

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

JULY 2, 2023

God's Creative Connection



✦ *Please stand in body or spirit*



Gathering As God's Beloved People

Gathering Music

Sheep May Safely Graze
Now Thank We All Our God
Prelude in Classic Style

J.S. Bach
Paul Manz
Gordon Young

Prelude

Preludio

Derek Healey

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

✦ **Call to Worship**

God has welcomed us without reservation,
so let us welcome all in God's name!

Peace be with you.

God's peace be among us,
around us, and within us.

✦ **Hymn of Praise 331** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* NATIONAL HYMN

✦ **Call to Confession**

✦ **Community Confession**

God who provides our every need, you have given us countless gifts. You have welcomed us for all of who we are. You have showered us with steadfast love. You have freely given us eternal life in Christ Jesus. We do not deserve these gifts. We take them and squander them. We continue

to trust ourselves more than we trust you. We fail to embrace others as you have embraced us. Accept our confession. Be our glory and our strength for the days to come, our strength, shield, and deliverer.

✦ **Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness**

Church, we are forgiven!

We are free to try again.

✦ **Hymn of Response 581**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

✦ **Passing of the Peace**



Proclaiming the Word

Wondering with God's Children

Anthem

Here I Am, Lord

Words, Music by Daniel L. Schutte

Jennifer Fogarty, soprano; Darcel Tabb, alto

Arranged by Jack Schrader

Prayer for God's Wisdom and Understanding

Scripture Reading

Matthew 10:40-42-21

Pew Bible page 11

Message

Rev. Erin Morgan



Responding to the Word

✦ **Hymn of Response 340**

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

✠ Affirmation of Faith

The 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

Battle Hymn of the Republic

William Steffe

Arr. by Tedd Smith and Don Hustad

✠ 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 339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

✦ **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

Fantasia on "America the Beautiful"

Rex Koury



Worship Music Notes

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Battle Hymn of the Republic went through a number of versions in the years immediately prior to the Civil War. Its tune and its early lyrics were written by William Steffe, ironically a southerner, in 1856 as a pro-Union, anti-slavery anthem titled then known as *Glory Hallelujah*. The song gathered new verses following the insurrection at Harper's Ferry, led by John Brown in 1859. Brown's actions, trial, and subsequent execution (he was hanged for leading an attempted slave insurrection) made him a martyr to Abolitionists and African-Americans. This resulted in the creation of a verse in tribute to John Brown set to Steffe's by then popular tune.

It was when a well-to-do, highly educated poet from New York named Julia Ward

Howe (1819-1910), the wife of a prominent Boston abolitionist, came to Washington, D.C. in 1861 that the tune properly came to be called *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. Howe and her minister, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, visited a Union Army camp in Virginia where she heard soldiers singing a tribute to the abolitionist John Brown. The Confederates attacked - but the Union soldiers defended and impressed Howe. Her minister, aware that Howe occasionally wrote poetry, suggested that she craft new verses more appropriate to the Civil War effort, to be set to the same rousing tune - "rewrite it and elevate it with more uplifting words. Make that song richer for a kind of educated audience."

As Howe later explained it, the verses came to her in a single night. Soon afterward, she submitted the poem to *The Atlantic Monthly*. After the verses appeared on the first page of the February 1862 issue, they quickly caught on as the rallying anthem of the Union troops and were sung frequently throughout the rest of the Civil War.

Howe's words later inspired American soldiers during World War II and civil rights activists during the sixties. The day before he was killed in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech, which he ended by quoting the song's first line: "*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming Lord.*" His home church, Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist, took up the song after his death as an anthem to him and the civil rights movement.

Mrs. Howe's hymn has been acclaimed through the years as one of our finest patriotic songs. At one time, it was sung as a solo at a large rally attended by President Abraham Lincoln. After the audience had responded with loud applause, President Lincoln, with tears in his eyes, cried out, "Sing it again!" It was sung again. And after more than 160 years, Americans still join in proclaiming, "*Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on!*"



Sermon Series

God's Creative Connection

This sermon series begins with the creative agency of God's Spirit at Pentecost, when God uses the power of language to create and connect a new people. Even as God is doing a new thing, we know this same creative Spirit has been at work since

the very beginning, from the creation of the world to the creative ways God works to connect with humanity. We will explore Genesis as we learn more about how God works creatively to redeem humanity, restoring the created order to its original, “very good” status and reconnecting what we have divided. God’s vision of a world of persons connected to one another and to God will be realized, even if God has to use some very creative methods to do so!



Worship Practices

Children in Worship

We have a “Children in Worship” guiding brochure available in the Narthex! This brochure is intended to serve as an aid to parents and other members of our congregation in welcoming our children to worship.

