells by September 14.

bethanywells88@gmail.com

