

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

Time Sensitive Church News
Please Do Not Delay



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See our website at: www.fpccov.org

The deadline for the May/June "First Press" is April 15, 2021. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: admin@fpccov.org or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

April Birthdays

1 Billy Fortson
Joe Moon
3 Bill Cobham
8 Nick Jessup
10 Wayne Scarborough
11 Kingsley Allen
16 Martha Taylor
Guy McGiboney
17 Matthew Howell
Kent Compton
Neeley Lane



19 Laurie Bunn
22 Sarah Jane Moss
23 Barbara Luton
Phyllis Pruner
28 Elizabeth Pope
29 Samuel Moss
30 Phyllis Yoder

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!

COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH/APRIL 2021

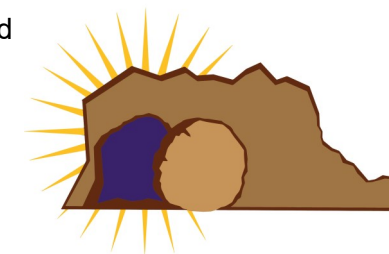
FIRST PRESS

Easter 2021

The Prize Egg

We looked high and low. We searched the blades of grass and peeped above the branches. We were all looking for the same thing: the PRIZE Egg! What might be in the prize egg? We all wondered as we scurried around the bushes and raced from one potential hiding place to another. Who would be the grand winner of the prize egg this year? And then she found it. The egg sparkling gold shimmered in the afternoon spring sun. "The prize egg," she shouted with glee! The prize egg captured our attention, pausing time. She opened it. At first it seemed as if nothing was in the egg at all. At second glance she saw a painted angel with the words "He is not here! He is Risen!"

Admittedly so, she was disappointed as we all imagined the prize egg contained the finest chocolates or even a bill with the face of Benjamin Franklin looking back at us! And yet, the prize egg was empty. Empty with a message that was far better than the temporary satisfaction of divine chocolates or a crisp dollar bill. "He is not here! He is Risen!" Indeed, this was THE prize egg!



Church family, I am overwhelmed with deep joy to be able to exclaim these words together this Easter! "He is Risen! He is Risen!" After a year of pandemic living, a year that has felt like we never left the wilderness of Lent, we get to gather together at the empty tomb! We get to celebrate the JOY of the Risen Lord! We get to proclaim once again WE are a Resurrection People!

I am looking forward to worshipping with you in-person and virtually this Easter! I pray you will consider our Sunrise service on the front lawn of our church. There is something holy about gathering in the early morning, as the sun rises, and the morning dew lifts, with a chill in the air as we sing our "Alleluias!"

As we await the joyful Eastertide, know my prayers are with you on this Lenten journey. We shall journey together to the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday. We shall hear the words of Jesus, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" on Good Friday. We shall wait and arise with the sun on Easter morn! Know you are so loved!

In hope,
Neeley

Easter Sunday Worship

(RSVP is OPEN for Easter Sunday)
www.fpccov.org/lent-2021

Sunrise Worship
6:30am Front Lawn of Church
RSVP

Easter Sunday Worship
11:00am In-Person/Virtual
RSVP



Flowering of the Cross

You are invited to flower the cross on the front lawn beginning on Saturday, April 3rd. You may also bring flowers on Easter and place them on the cross at that time.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

The Rev.
Neeley Rentz Lane
Senior Pastor
Neeley@fpccov.org

Peni Kehoe
Church Administrator
admin@fpccov.org

Krista Firkus
Directory of Music
kfirkus42@gmail.com

Alice Walker
Organist
awalker.atl.pres.5@gmail.com

Danielle Schubert
and
Kennedy Lynn
Nursery



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www.fpccov.org

February Session Highlights

- Motion to adopt Health Team recommendations for re-opening the church to in-person worship, church group meetings (ex. Presbyterian Women, Sunday School, etc.) was approved.
- Facilities and Equipment Team reported on the need to repair and paint exterior portions of the church facilities. Estimated it will cost ~\$50,000 to complete all work.
- Finance committee reported that we had a surplus during the month of January.
- Personnel recommendations for changes to church policy language including committee approval of rate of pay changes, inclusion of employee classifications to include a seminary intern and governance restricting of hiring of family, friends or church members was approved.
- Personnel reported they are applying for a grant that if awarded will assist with paying the salary for the summer intern.
- Resolution to allow church administrator to act on the day to day business for the credit card account, with provisions for authorization, was approved.

