

**First Presbyterian Church**  
1169 Clark Street, SW  
Covington, GA 30014



**Time Sensitive Church News**  
Please Do Not Delay

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Covington, GA  
30014  
Permit No. 32

See our website at: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

The deadline for the January "First Press" is December 15, 2019. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

Rebecca Bates	12/1
Dennis Hooten	12/2
Sarah Gregory	12/2
Trent Blankenship	12/4
Luke Gregory	12/7
Laurel Ardis	12/8
Dot Schaeffer	12/10
Ellis Dunbar	12/11
Brad Phillips	12/12
Louly Hay	12/15



Palmer Wilson	12/16
Julie Epps	12/23
Rodney Pruner	12/25
Ed Crudup	12/27
Don Wade	12/28
Sherry Brasher	12/28
Douglas Hicks	12/28
Dan Walden	12/29
Jodi Atkins	12/31

If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us of the **full date** and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COVINGTON DECEMBER 2019**

# FIRST PRESS



## Greetings FPC Family!

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this December 2019 newsletter finds you happy and well! The First Presbyterian Church family of faith is very blessed by each and every one of you ... I mean that!!

During this time of the year, the weather may not seem to know what to do ... some days it feels like late fall, other days it feels like the dead of winter, but still other days feel more like spring. In addition to the weather, as shoppers and consumers, we also may not seem to know what to do ... do we fight the crowds in the stores, or do we make our purchases online? Do we make that purchase on that special gift item now or do we wait to see if the price goes down?



BUT, as followers of Christ in this part of Newton County and the world, we know exactly what to do during this time of the year! As followers of Christ, we find ourselves in Advent ... the time of waiting with hope and expectation and anticipation for the Christ-child, for the celebration of our Savior being born in a manger! As followers of Christ, we know that all things are possible through God, whom we proclaim as Emmanuel, "God with us!"

So in the Advent spirit, the season that officially begins on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, I offer our FPC family this Advent prayer:

Thank you for this time of waiting, O God, to be still amid life's busyness, to hear your call amid life's noise, to prepare a way in this world for you.

Thank you for this time of preparing, O God, to clear away the clutter, to make room in our crammed lives, to receive the light of Christ that awakens us.

Thank you for this time of awakening, O God, to notice that you are with us, to hear your voice in the night, calling us to bring your light to all people.

Thank you for your light in the world, O God. Amen.

Friends, may the coming Advent season and Christmas time find you not only thankful, but also ready, to be changed once again by the birth of our Savior!

Until the next time I remain ... just another silly preacher and former Texan hoping, but not necessarily expecting, to wake up the morning of December 25<sup>th</sup> to a magical white Christmas ... (hey, it happens in Hallmark movies)!

Grace & Peace,  
Steven



We will celebrate Communion  
Sunday, December 1st.  
Prepare your hearts.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

**Steven M. Barnes**  
Interim Pastor  
[steven@fpccov.org](mailto:steven@fpccov.org)

**Kimmy Briggs**  
Director of  
Family Ministries  
[kimmy@fpccov.org](mailto:kimmy@fpccov.org)

**Peni Kehoe**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
[admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org)

**Krista Firkus**  
Choir Director  
[Kfirkus42@gmail.com](mailto:Kfirkus42@gmail.com)

**Alice Walker**  
Organist  
[awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com](mailto:awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com)

**Jenny Giles**  
**Jade Roy**  
Nursery

**Darlene Alley**  
Director  
Early Learning Center  
[fpelcdirector@gmail.com](mailto:fpelcdirector@gmail.com)



**First Presbyterian Church**  
1169 Clark Street, SW  
Covington, GA 30014

(770)786-7321  
Fax (770)786-6596

[www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

# SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

## November Session Highlights

PNC members reported they are making great progress and may have some news in December.

*The motion to approve the transfer of Jean-Carol Mundy from FPC of Covington to Northwest Presbyterian Church of Atlanta was approved.*

The ELC's fundraiser raised \$2100.00. The ELC will have a float in the Covington Christmas Parade and is requesting the congregation to support by providing Hot Chocolate packets.

