

October 18, 2026















First Presbyterian Church Covington, GA






Stewardship Season

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

❖

Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music *Pièce d'Orgue* J.S. Bach
Allegro from Harpsichord Suite Antonio Corelli
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Martin Luther
Alice Walker, organ

Invitation to Worship Chuck Williams

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude *Lift Up Your Heads (TRURO)* Michael Bedford
Alice Walker, organ

Welcome & Announcements Darcel Tabb

Moment for Stewardship Amy Fraser

✞Call to Worship Chuck Williams

Willing hearts gather, ready to worship the Lord!
We come with open hearts, offering ourselves to God!
We bring our gifts, our talents, our time, and our love!
Some brought gold, others brought fabric,
and still others offered the work of their hands.
Each gift was different, yet every gift was an offering of love!
What will we bring before the Lord today?
Our willing hearts, our helping hands, and our joyful spirits!
Come, people of God!
Let us worship the One who calls us to give freely and serve faithfully!
With grateful and willing hearts, we offer ourselves to the Lord! Amen.

✞Hymn of Praise 720 *Jesus Calls Us* GALILEE

✞Call to Confession Riley Taylor

✞Community Confession

Gracious and Generous God,

You have blessed us with gifts beyond measure. You have given us talents to share, hands to serve, hearts to love, and resources to build your kingdom. Yet, we confess that we do not always come with willing hearts. Sometimes we hold tightly to what we have, forgetting that all we possess comes from you. Sometimes we compare our gifts to those of others, believing we have too little to offer. Sometimes we allow fear, busyness, or selfishness to keep us from answering your call.

Forgive us, O God. Open our hearts to generosity, our eyes to the needs around us, and our hands to the work you have called us to do. Remind us that no gift offered in love is too small and that together we can do more than we ever imagined. 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 Darcel Tabb

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 *I Surrender All* Arr. By Tom Fettke
Chancel Choir

Prayer for God's Wisdom & Understanding Chuck Williams

Old Testament Reading *Exodus 35:20-29* Pew Bible page 82
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Message *Gifts for the Build* Chuck Willaims

❖

Responding to the Word

✞Response 716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* BEACH SPRING

Affirmation of Faith *excerpt from the Confession of 1967 PCUSA* Riley Taylor

Whenever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world. The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord 's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed and reformed and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are , at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world.

Fair for Offering Our Time & Talents

Today, we are invited to offer our gifts for the building up of God's church as we participate in our Time and Talent Fair! Come and discover how the Lord may be calling you to serve! While you explore the many ways you can share your time and talents, you are also welcome to place your financial gifts, prayer requests, or visitor cards in the offering plates on the tables. So come! For each of us has something to offer, and together, with willing hearts, we build something beautiful for God's glory!

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 *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* Lani Smith

Alice Walker, organ

❖

Being the Church in the World

✞Sending Hymn 712 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* FOREST GREEN

As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.
In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

✝Charge & Benediction Chuck Williams

✝Postlude *Prelude in F Major* J.S. Bach

Alice Walker, organ

❖

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. 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.

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!

Worship Art - This year, as we celebrate stewardship at FPC, we are thinking Beyond the Bricks and celebrating the homes, people, and gifts that help build us into a community of faith. Our worship guide cover art is composed of photographs of doors that are meaningful to our church family. This serves 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.

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

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.

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Serving Today

Usher Chair | Yvonne Hill-Davenport
Tech Team | Laramy Wells, Jonny Atkins
Acolytes | Lilla Harris, Kali Smith, Nova Puckett

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COVINGTON, GA

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

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*
Peni Kehoe	*Finance Administrator*
Catherine Laseter	*Dir. of Communications & Operations*
Riley Taylor	*Dir. of Children & Youth*
Alice Walker	*Organist CAGO, AAGO*
Chuck Williams	*Parish Associate*

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	*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.