Submitted by
John McCarthy
Clerk of Session

The Lord's Supper

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 21st. Prepare your heart.



see our website at:
www.fpccov.org

Monthly Financial Report

2021 February	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	30,414	23,635	52,376
Non-Pledge Income	3,167	1,481	10,091
Other Income	4,249	0	0
Total Income	37,831	25,116	62,467
Expenses	34,028	26,562	60,655
Net Totals	3,803	(-1446)	1,812

Pledge arrears for 2021 = -8,453

Covid-19 Health Protocols

We are reminding you that although Covid cases have dropped we are still under protocols to keep us safe. We are requiring that you wear a mask during any in-person visits to the church for worship, classes and visits to the church office. You are also asked to make a reservation for all worship services by using the EventBrite link provided in the Mid-Week *First Press* enewsletter, or by calling the church office if you don't have internet service.

For worship and meetings, temperatures will be taken. A list of attendees will be kept so that we can notify you of any Covid exposure risks. Thanks for helping keep us all safe!

Join with the Session in Reading

Our session and staff is reading the book *The Post Quarantine Church* by Thom S. Rainer! If you would like to join in this book reading let Neeley know!

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2021
Jay Lanners
Warren Liem
Pam Stillerman
Donna Weesner
Cy Wolverton

Class of 2022
Aubrey Evans
John McCarthy
Cindy Moon
Stephanie Scarborough
Trista Hooten Wilson

Class of 2023
Cheryl Gibson
Stan Hall
Louly Hay Kapp
Ed Perkerson
Bob Tabb

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

From Stan Hall

Chair of the Facilities & Equipment Team

I serve on the Facilities and Grounds Team of your session. The Stewardship Committee asked me to speak to you about how your generous gifts to the church help maintain our facility for worship and ministry.

As with a house, we have monthly recurring costs, planned and unplanned maintenance, and improvement projects.

We have monthly recurring costs: utility bills, landscaping, cleaning. We have other recurring costs such fire safety inspections, insurance, Memorial Garden, elevator.

We also have planned maintenance such as servicing the HVAC systems, kitchen equipmentand sometimes we having maintenance we did not plan like plumbing issues, lighting and a hail storm. The hail storm last spring damaged our roof and 4 HVAC units. So, we now have a new roof and 2 replaced condensers and two repaired HVAC units. Although insurance did cover most of the hail damage costs, the church added money to replace the entire roof on our facility and upgrade the HVAC.

Our church had a Capital Campaign from 2015 till 2018. The funding for these projects has all been obligated and completed except the awning. We owe a debt of gratitude to our current members and those who came before that funded this campaign for their commitment to our church.

I would like to thank all the members of Facilities and Grounds Team, who are called the "A Team," for their continued help.

Thank you for your stewardship that is keeping our church a place for worship and ministry for generations.

PRAYER WALK

Walking a Labyrinth

April 15th 10:30am at the Cathedral of St. Philip Labyrinth in Atlanta.

We have planned a trip to the Cathedral of St. Philip to experience the Outdoor Labyrinth. "The outdoor labyrinth is located in the courtyard of the Lanier House on the Cathedral grounds. Labyrinths can be a place for prayer, meditation, and relaxation. In use for more than 3,500 years and on almost every continent, labyrinths are a physical path that allows people to explore their spiritual landscape. Labyrinths can also be a place for activity, fun, and chaos. As Dean Candler says, "All of these things are church." The Cathedral Labyrinth is an accessible resource to deepen the spiritual needs of parishioners and visitors of St. Philip's. The labyrinth is a path to prayer to God that binds us to our spiritual ancestors and their pilgrimages through the ages" see more at (cathedralatl.org). We will announce further details about traveling to the labyrinth when it's closer to the date.