Youth Sunday School attendance continues to grow. They are planning a Christmas party in December and a trip to Montreat in June.

Continued next column

## Session Highlights....continued

The Congregational Life & Care team reported that on December 15<sup>th</sup> the Christmas Joy Lunch will be served after morning worship.

There will be an Estate Sale at the home of our beloved Joyce Ashworth on December 12 - 14.

The Facilities & Equipment committee reported that the parking lot agreement with Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce was signed, the HVAC unit for the sanctuary was repaired, and there was a \$10k reduction in price of the roof installation.

*A Motion from the Facilities & Equipment Committee to approve the use of the Jubilee room for an exclusive Men's Bible Study group was approved.*

The Finance & Stewardship committee reported that FPC has \$313,000.00 pledged so far from 61 families and that we are tracking ahead of last year's pledges. They will be performing a church audit in January.

The Welcoming & Evangelism team reported the status of new visitors and encouraged Session as well as congregation members to reach out to new faces weekly.

The Witness team reported that FPC was well represented at the Family Promise Gala and estimated that members of our church donated ~\$4000.00 for the event. They also reported that 4 of the families FPC hosted in February for Family Promise now have a home.

Submitted by John McCarthy, Clerk of Session

The regular monthly meeting of the Session will take place on Sunday, December 8th, directly following the 11:00 worship service.



## Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2019 (\$-24,905)

2019 October Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	31,768	33,044	292,782
Non-Pledge Income	3,583	2,558	39,721
Other Income	416	40	3,430
Total income	36,601	35,642	335,932
Expenses	38,594	42,032	348,278
<b>Net Totals</b>	<b>(-1,992)</b>	<b>(-6,390)</b>	<b>(-12,346)</b>

## Serving Us in November

**December Usher Chairs:**  
Bob Tabb & Jay Lanners

**Sound Engineer:**  
Ken Walker

If unable to serve,  
please get a sub for  
your duties

**Hospital Visitors:**  
12/1: Cy Wolverton  
12/8: Day Kennon  
12/15: Alice Walker  
12/22: Judy Davis  
12/29: Jean Wolverton

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

**Class of 2019**  
Carter Gibson  
Jay Lanners  
John McCarthy  
Cheryl Meichsner  
Miriam Wheeler  
Allie Hay

**Class of 2020**  
Doug Bolton  
Stan Hall  
Cindy Moon  
Bob Tabb  
Michael Thompson

**Class of 2021**  
Warren Liem  
Pam Stillerman  
Donna Weesner  
Cy Wolverton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service with the Lord's Supper 12:00 Pie Day!	2  <i>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.</i>	3 PW Circles Meet: 10:00 Eliz. Ann and Martha 7:00pm Ruth 4:00 Exercise	4 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	5 12:00 Ambassador Choir Lunch 1:00 Amb. Choir 2:00 Cookie Party for Seniors	6 	7
8 Advent 2 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Session Meeting	9 6:00 ELC Christmas Program	10 4:00 Exercise	11 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	12 10:30 Ambassador Choir 11:30 Silver Saints Lunch and Party	13 Church Office Closed	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Study
15 Advent 3 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 Christmas Joy Lunch Youth Christmas Party	16	17 4:00 Exercise	18 12:00 Ambassador Choir Lunch and 1:30 sing @Merryvale 6:45 Sanctuary Choir	19 9:30 Ambassador Choir carpool to The Gardens	20 Newsletter Deadline!	21 
22 Advent 4 Music Sunday 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	23	24  CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 pm Worship	25 Christmas 	26	27	28
29 9:00 Handbell Choir 10:00 Xmas Fellowship with the Pastors! 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	30	31 Office closes at 1:00	January 1, 2020 Office closed	January 2	January 3	January 4 



**Christmas Poinsettias**

Help to decorate the Sanctuary during Christmas by placing poinsettias in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. Suggested minimum donation is \$9.00. Please turn in your donation and form by December 8th . Any funds collected over and above the costs will be donated to Family Promise. Thanks!