- Pat Harper - recovering from surgery
- Caroline Harper, daughter of Pat Harper
- Margie Shepherd, friend of Miriam Wheeler - ICU
- Bob Woodham, grandfather of Braden Woodham - recovering from fall
- Judi Barton, mother of Perri Walden - stroke & rehab
- Wesley Ralston, father of Josh Ralston - recovering from heart attack
- Betty Smith, friend of Stephanie Scarborough & former member - hospice care

Ongoing prayer requests

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

- Danny Vining - recovering from heart catheterization
- Cathy Elvin, loved one of Susan & David Flory - stage IV cancer
- Miriam Wheeler
- Robert Burnside, family of Paisley Lane - stemcell transplant
- Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining Mrs. B. Cross & Angie, friends of John Leavitt
- Billy Clary, son of Bill Clary - ICU
- Tootles Tingler - recovering from knee surgery
- Dan Lindsey - lung cancer treatment
- Michelle Whitaker, daughter-in-law of Judy & David Pettis - lung issues
- 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

Celebrations

- Congratulations to Jon Paschal for receiving the "Annandale Villager of the Year" capstone award!

Military Service

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

Condolences

- Our prayer are with Tina Boston, Paige Gibbins, and their loved ones as they mourn the passing of Brian Stolloff.
- Our prayers are with the loved ones of Lee Ellen Digby, including her daughter, Terri Digby, as they mourn Lee Ellen's passing on October, 5th. A service was held on October 10th.
- Our 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.

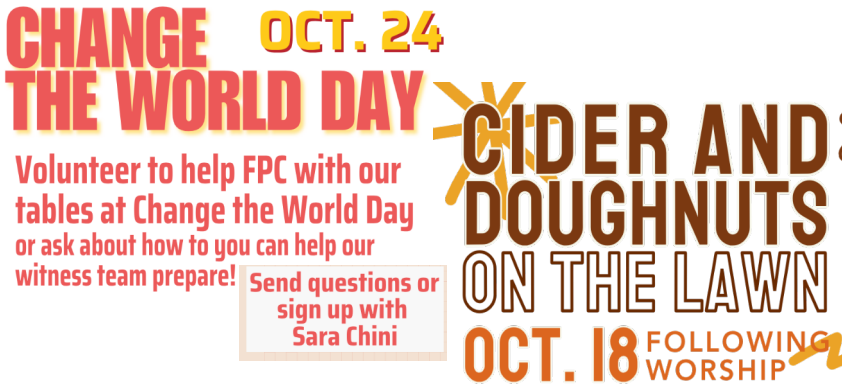
Independent and Assisted Living

- Reid Buckelew - Merryvale Assisted Living
- Tom Crews - Prema at Ashton Hills
- Sarah Davis - Merryvale Assisted Living
- 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

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







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!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PARENTING BOOK CLUB

Currently reading
The Anxious Generation:
How the Great Rewireing of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness
by Jonathan Haidt

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, October 21st
6:00pm-7:00pm in the FPC Parlor

Parents and other grownups are invited to join us for our NEW Parenting Book Club!

Childcare available through our monthly Kids LOGOS night and in the nursery.

FPC KIDS
LOGOS Night
Wed., October 21
Dinner at 5:30pm ($5)
LOGOS activities from 6-7pm

	Sunday, October 18
	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
	Diaper Drive for Change the World Day
9:45am	Sunday School
11:00am	Worship - Beyond the Bricks Stewardship Time & Talent Fair
12:00pm	Cider & Doughnuts on the Lawn
	Monday, October 19
	Sign up for Trunk or Treat
5:30pm	200th Anniversary Team Meeting
	Tuesday, October 20
12:00pm	Lectio Divina - Pastor's Bible Study
	Wednesday, October 21
10:00am	Coffee Club
10:00am	FPCP Chapel
3:30pm	Staff Meeting
5:30pm	LOGOS for Kids
6:00pm	Parenting Book Club
6:30pm	Chancel Choir
	Thursday, October 22
2:00pm	Finance Team Meeting
	Saturday, October 24
	Change the World Day
9:00am	Meals on Wheels Delivery
	Sunday, October 25
	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
	Commitment Sunday!
9:45am	Sunday School
9:45am	Officer Training
11:00am	Worship - Beyond the Bricks Stewardship
12:00pm	Commitment Jamboree!
5:00pm	Trunk or Treat

Share what "home" means to you for our 2026 Advent Devotional!

This year we are creating our own Advent devotional around the theme of "Home for the Holidays" and we'd love for you to contribute to it! Check the e-news or the narthex for more informtaion!

