



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
COVINGTON, GA



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 16, 2023**

✠ *Please stand in body or spirit*



# *Gathering As God's Beloved People*

## **Gathering Music**

*Allegro from Concerto No. 1  
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain  
"Fairest Lord Jesus" with "As the Deer"*

G.F. Handel  
Mary McDonald  
Anna Laura Page

## **Prelude**

*All Hail the Power*

CORONATION

## **Chiming of the Hour**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Minute for Ministry**

Thriving Congregations

Debra Arnold

## ✠ **Call to Worship**

Based on John 20:19-31

Christ is risen!

He greets us with a word of peace.

**We welcome the risen Christ!**

**We worship and adore him!**

Christ is risen!

Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

**We welcome the risen Christ!**

**We worship and adore him!**

Christ is risen!

He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**We welcome the risen Christ!**

**We worship and adore him!**

## ✠ Hymn of Praise 634

*To God Be The Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

## ✠ Call to Confession

## ✠ Community Confession

Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, imbuing us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and time again. We experience your presence, but we are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace. Amen.

## ✠ Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Church, we are forgiven!  
We are free to try again.

## ✠ Hymn of Response 240

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

ALLELUIA NO. 1

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

## ✠ Passing of the Peace



## *Proclaiming the Word*

Wondering with God's Children

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

## Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31  
*Readers Theater*

Pew Bible New Testament page 119  
Yvonne Hill-Davemport,  
Patrick Carmichael, and Charles Ardis

## Message

*Doubting Believer*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane



## *Responding to the Word*

### ✠ Hymn of Response 238

*Thine Is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

### ✠ Affirmation of Faith

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day  
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on  
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come  
to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion  
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the  
life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and 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

### Offertory

*Eden's Song*

O WALY WALY

Krista Firkus, soprano; Alicia Taylor, alto

Text by Beverly Easterling

Arr. by Mark Schweizer

### ✠ Hymn of Response 606

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNREDTH

***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 Gratitude

*All are invited to join in our community Prayer of Gratitude by lifting up a one-word prayer of thanksgiving.*



## *Being the Church in the World*

### ✠ Sending Hymn 817

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

### ✠ Charge and Benediction

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God's children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God's presence in our church, lives, and community.

### Postlude

*Toccata from Suite Gothique*

Leon Boellmann



# *Worship Practices*

Music printed in our bulletin and streamed online is covered by One License #A-728738 authorizing their use. Art: LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. "Christ shows himself to Thomas", from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54879> [retrieved April 11, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/>.

## **Serving Today**

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley

Usher Chair | Curtis Watson

Acolyte | Alexander Whisnant

## **Children in Worship**

Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! There are Worship Bags for children on the rack outside the Sanctuary. During worship children are invited to join us at the front of the Sanctuary for a time of Wondering with God's Children. Afterwards, children planning to go to the nursery will be escorted downstairs by Pastor Neeley or Pastor Erin. They will sign in your children in the nursery so you can sign them out when you pick them up! This is to help you stay in worship and us get them to the nursery safely. If you need help finding the nursery, you are invited to ask an usher to point the way.

## **Friendship Registers**

Friendship Registers are back! In each pew there is a pad with a black cover that we invite everyone to fill out. If the Friendship Register is nearest to you, please fill it out and pass it down the pew so it can reach everyone. When you pass it on, we invite you to introduce yourself to your pew friends! We encourage visitors and newcomers to connect with us by filling out the Friendship Register so we can be sure to send you a message to thank you for joining us.

## **Sound System**

Please know we recognize the need for improving our sound system. We have new microphones and we are evaluating new settings while we plan for better solutions. Currently, we encourage congregants who are hearing impaired to move closer to the front near the main speakers.



## *Sermon Series*

### **"Closer and Closer"**

The Resurrection means deeper relationships with God and one another!

At Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but this is no ghostly apparition. Jesus returns in the flesh to be close once again with his friends and to bring them closer with one another. There is tenderness and physicality highlighted in the resurrection narratives, people coming together to hear and respond to this amazing news. Before Jesus' followers become heroic saints of the church, they are simply a group of friends hearing and telling one another a story for which they can barely find words. Like bedtime stories and old family lore, we share our stories in close and safe relationships so that we will be equipped to boldly share the story of Jesus in the world!

May we grow closer to God and one another as a people of the Resurrection!



**1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014**  
**fpccov.org | 770.786.7321**

Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church Covington is a Christian community existing to glorify God by welcoming all of God’s children. We celebrate through serving, teaching, praying, eating, crying, singing, and dancing with the Holy Spirit. As works in progress, we seek to respond to God’s presence in our church, lives, and community.

Want to Get Involved?

Reach out to become a more involved member of the church! We always have something happening that we would love for you to be a part of. You could be an integrated member of our church by volunteering with witness team, becoming an usher, joining a book club, singing in the choir or many other activities. Contact the office and we’ll point you in the right direction!  
 Email: catherine@fpccov.org or call: 770-786-7321

Officers

- Reaching Out**  
Curtis Watson *Witness (2024)*
- Engaging**  
Charles Ardis *Christian Ed (2025)*  
Pat Harper *Worship (2024)*  
Nichole Howell *Worship (2025)*  
Mary Catherine Whisnant *Christian Ed (2024)*
- Belonging**  
Doug Bolton *Welcome (2025)*  
Louly Hay Kapp *Marketing (2023)*  
Bob Tabb *Finance (2023)*
- Connecting (Deacons)**  
Tom Crews *Pastoral Care (2025)*  
Dana Hall *Faith & Fellowship (2025)*  
Eleanor Scarborough *Pastoral Care (2023)*  
Darcel Tabb *Faith & Fellowship (2024)*
- More**  
Billy Fortson *Personnel (2024)*  
Stan Hall *Facilities (2023)*  
John McCarthy *Clerk of Session*  
Ed Perkerson *Strategic Planning (2023)*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

- |                   |  |                      |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| Neeley Rentz Lane | <i>Senior Pastor</i>                               |                      |
| Erin Morgan       | <i>Associate Pastor</i>                            | <i>Nursery Staff</i> |
| Alicia Taylor     | <i>Dir. of Music &amp; Worship Arts</i>            | Hattie Bellinger     |
| Alice Walker      | <i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/<br/>Ambassador Choir</i>   | Sierra BlackShear    |
| Catherine Laseter | <i>Dir. of Communications<br/>&amp; Operations</i> | Laina Lalane         |
| Peni Kehoe        | <i>Finance Administrator</i>                       | Amariah Ray          |
|                   |  | Kyla White           |



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

### Illness

- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Mary Annese, mother of Barbara Martin - shingles
- ✦ Richard, friend of Jack and Miriam Wheeler
- ✦ Mike Crews, son-in-law of Jack and Miriam Wheeler - awaiting bladder cancer test results
- ✦ Megan Almond, granddaughter of Pat Harper
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of congregation
- ✦ Lucas and Morgan, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - complicated pregnancy issues
- ✦ Terri Sherril, friend of Beth and Danny Vining - shoulder surgery
- ✦ Jennifer Idrobo, friend of Jonny Atkins - bone marrow biopsy
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ Ellen Clary, ex-wife of Bill Clary - ovarian cancer
- ✦ Larry Cox, brother-in-law of Randy Layton - cancer
- ✦ Bob Darby, friend of Jeff MacKenzie - leg amputated, kidney problems
- ✦ Patsy Freeman, sister of Judy Davis - dementia
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ Linea Lott, niece of Tricia Hinton - leukemia treatment
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Blair Weaver - health issues
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

### Celebrations

- ✦ Congratulations to Gracie Bates for being selected to sing in the 2023 All State Chorus!

### Condolences

- ✦ Our prayers are with Amy Fraser and her family as they mourn the passing of her father, Fred Fraser, on April 9th.
- ✦ Our prayers are with Roger and Tootles Tingler and their family as they mourn the passing of their brother-in-law, Buddy Young.