Name of donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Cash or Check attached \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You From the Early Learning Center**



**EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

Dear FPC Family,

This month our theme is "Christmas", and our Bible verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Our classes will be talking about the Nativity and the true meaning of Christmas. The teachers plan to use this season to talk with the children about the very special gift of Jesus, the best gift that any of us could receive. We will also be performing a Christmas program on December 9. The children have been practicing and working hard for their performance, and they are so excited to show their parents what they've learned.



We wrapped up November with our Thankful for Families potluck lunches. The children's families come together to sit down and fellowship with each other. Always a favorite for all of us and a great opportunity for parents to get to know other parents.

Thank you to everyone that donated to our 50/50 raffle. We raised over \$2,100 for the preschool! We are also grateful for all that brought in hot cocoa packets. We look forward to handing them out at the Christmas parade on December 7. Our float's theme is The Polar Express, so look for us and cheer for our babies!

I pray that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and that you have a very Merry Christmas. May your home be filled with the love the birth of Jesus brings!

God bless,

Darlene Alley  
FPELC Director

**God is with Us:  
Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering is collected during the Advent/Christmas season each year. It is used in two ways. The first is to help past and present church leaders in financial crisis. The Assistance Fund is administered by the Board of Pensions. The second is to help students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Fifty percent of the offering goes to each fund. FPC will have the opportunity to share in this offering on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent.

**Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir Gather for Christmas**



The annual Christmas Party luncheon for the Silver Saints and the Ambassador Choir will take place on Thursday, December 12th at 11:30 am. This is a catered affair. We will also enjoy a fun time following the meal as we exchange Christmas gifts with a value of \$10.00.

Please call the church office (770-786- 7321) to **make a reservation** so preparations will be adequate. Please join us for this holiday fun.

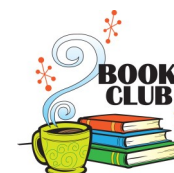
**Men's Bible Study and Breakfast**



The men will meet on **Saturday, December 14, at 8:00 am** in the Jubilee classroom. Bring your breakfast and a friend. Our study continues with the book *The Day the Revolution Began*, continuing with Chapter 8.

**A Novel Bunch Book Club**

A Novel Bunch book club will not meet in December but will resume meeting on January 28th at 1pm at the home of Billy and Theodosia Wade 1520 River Cove Road in Social Circle . We will discuss "The Overstory" by Richard Powers.



**Christmas Joy Lunch**



'Tis the season for carols, fun, and fellowship! Join us for our annual Christmas Joy Lunch on Sunday, December 15, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall following morning worship.

**Please bring your favorite Christmas dish to share, either a main dish and/or a salad. Dessert will be provided.** Feel free to wear one of your Christmas sweaters or vests to add to the merriment.

**Let's come together to celebrate the joy of the season and the birth of our Lord and Savior."**



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**All Circles will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd**

**Elizabeth Ann** will meet at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Lesson 4-*Words of Love: Honor the Life-Givers*; a light breakfast and coffee will be served.

**Martha Circle** will meet at 10:30 at the home of Debi Selin. Day Kennon & Pily Waetzig will co-host. Janet Carmichael will lead lesson # 4.

**Ruth Circle** will meet at 6:00 pm for supper at the home of Stephanie Scarborough.

If you are not currently a Circle member you are invited to join. Contact Moderator Jean Wolverton to sign up, 678-372-0901.



## WITNESS NEWS

### Angel and Salvation Army Gifts

FPC has many traditions remembering those less fortunate so they may enjoy Christmas feeling love and the true meaning of the birth of Jesus. As usual the Angel trees were placed in the narthex the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This allows plenty of shopping days prior to the date of delivery to Pruitt and Riverside Health Care Centers and the Salvation Army. Remember when selecting an Angel please record your name by that person's name on the provided clip board. All gifts should be placed under the tree wrapped for the Nursing Home Residents before December 16th. Gifts received later will be delivered by the person contributing the gift. Again the Witness Team appreciates your participation another year.

May you have a wonderful Christmas, too.



