



# ***Children & Youth Sunday***

September 27, 2026

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
COVINGTON, GA



✠ You are invited to stand in body OR in spirit



# Gathering As God's Beloved People

## Gathering Music

*Morning Has Broken*  
*When Morning Gilds the Skies*  
*Toccata No. 1 - HYFRYDOL*  
Alice Walker, organ

Traditional Gaelic Melody  
LAUDES DOMINE  
Joel Raney

## Invitation to Worship

## Chiming of the Hour

## Prelude

*Let All Together Praise Our God*  
Alice Walker, organ

J.S. Bach

## Welcome & Announcements

MaryRantz Lane

## Moment for Stewardship

Thornton Holder

## ✠ Call to Worship

Lily Wells

Why do we come to church?

**To learn about God and Jesus, to sing, to have fun,  
and to be closer to God!**

How do we feel when we are here?

**Happy, joyful, loved, welcome, safe, and excited to see our friends!**

Sometimes we may be tired, hungry, or even a little bit of a hot mess!

**But we know that God loves us just as we are**

So let us come together today with joy, with love, and with open hearts.

**Let us worship God!**

## ✠ Hymn of Praise

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

WHOLE WORLD

*Please see the next page for the hymn words.*

***He's got the whole world in his hands. He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the wind and the rain in his hands. (sing three times)***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got the little, tiny baby in his hands. (sing three times)***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got you and me, brother, in his hands. (sing three times)***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got you and me, sister, in his hands. (sing three times)***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

***He's got everybody here in his hands. (sing three times)***

***He's got the whole world in his hands.***

## **✠ Call to Confession**

MaryRentz Lane

We all make mistakes. Sometimes we are mean, we don't listen, or we don't help when we should. Sometimes we hurt others, leave people out, or don't tell the truth. God knows that we are not perfect, and God invites us to come honestly and say, "I'm sorry." Let us confess together.

## **✠ Community Confession**

Thornton Holder

**Loving God,**

**We are sorry for the times we are mean, for all the times we do not help, and for the times we judge others. We are sorry when we do not listen, or do not try our best. We are sorry when we leave others out, hurt others, yell, or are dishonest. Forgive us for the ways we hurt one another and the world you have given us. Help us to listen, to include, to help and to love others as you love us. Amen.**

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

Lilla Harris

Friends, hear the good news: God loves us, not because we are perfect, but because we are God's children. When we make mistakes, God forgives us and gives us another chance to try again. God's love is always with us. We are forgiven, we are loved, and we are never alone.

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**

Lily Wells

*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**

*Stewardship*

Bob Tabb, Riley Taylor

**Anthem**

*Down to the River to Pray*

American Folk Song

Children's Choir

**Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding**

Rose Carmichael

Dear God,

Help us slow down and quiet our minds. Give us peace and help us remember that you are with us. Help us listen, focus and learn. Help us trust you and have faith in you. Thank you for all the good things and people in our lives. Help us be kind, be good listeners, and understand what you are teaching us today. Open our hearts to your love. Amen

## Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 18:1-12

Pew Bible page 720

**Message**     *"Crafted by God" Montreat Middle School Conference*     Paisley Lane

**Message**     *"Crafted by God" Montreat Middle School Conference*     Amelia Evans

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 2:4b-9

Pew Bible page 2

**Message**     *"Crafted by God" Montreat Middle School Conference*     Ruby Wells



## Responding to the Word

### ✠ Response

*This Little Light of Mine*

LATTIMER

*We invite our children to come forward and to play shakers during this song!*

**This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
everywhere I go, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**All through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
all through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine;  
all through the night, I'm goin'a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

## Affirmation of Faith

Brooks Thomas

**We believe in God, our creator, who loves, listens, and protects us. We believe God is merciful, healing, helpful, and accepting. We believe God is always with us. We believe the church is a community where we can worship, praise God, and care for one another. We believe the church helps us grow closer to God, spread God's love and share God's word with others. We are all part of God's family. Amen**

## Prayers of the People

Lorene Atkins, Miles Carmichael,  
Sebastian Earwood, Vivienne Fisher,  
James Freeman, Evie Thomas, Emmeline Usry

## The Lord's Prayer

Thornton Holder

**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

Finn Fisher

*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

*Magic Penny  
Dan Walden*

by Melvina Reynolds

## ✠ Response 606

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## Prayer of Dedication & Gratitude

Finn Fisher



## *Being the Church in the World*

## ✠ Sending Hymn 80

*You Shall Go Out with Joy*

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

## ✠ Charge & Benediction

Amelia Evans, Paisley Lane, Ruby Wells

## ✠ Postlude

*Toccata  
Alice Walker, organ*

Theodore Dubois



# Worship Practices

**Stewardship** - This year's stewardship theme, Beyond the Bricks, reminds us that the church is so much more than the building where we gather on Sunday mornings. The church is also what happens when we walk out its doors and carry God's love into our community. By considering how you plan to offer your time, talent, and treasures in 2027 and sharing your intentions, we are able to build our church budget and calendar in a way that reflects our whole church!

