



September 20, 2026
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

*All Glory Be to God on High
O Day Full of Grace
Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds
Alice Walker, organ*

Timothy Albrecht
Wayne L. Wold
Mark Sedio

Invitation to Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

*Holy, Holy, Holy
Alice Walker, organ*

Robert Buckley Farley

Welcome & Announcements

✠ **Call to Worship**

by Thom Shuman

In the prayers and the praise,
in the words and the wonder:

we are given enough joy to live each day.

In the justice for the oppressed,
in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

**we are given enough compassion
to use in service each day.**

In the promises made to all,
in the mercy offered to each:

we are given enough grace to share each day.

✠ **Hymn of Praise 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

✠ **Call to Confession**

Chuck Williams

✠Community Confession

by Thom Shuman

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory.

**We say we will live to serve others,
but end up meeting only our needs.**

**We claim to live in a way that honors Christ,
but we do not take him to work, school, home.**

**We believe that the gospel can transform lives,
(at least, for those who need it - but surely, not us).**

Forgive us, Presence of Peace.

**Instead of grumblers,
may we be ambassadors of grace.**

**Instead of continual complaining,
may we carry compassion to the hurting.**

**Instead of whiners,
may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.**

Amen.

✠Assurance of God's Love & Forgiveness

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**

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

Life Is a Gift
Chancel Choir

by Joseph Martin

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

Pew Bible page 62

Readers' Theater

Charles Ardis, Jenn Arndt, Laramy Wells

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message

More Than Enough

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



Responding to the Word

✠ **Response 498**

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

BEACH SPRING

Affirmation of Faith

from PCUSA's The Belhar Confession

Chuck Williams

We Believe

that God has revealed himself as the one

who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,

is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

that God calls the church to follow him in this;
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
that for God pure and undefiled religion
is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;
that God wishes to teach the church
to do what is good and to seek the right

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

Simple Gifts
Alice Walker, organ

J. Wayne Kerr

✠Response 654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

*First time: Choir; **Second time: ALL***

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude



Being the Church in the World

✦ **Sending Hymn 769**

Verses 1, 2, 5

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

✦ **Charge & Benediction**

✦ **Postlude**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther

Alice Walker, organ



Worship Practices

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** | Jonny Atkins

Acolytes | Elizabeth Fraser Browning, Sebastian Earwood, Emma Stillerman

First Prebyterian 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



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
COVINGTON, GA

1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014
fpccov.org 770-786-7321

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Most recent prayer requests

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

- ✦ Danny Vining - upcoming heart catheterization
- ✦ Cathy Ervin, loved one of Susan & David Flory - stage IV cancer
- ✦ Margaret Pettis, mother of Dave Pettis
- ✦ Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Terry - hit by a car on Clark St, recovering from surgery
- ✦ Mrs. B. Cross & Angie, friends of John Leavitt
- ✦ Tootles Tingle - recovering from knee surgery
- ✦ Billy Clary, son of Bill Clary - ICU

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- ✦ 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
- ✦ Ed Perkerson - early Parkinson's
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Maverick, former student of Denise Gabriel - third open heart surgery
- ✦ Michelle Whitaker, daughter-in-law of Judy & David Pettis - lung issues

Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with Robert Lane and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his dear friend Kayla Saager-Beckley.

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

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

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



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

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.

Signup with Neeley by September 20.
Childcare provided.



We welcome everyone into our church family!

We'd LOVE to have you become an official MEMBER!

Sunday, October 4 after worship

Talk to Neeley if you are interested!

New and recently joined members are also invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship on

October 11th for a

New Member Lunch!

Talk to Pam Stillerman or Bethany Wells if you'd like to help us welcome our new members

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!



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!

Sunday, September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am Presbyterianism 101
- 11:00am Worship
- 12:30pm Lunch Date with the Church

Monday, September 21

- 6:00pm Faith Formation Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 22

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

Wednesday, September 23

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

Saturday, September 26

- 9:00am Meals on Wheels Delivery
- 9:00am Youth at Miracle League
- 10:30am Art Party

Sunday, September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- Stewardship Kick-off
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am Presbyterianism 101
- 11:00am Worship - Children's Sunday
- 12:00pm Youth Group Lunch
- 1:30pm Rise Against Hunger
- 3:00pm Stewardship Food Packaging Party

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!

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!