### Covington Square Christmas Party

The residents of the Covington Square Apartments will enjoy the annual Cookie and Punch Party in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, December 6th at 2pm. The Ambassador Choir will entertain the group with their very special holiday music. Cookies will be provided by the members of the Presbyterian Women's Circles.

### Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Monetary gifts to the Pastor's Discretionary fund are used to assist people in need year-round. At Christmas we help children with gift cards when their families don't have the means. If you wish to donate, mark your check or envelope with "Discretionary Fund".

### Community Food Pantry

Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048). Suggested for December:

cake & frosting and brownie mixes



### Baby Love



Baby Love is a ministry to provide diapers and wipes to families in need. Bring your donations to the church and place them in the cradle in the narthex. If you'd rather give a cash donation, mark your check or envelope with "baby love." Thanks to all who have supported this local mission project of the Witness Team.

# ESTATE Sale

Ashworth Family

The family of our beloved Joyce Ashworth will be holding an estate sale on **December 12, 13 and 14th from 9am - 4pm** at her home at 2081 Willow Springs Church Road in Social Circle. Joyce loved her Christmas decorations and the home will be filled with many cherished items along with furniture, china and books. All FPC friends are invited to attend this estate sale and remember our dear friend Joyce!

see our website at:  
[www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

## BENEFIT FOR DOG PARK

### Santa Paws

Saturday, December 14th  
2:00-4:00pm

Sandy's Dog Park at Chimney Park,  
Covington  
Bring your dogs to get pictures with  
Santa Claus!

Suggested cash donation \$10

**SANDY'S DOG PARK**  
In loving memory of Sandy Elder

Rain Date:  
December 15th



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### Youth Christmas Party

You won't want to miss the 2019 *Youth Christmas Party* on **Sunday, December 15!** Find your ugly Christmas sweater and make plans to join us for some holiday shopping for a family on the Angel Tree, a Progressive Dinner, and a white elephant gift exchange. If you would be willing to open your home to the youth for appetizers, dinner, or dessert, please email Kimmy. (kimmy@fpccov.org)

### Celebrating Advent as a Family

On Sunday, December 1, children will receive materials to help celebrate Advent as a family. If you are not able to attend worship on December 1, or would simply like a copy, email Kimmy to receive a brief family devotional practice for the season of Advent.



## CHOIR NEWS

### December 2019 Schedule for Ambassador Choir



Ambassador Choir

Thursday, December 5, 2019 - Sing for Cookies and Punch Christmas Party in FPC Fellowship Hall at 2:00 PM. Complimentary Salad lunch accompanied by turkey and/or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at FPC at 12:00 noon. Please come to Choir Room at 1:00 PM for review of Christmas Program.. Wear festive holiday attire.

Thursday, December 12, 2019 - Regular Rehearsal at 10:30 AM in FPC Choir Room. Complimentary Christmas Lunch at 12:00 noon with Silver Saints in Fellowship Hall. Wear festive holiday attire. Please bring a \$10.00 gift to exchange.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 - Sing at Merryvale at 1:30 PM. Complimentary lunch (Salads and Chik-Fil-A Nuggets) at 12:00 noon at FPC. Carpool to Merryvale at 12:45 PM. Festive holiday attire.

Thursday, December 19, 2019 - Sing at The Gardens in Social Circle at 10:45 AM. Festive holiday attire. Carpool from FPC at 9:30 AM. Christmas Party with Cookies and Punch Reception. Return to Covington and Sing for Kiwanis Club at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Complimentary Lunch at 12:30 PM. Sing at 1:00 PM.

No Ambassador Choir Rehearsals until JANUARY 9, 2020 at 10:30 in the FPC Choir Room!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



### Choir Rehearsals

**Sanctuary Choir** rehearsals take place on **Wednesdays at 6:45pm** in the choir room.

**Handbell Choir** rehearsals take place on **Sundays at 9am** in the sanctuary.



We would love to have anyone interested join us! If you cannot make the weekly commitment, but are interested in singing or ringing, please let Krista Firkus know as the need for soloists and alternates often arises.