**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** | Dan Walden, Laramy Wells

**Acolytes** | MaryRantz Lane, Thornton Holder, Lorene Atkins



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

|                  |                           |                |                   |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Amelia Evans     | Paisley Lane              | Ruby Wells     | Lorene Atkins     |
| McKenna Boston   | Elizabeth Fraser Browning |                | Miles Carmichael  |
| Rose Carmichael  | Che Crowe                 | Michael Dobbs  | Sebastian Earwood |
| Finn Fisher      | Vivienne Fisher           | James Freeman  | Lilla Harris      |
| Thornton Holder  | MaryRantz Lane            | Willie Ralston | Emma Stillerman   |
| Brooks Thomas    | Evie Thomas               | Emmeline Usry  | Lily Wells        |
| Emmalin Whisnant |                           |                |                   |



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### First Presbyterian Church Staff

|                   |                                                |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Neeley Rantz Lane | Senior Pastor & Head of Staff                  |                      |
| Mark Fiddie       | Dir. of Music & Worship Arts                   |                      |
| Denise Gabriel    | Dir. of First Presbyterian Community Preschool | <b>Nursery Staff</b> |
| 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 Rantz 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  |

## 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
- ✦ Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Terry - hit by a car on Clark St, recovering from surgery
- ✦ Mrs. B. Cross & Angie, friends of John Leavitt
- ✦ Tootles Tingler - 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
- ✦ 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

### Condolences

- ✦ Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Cy Wolverton as they mourn his passing on September 20th. A service will be held on October 19th at 2:00pm at Roswell UMC with Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane officiating.

- ✦ Our prayers are with Dave Pettis and his loved ones as they mourn the passing of his mother, Margaret Pettis.
- ✦ Our 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](mailto:catherine@fpccov.org)



**We will have a table at Trick or Treat on Legion Field! Contact Sara Chini to volunteer**

**for the 2:00pm-4:00pm event!  
You are invited to bring candy donations to the narthex by October 26!**

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

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 11<sup>th</sup> for a

**New Member Lunch!**

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

**Help us set the Lord's Table for**  
*World Communion*  
**Sunday October 4, 2025**

**Bring something to represent YOUR family with you to worship**

**Sunday, October 4**  
**and we will set the table as one FPC Family!**

**Bring plates, cups, forks, spoons, napkins, placemats, trays, serving bowls, pitchers, bread baskets, ceramic, plastic, porcelain, glass, silver, paper.....**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# FPC STEWARDSHIP 2027 Beyond the Bricks COMMITMENT JAMBOREE!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Join us for this free event after worship to celebrate with

BBQ food truck  
Cornhole  
Caricatures  
Face painting  
Bounce house  
and more!



## 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



## CHANGE THE WORLD DAY

OCT. 24

Volunteer to help FPC with our  
tables at Change the World Day  
or ask about how you can help our  
witness team prepare!

The witness team is  
asking for diaper  
donations to help  
families in need.  
Drop your donations  
into the bin in the narthex  
by October 18!



Send questions or  
sign up with  
Sara Chini

### 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

### Monday, September 28

5:45pm Women's Workshop

### Tuesday, September 29

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

5:30pm Session Meeting

### Wednesday, September 30

10:00am Coffee Club

10:00am FPCP Chapel

3:30pm Staff Meeting

5:40pm Handbell Choir

6:30pm Chancel Choir

### Friday, October 2

6:00pm Youth Lock-In

### Sunday, October 4

#### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45am Sunday School

9:45am Presbyterianism 101

11:00am Worship - World Communion Sunday

4:30pm Blessing of the Animals

# TRUNK OR TREAT

October 25<sup>th</sup> starting at 5pm

Join us for trunk or treat with a concession stand, bounce house and a costume contest!

IT'LL BE A SPIRITED & SPOOKY FUN TIME!

Want to have a trunk?  
Email your name and theme to  
[riley@fpcov.org](mailto:riley@fpcov.org) by October 19th

First Presbyterian Church and  
First Pres Community Preschool