Children are always welcome to wiggle and giggle in the pews at FPC! 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. 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

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.

Use

One License #A-728728 authorizes the use of music printed in our worship guide and streamed online.



Serving Today

Tech Team | Dan Walden, Jonny Atkins, Brad Hawley
Usher Chair | Bob Tabb
Acolyte | Kately Lane



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

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

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 & Worship Arts</i>	Hattie Bellinger
Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO Organist/ Ambassador Choir</i>	Sierra BlackShear
Catherine Laseter	<i>Dir. of Communications & Operations</i>	Jahniyah Greene
Peni Kehoe	<i>Finance Administrator</i>	Laina Lalane
		Kyla White

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Illness

- ✦ Peni Kehoe - back surgery recovery
- ✦ Meredith Nash, friend of Barbara Martin - four year old with stage IV liver cancer
- ✦ John McCarthy - broken collar bone
- ✦ Bill Loebler - recovering from kidney removal surgery
- ✦ Randy Jones, nephew of Faye Kitchens - lung cancer
- ✦ Lucas, Morgan, and baby Nate, friends of Faye and Joel Kitchens - baby going through dialysis
- ✦ Taylor Waters, great-niece of Gene Wallace
- ✦ Lee Morris, friend of Donna Weesner - meningitis
- ✦ Bob and Beverly Beasley, friends of Jean Elder - health concerns and care
- ✦ Brenda Buckelew, mother of Jennifer Buckelew

- ✦ Patrick Carmichael
- ✦ 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
- ✦ Bruce Hamilton, brother of Theodosia Wade - immunotherapy cancer treatment
- ✦ Karen Lein Kaasa, sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie - home health care
- ✦ E.W. Sims, great-uncle of Robert Lane
- ✦ Linda Trenthan, friend of the congregation
- ✦ Donald Vining, brother of Danny Vining - vision loss
- ✦ Joyce Williams, sister of Danny Vining - Alzheimer's

Celebrations

- ✦ Please join us in welcoming our Summer Seminary Intern from Columbia Theological Seminary, Minister Felicia Carson, Ph.D.! Felicia will begin her call at FPC on July 6th.

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: catherine@fpccov.org

Requests may be removed after three weeks if not updated.



Donuts & DEVO
SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM
IN THE GATHERING ROOM
THROUGH JUNE AND JULY

You are invited to
"Text to Give" your offering.



Text FPCCOV
followed by your
donation amount
to: 73256

Or scan the QR
code and follow the
link to give online.



WORSHIP WITH US!
UPCOMING SERMON SERIES:
SUNDAYS AT 11:00AM IN PERSON AND ON FACEBOOK
JULY 16-AUGUST 13

**DID JESUS
REALLY
SAY THAT?**

The Church office will be **CLOSED** on
Tuesday, July 4th
in observance of
Independence Day.



July Lunch

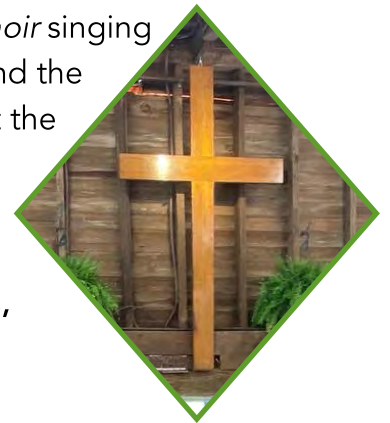
Wednesday, July 12th
at 11:30AM

El Charro on the Covington Bypass

RSVP to FPC by Tuesday, July 11th at 12:00PM
770.786.7321 or catherine@fpccov.org

FPC at Camp Meetings!

Salem Campground Meeting (July 14-21) will feature *Alice Walker* at every service. July 17th will feature *Neeley* offering prayers at both services with the *Ambassador Choir* singing at the midday service, and the *Chancel Choir* singing at the evening service!
Check the e-news for more details on locations, service times, and meals.



FPC CHURCHWIDE
Summer Party
PICNIC & POOL PARTY
SUNDAY, JULY 30
4:00PM
at River Cove Pool
500 River Cove Rd
Social Circle, GA 30025
RSVP to the office
by July 26th
On the Menu: Fried Chicken
Bring a friend and a side dish to share!
River Cove Pool has plenty of cover
for folks who prefer shade!

Ask the Longleaf Volunteer Presentation and Panel

Thursday, July 13th 10:00am-11:00am
FPC Fellowship Hall

Join us to learn
more about being a
hospice volunteer!
Check the e-news
for more details!



YOUTH POOL PARTY
JULY 16TH
AT THE COVINGTON PLACE POOL
PERMISSION FORM REQUIRED
DROP OFF AND PICKUP
AT THE CHURCH