### Military Service

- ✦ Billy Scarborough - Marines
- ✦ Koen Ardis - Navy

### Independent and Assisted Living

- ✦ Penny Blakeney - Oaks Assisted Living
- ✦ Homer Borders - Presbyterian Village
- ✦ Jean Elder - Florida with her daughter
- ✦ Dot Fincher - Merryvale
- ✦ Louly Hay - Presbyterian Village Athens
- ✦ Travis Moss - Westbury, Conyers
- ✦ Gene Wallace - Merryvale
- ✦ Louise White - Merryvale

### Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: [clatherine@fpccov.org](mailto:clatherine@fpccov.org)

You are invited to  
**"Text to Give"**  
your offering. Text  
FPCCOV followed  
by your donation  
amount to: 73256



Or point your camera at the  
QR code to give online.

## Call from the FPC Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is charged with proposing candidates for the offices of Elder (Session) and Deacon to be voted on at a **Congregational meeting on August 27, 2023**, after worship.

If you believe someone might be called to serve, please suggest their names to a member of the committee - *and it is perfectly appropriate to suggest yourself!* In submitting a name, we do kindly ask that you include a summary of why you feel this person has the gifts to be an elder or deacon.

**We encourage you to contact us with any name suggestions or questions by May 4, 2023.**

To suggest a name (along with summary explanation) you may email Pastor Neeley Lane ([neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org)) or Chair of the Nominating Committee, Louly Hay-Kapp ([loulyh@ymcaatlanta.org](mailto:loulyh@ymcaatlanta.org)).

**We hope to present a full slate of candidates on August 27, 2023. Officer training will take place in Fall of 2023. This class of officers will begin serving January 2024.**

Read the Nominating Committee's full letter at  
[fpccov.org/nominations](https://fpccov.org/nominations)



## JAMMIES AND JESUS

Join Neeley and Erin on Zoom

for a 10-minute bedtime prayer.

SUNDAYS 7 PM Invite a Friend!

visit [fpccov.org/zoom-links](https://fpccov.org/zoom-links) to join!



**SOUL FEAST'S GOT TALENT**  
May 10th Fellowship Hall



Everyone come and enjoy the fun! All ages are welcome!  
**Showcase your hidden talent in Soul Feast's Got Talent!**

We'll be holding a talent show in the Fellowship Hall following Soul Feast on May 10th. Email Darcel Tabb if you are interested in participating. Email your name, talent, and the approximate length of your act to [darceltabb@yahoo.com](mailto:darceltabb@yahoo.com)

VBS June 5-8  
Register at [fpccov.org/vbs](http://fpccov.org/vbs) for *Ready, Set, Move Vacation Bible School!*



**Sunday, April 16**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**

- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

**Monday, April 17**

- 6:00pm GriefShare

**Tuesday, April 18**

- 10:00am Sandwich Ministry
- 12:00pm Lectio Divina
- 2:15pm Staff Meeting
- 3:15pm Pastoral Care Meeting
- 5:00pm Faith Formation Meeting

**Wednesday, April 19**

- 10:00am Coffee and Conversation
- 4:30pm Blessed Parenting Class
- 4:30pm Joyful Noise
- 5:00pm Hallelujah Kids!
- 6:00pm Thriving Congregations Listening Campaign Training
- 6:00pm Carillon Hanbell Choir
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir

**Thursday, April 20**

- 5:30pm Belief & Beer

**Sunday, April 23**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship
- 7:00pm Jammies & Jesus

FPC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PRESENTS  
**BELIEF AND - BEER -**  
DRINKS AND DISCUSSION  
APRIL 20TH | 5:30PM | AT LUCKY DAY  
CHILDCARE PROVIDED AT THE CHURCH

**BLESSING OF A SKINNED KNEE**  
BLESSED PARENTING CLASS  
Twice a month on Wednesdays  
4:30-5:30pm in the Gathering Room  
Childcare provided.  
April 12 | April 19

**Our playground is temporarily CLOSED for safety maintenance.**