



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

William M. Runyan

Prelude in C Major

J.S. Bach

O For A Thousand Tongues

Carl G. Glaser & T. Jarman

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Morning Has Broken

Arr. Paul Mickelson

Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Opening Hymn 1**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

✠ **Hymn 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

✠ **Call to Worship**

For Making All Things Beautiful

by Kate Bowler

I am only skin and tired bones.

I am familiar aches and endless to-do lists.

Thank you God, then, that

When I am weak,

you call me strong.

When I am unclean,

you call me pure again.

When I am tarnished,

you call me shining.

You are making all things beautiful.

You are tapping on all the windows and the doors

so that I will fling them open.

Let your light in, God, and cast the darkness out.

I will stop looking in the mirror

and start seeing you in your people.

I will pause from these unfinished labors

and see you at work instead.

I will hear your song singing

Through all the things you've made,

The people you've hung on my heart like an anchor.

Here we are, God, your people.

Beautiful.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 475**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

✠ **Call to Confession**

✠ **Community Confession**

God of tubas, harmonicas, drums, tambourines, and the harp,

You are always speaking to us through Scripture, creation, art,

through the voices of those around us,

and through the dance of the Holy Spirit.

Yet so often our lives become filled with noise.

We tune our hearts to the endless distractions of the world

instead of the sweet, steady song of your divine love.

Forgive us for turning down the melody of your grace.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice

with our own agendas, our busyness, and our pride.

When you invite us to listen, we rush ahead.

When you call us to be still, we fill the silence.

When you sing words of mercy and peace over us,

we are too distracted to hear.

Retune our hearts, O God.

Quiet the noise within us

so that we may once again hear the beautiful music of your presence.
Help us to listen for your voice, to trust your rhythm,
and to join our lives with the song of your kingdom.
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

Introduction to Hymn Sing Sunday

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 100

Pew Bible page 552

Rose Carmichael, Audrey Fullerton,
Lilla Harris, Thornton Holder

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Sermon through Song

Please remain seated while listening to each introduction and singing the hymns.

Hymn 462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

Reader: Scott Fullerton

Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Reader: Bob Tabb, Amy Fraser

Hymn 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

Reader: Curtis Watson

Hymn 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

Reader: Bob Rose



Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

Chuck Williams

Hymn of Prayer 469

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying.

Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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

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

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

H. Percy Smith

✠ Hymn of Response 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✠ Sending Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

I Sing The Mighty Power of God
Loucy Hay, piano; Alice Walker, organ

Arr. J. Bennett & C. Berry



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.

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!

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.



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Jo Anna Fish

Tech Team | Brad Hawley, Dan Walden

Acolytes | Parker Firkus, Lilla Harris, Che Crowe



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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>	Nursery Staff
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Riley Taylor	<i>Dir. of Children & Youth</i>	Kyler King
Alice Walker	<i>Organist CAGO, AAGO</i>	Sarah Puckett
Chuck Williams	<i>Parish Associate</i>	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>

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**

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

Team Name: First Presbyterian Sassy Old Saints

Promo code: walkymca26

Need help registering?
 Call Neeley.

SEPT. 12 FUZZ RUN WATER STATION

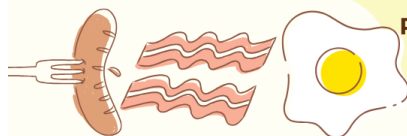
Arrival time 7:30am
 at the corner of Congers St. & Monticello St
 (First United Methodist Church)

Sign up with Sara Chini today with your T-shirt Size!

Send us a picture of your front door for our Beyond The Bricks Stewardship Campaign's worship art! We invite you to 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. Please email your picture to Bethany Wells by September 14. bethanylwells88@gmail.com

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH
8:00AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
COST: \$10 PER PERSON



RSVP to Chuck before Sept. 13 by emailing chuck@fpccov.org or by filling out a "Serve" card for the offering plate!

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

Tuesday, September 8

12:00pm Lectio Divina—Pastor's Bible Study
 5:00pm Welcome Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

10:00am Coffee Club
 10:00am FPCP Chapel
 3:30pm Staff Meeting
 5:30pm LOGOS for Kids
 6:00pm Parenting Book Club
 6:30pm PW Rahab Circle
 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 10

9:00am SOS Lunch Bunch Outing
 5:30pm Witness Team Meeting

Friday, September 11

8:30am SOS Fuzz Walk

Saturday, September 12

7:30am Fuzz Run Water Station

Sunday, September 13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School
 11:00am Worship - Communion
 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
 12:15pm Worship Team Meeting
 12:30pm Kids' Worship Class

S.O.S. Lunch Bunch Adventures!

Thur., Sept. 10 Fresh Air BBQ

Meet at church to carpool to Jackson, GA at 9am
Signup with Neeley
 Cost does not include lunch



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Tootles Tinger - recovering from knee surgery
- ✦ Billy Clary, son of Bill Clary - ICU
- ✦ Anne Cranford
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Debra & Bobby Hamby, friends of Miriam Wheeler—mourning the passing of their son Ashley Hamby

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ Miriam Wheeler - heart catheter
- ✦ Jim Gregory - broken wrist
- ✦ Debby Barr, friend of Jo Anna Fish - brain cancer

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

- ✦ Garrnett Long, co-worker & friend of Steve & Louly Kapp - recovering from brain surgery
- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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



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!

Lunch Date with the Church

hosted by our FPC Deacons!

Sunday, September 27th at 12:30pm
 Oxford Dining Hall - Private Room

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

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!