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 will have a table at Trick or Treat on Legion Field! Contact Sara Chini to voluteer. We will be there for the 2:00pm-4:00pm event on Halloween (Saturday, Oct. 31) AND for the sensory-friendly event on Friday, Oct. 30 from 10:00am-12:30pm!

You are invited to bring candy donations to the narthex by October 26!

Time & Talent SURVEY

FPC STEWARDSHIP 2027

Beyond the Bricks

Giving our ***Time & Talent*** is an expression of gratitude for all the gifts God has given us. As God's children we get to participate in God's work as a community and a church.

By Reaching Out, Engaging, Connecting, and Belonging we can reach our goal together!

Name _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Currently at FPC I am ___a member ___an active visitor ___looking to become a member

___ Check here if you typically need childcare so we can better plan for our nursery!

Listed below are the many ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Please check the areas where you feel called to serve then return this form to the office or offering plate. A digital version of this form is available at fpccov.org/stewardship and in the e-news. Where can you use your talents to help make us all faithful stewards of God's church? ***Check ANY and ALL that call to you!***

___Serve on the Witness Team

___Join the Sandwich Ministry

___Deliver Meals on Wheels

___Volunteer at the Community Food Pantry

___Join the Mission Mania Planning Team

___Volunteer at Blood Drives

___Clean up Newton Trails

___Deliver to community partners following donation drives

___Participate in Thriving Congregations Team's advocacy work for the unhoused

___Help with community events (Change the World Day, Trick or Treat at Legion, 5K water tables, etc.)

___Decorate our tree for Lights at Legion Field

___Serve on the Faith & Fellowship Team

___ Help at Soul Feast

___Join the Church Retreat Planning Team

___Help out with Campfire Church

___Help prep for Lemonade on the Lawn

___Join Wednesday Coffee Club

___Join Presbyterian Women

___Sing with the Singing Ambassadors

___Serve on the Pastoral Care Team

___Participate in SOS Adventures

___Attend Men's Fellowship Breakfast

___Follow up with those on the prayer list

___Help with funerals

___Assist with pastoral care visits

___Assist with at home communion

___Serve the church as an Elder or Deacon

___Serve on a Finance & Stewardship Team

___Finance ___Stewardship

___Endowment ___Audit

___Help count and make church deposits

___Volunteer in the office

___Answer phones ___Prepare mailings

___Help print and prepare worship guide

___Serve on the Worship Team

___Be an Usher

___Read in worship as a Liturgist

___Serve on the Tech Team

___Sing in the Chancel Choir

___Ring in the Handbell Choir

___Play an instrument or sing in worship

___Help decorate the church for Christmas

___Help with Special Worship Services (World Communion, Maundy Thursday, etc.)

___Set up for Communion

___Bake bread for Communion

___Help replenish offering cards in the pews

___Serve on the Facilities & Grounds Team

___Assist on scheduled workdays to clean up around the building

___Help with minor repairs at the church

___Assist with playground maintenance

___Assist with the Memorial Garden

___Water and care for indoor plants

___Pick up the recycling from the church

___Serve on the Emergency Response Team

___Serve on the Welcome Team

___Greet visitors on Sunday mornings

___Reach out to visitors

___Help with new member lunches

___Be a host family for new members

___Help put together welcome bags

___Serve on the Faith Formation Team

___Lectio Divina: Pastor's Bible Study

___Help plan Young-ish Adult activities

___Volunteer with the youth

___Volunteer with children

___Godly Play ___LOGOS ___Nursery

___Acolytes ___Children's Choir

___Provide meals for family ministry activities

___LOGOS ___Youth Group

___Assist with Vacation Bible School

___Organize worship bags for kids

Be a Sunday School Teacher:

___Children ___Youth ___Adults

___Serve on the Preschool Board

___Help prepare classroom materials

___Read to kids as a book buddy

___Help on family nights (open house, book fair, etc.)

___Help with seasonal events (Christmas parade float, trunk or treat, etc.)

We thank you for expressing your thoughtful interest in sharing your Time & Talents with us!

What did we miss?

Other ways I wish to volunteer at First Presbyterian Church

_____

Other ways I am involved in the community

_____