



September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

<i>Processional in G</i>	John Stanley
<i>Prelude in G Major</i>	J.S. Bach
<i>O Hail, Thou Bright and Glorious Day</i>	J.S. Bach
Alice Walker, organ	

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

<i>They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love</i>	Peter Scholtes
Alice Walker, organ	

Welcome & Announcements

✠ Call to Worship

by Thom Shuman

Disciples and doubters,
faithful and feckless,

**we are God's,
who welcomes us all.**

Followers and those who lag behind,
open-hearted and close-minded,

**we are the Lord's,
who is always patient with us.**

Reconcilers and rabble-rousers,
foolish and fearless,

**we are the Spirit's,
who encourages us in every moment.**

✠ Hymn of Praise 627

I Love You, Lord

I LOVE YOU, LORD

First time: Solo; Second & third time: ALL

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet sound in your ear.

✠ Call to Confession

✠ Community Confession

by Thom Shuman

**We could have mercy, Compassion's heart,
but we judge others by those standards we cannot even meet.
We could welcome all around us as siblings in God's grace,
but hold them at contempt's length away from us.
We could have patience with family and friends,
but tap our feet and drum our fingers until they do what we want.
In your forgiveness, Tender God,
you wipe the board clean of all our poor accounting.
You don't deal off the bottom of the deck to us,
but turn up the ace of grace for us.
You gather up all our foolishness
and hurl it beyond the edge of the universe,
so the healing you intend for us through Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior, will take place.**

✠ Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

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

Riley Taylor

Anthem

A Communion Meditation
Chancel Choir

by Don Besig

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

New Testament Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Pew Bible page 163

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

Judgy McJudge-Pants

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

Offering Our Gifts: An Invitation to Generosity

Riley Taylor

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

Let Us Break Bread Together
Alice Walker, organ

African American Spiritual

✠ **Response 753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Called to the table, to share the wine and bread,
"I want you to remember me," Jesus softly said.

Come, Come to the table.

We think about the mystery – the words that Jesus said,
And how he gave his life for us as we break the bread.

Come, Come to the table.

Gathered at the table, God's Spirit in the air,
We drink the cup of blessing, the bread of life we share.

Come, Come to the table.

Together in communion, one family – young and old,
We celebrate together, as ancient words are told.

Come, Come to the table.

There's room at the table, no matter how we feel,
Jesus reaches out to us in this holy meal.

Come, Come to the table.

We rise from the table, forgiven, loved, and free.
We leave to be the people who God calls us to be.

Come, Come to the table.

Gathered at the table, surrounded by God's grace,
We are one Christian family, in every time and place.

Come, Come to the table.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

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 363

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

DARWALL'S 148TH

Congregational Meeting

Class of 2029 Officers & Sabbatical Plan Update

✠ Charge & Benediction

✠ Postlude

You Shall Go Out with Joy!
Alice Walker, organ

Douglas E. Wagner



Serving Today

Usher Chair | Jo Anna Fish

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

Acolytes | Rose Carmichael, Lily Wells, Willie Ralston



Worship Practices

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.

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.



1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014
 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>

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Thomas - hit by a car on Clark St, multiple broken bones & a punctured lung
- ✦ Mrs. B. Cross & Angie, friends of John Leavitt
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - 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

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.

- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ Jim Gregory - broken wrist
- ✦ Debby Barr, friend of Jo Anna Fish - brain cancer
- ✦ Garnett Long, co-worker & friend of Steve & Louly Kapp - recovering from brain surgery
- ✦ Lewis Compton, brother of Kenny Compton - cancer
- ✦ Graham Wade, son of Billy & Theodosia Wade - recovering from herniated disc back surgery
- ✦ Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane - stemcell transplant
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining
- ✦ Dan Lindsey - lung cancer treatment
- ✦ Maverkick, 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

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

Military Service

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

ART PARTY
Saturday, Sept. 26
10:30am-12:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Led by Neeley and Wanda Reagan
for Adults and Youth \$35 per person
Signup with Neeley by September 20
Space limited.
Join us for painting, junk journaling
and more as we explore Psalm 19.
We will provide supplies but you are also invited
to bring any materials from home (fabric, paper,
magazines, cards, etc) that inspire you!
Exploring Psalm 19 through
artistic expression

Lunch Date with
the Church
 hosted by our FPC Deacons!

Sunday, September 20th at 12:30pm
Oxford Dining Hall - Private Room

Cost of lunch at the Oxford Dining Hall not included.

No RSVP needed!

Questions? Contact Darcel Tabb!

Women's Workshop: The Power of Focus & Attention

Monday, September 28
5:45pm in the Parlor



Transformation begins with who you choose to be.
Are you ready to become HER?

For this workshop offering we will explore the power of focus and attention. Discuss the importance of language. Be empowered to ask for what you want and learn about the complaint-free agreement.

ECHO AND Alchemy

Signup with Neeley by
September 20.
Childcare provided.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
AT 4:30PM ON THE
PLAYGROUND

GRAB YOUR LAWN CHAIR
AND BRING ALL YOUR
BELOVED PETS FOR A
SPECIAL BLESSING



Beyond the Bricks FPC STEWARDSHIP 2027 Kick-off Event!

Join us as we kick-off our stewardship season with Rise Against Hunger for a food packaging party!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

**FROM 1:30PM-3:00PM
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**



**Signup by Sept. 20 at
fpccov.org/signup**

Childcare provided.
3rd grade+ are invited to join in!



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. bethanywells88@gmail.com

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

Monday, September 14

- 12:00pm Facilities Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 15

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

Wednesday, September 16

- 1:00am Coffee Club
- 10:00am FPCP Chapel
- 3:30pm Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, September 19

- 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am Presbyterianism 101
- 11:00am Worship
- 11:30pm Godly Play following Children's Moment
- 12:30pm Lunch Date with the Church

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

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!

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!