Prayer Labyrinth

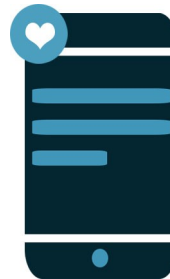
COMMUNICATIONS QUESTIONNAIRE



We want to make sure we are providing the best communication tools for our church family! Please complete the questionnaire below.

How do you choose to receive communication from FPC? Check all that apply.

- Printed Bulletin
- On-line Bulletin (Would you use your phone or tablet at church? Y or N)
- Printed Monthly Newsletter mailed to your home
- On-line Monthly Newsletter sent by email
- Weekly "Mid-week First Press" sent by email
- Special Event Postcards mailed to your home
- "Call 'Em All" recorded phone messages to your cell or home phones
- Church Website
- Church Facebook page
- Church Instagram
- Text messages to your cell phone



Other _____

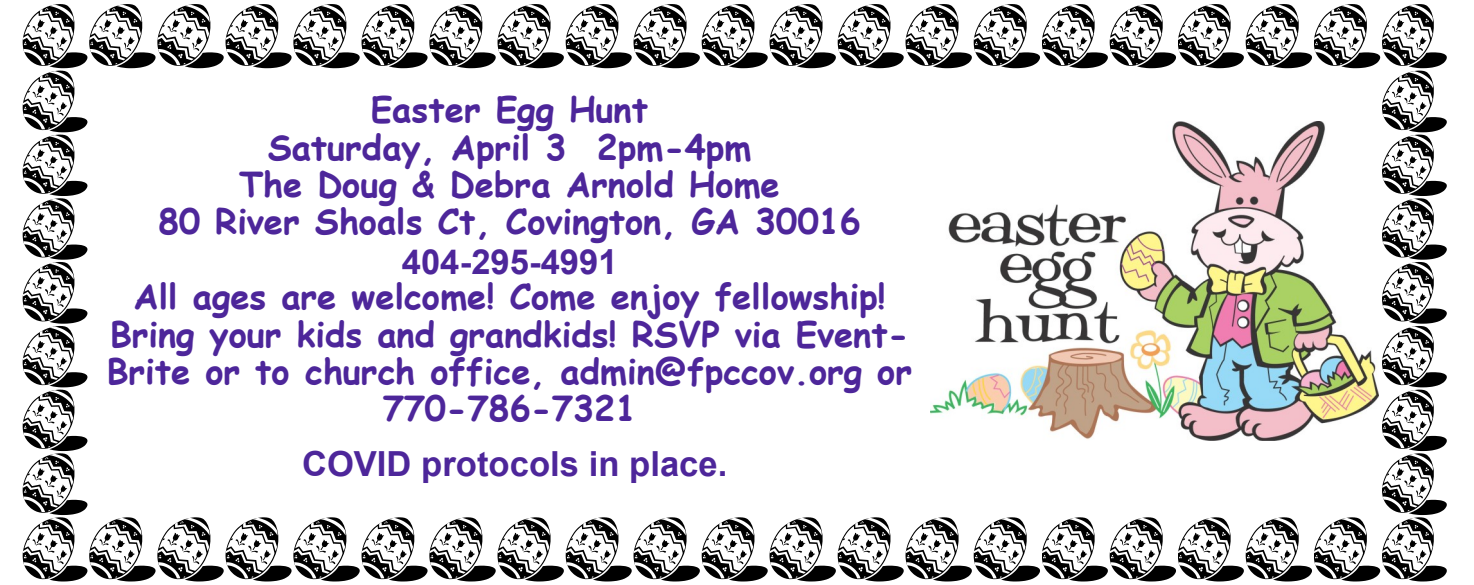
What form (s) of communication to do you prefer? _____

Please return the form to the church office by April 1st — No Fooling! You can email it to admin@fpccov.org

Making Reservations on EventBrite

On the weekly enews there are "buttons" with each article about worship or an event that will take place at the church that is marked "RSVP." When you click on that link it will take you to EventBrite where you can choose a date, select the number of "tickets" you need and then confirm your registration. If you do not have access to the internet you may email or call the church office, but please do so by Thursday at noon for Sunday worship services and 2 days before other events. Thanks!

FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 3 2pm-4pm
The Doug & Debra Arnold Home
80 River Shoals Ct, Covington, GA 30016
404-295-4991

All ages are welcome! Come enjoy fellowship!
 Bring your kids and grandkids! RSVP via EventBrite or to church office, admin@fpccov.org or 770-786-7321

COVID protocols in place.

Don-ut Worry, Be Happy!

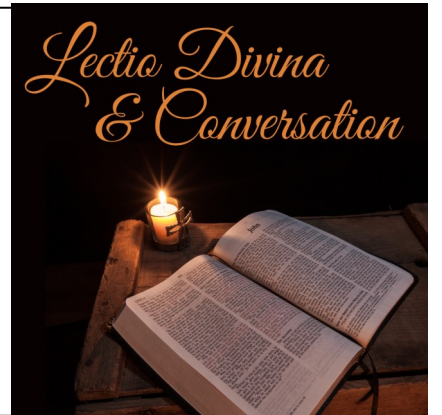


Faith and Fellowship Team would like to invite you for coffee and conversation on Wednesday mornings in April. We'll be getting together in the Fellowship Hall (socially distanced of course) from 9-10:00 am to catch up with friends and fellowship together for the first time in a year!

Love-a-Latte if you'd join us on Wednesday April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th!
 Watch for further details in the weekly bulletin and mid-week *First Press*.

Beginning, April 13th at Noon, every Tuesday you are invited to join Neeley in prayerfully considering the upcoming week's worship scripture reading. We will participate in an art of reading scripture called Lectio Divina.

You are welcome to gather in the Church Parlor or on Zoom.
 Tuesdays Noon-1:00pm.



THE BOOK OF ACTS
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS 7PM
BEGINNING APRIL 6

ZOOM Bible Study on Tuesday Evenings at 7:00pm. The Study of Acts Curriculum: "Life Lessons from Acts" by Max Lucado. You may purchase the book from Amazon. It's \$5.99 as a Kindle book or \$10.99 as a paperback. If you need help ordering the paperback call Peni in the church office.

FLOWERS, FELLOWSHIP, REJOICING AND HELPING



Easter Lilies Deadline March 28th!

If you would like to make a donation this Easter to honor or memorialize a loved one, fill out this form and attach a check made out to FPC and place it in the offering plate

or drop it off at the church office no later March 28th. You may also make your donation through REALM and email Peni with your "In Memory or in Honor" tributes. Please put "lilies" or Easter Witness" in the memo space on your check or envelope. A minimum donation of \$12 is suggested. This year whatever donations we collect for lilies over and above the cost of the flowers will be given to Thornwell Homes. Thank you!

Given by _____

Please use the first and last names for any person being remembered.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Amount enclosed
\$ _____



Ringers Rejoice!



The handbell choir resumed rehearsal on **Wednesday, March 17th at 7 pm** and will continue each week in the Sanctuary.

We welcome all previous and current ringers and any people who are interested in joining us!

Newton County Community Food Pantry



The Community Food Pantry began in 1987 when First Presbyterian pastor, then Billy Wade, and other ministers saw a need for a central location for our community to receive food assistance. We are now located at 7125 Turner Lake Circle in Covington. We are open for receiving donations and serving our clients each Wednesday and Friday 9:30-11:30am.

The food pantry operates on donations of both non-perishable items as well as monetary donations. We also receive funding from FEMA, United Way and Snapping Shoals.

We are excited to be making progress to re-open our facility. When Covid-19 shut us down in March 2020 we knew the need to get food out to our community was even greater. We joined with First Methodist Food Bank in Covington. WE placed orders weekly of 1500-1900 pounds of food and our awesome team of men with pickups drove 2 trucks to Atlanta Community Food Bank, loaded our order and took it directly to FMFB. WE did this April—November 2020. In December we loaded up the remaining canned good at the food pantry and took it to FMFB.

In January 2021 renovations began to re-open and meet CDC and Atlanta Community Food Bank compliance. We anticipate being up and fully operational by the end of March 2021. Thanks for your support!

WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY



holy week

Holy Week (RSVP is OPEN for Holy Week)

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 1
6:00pm In-person/Virtual
Communion

Good Friday

April 2
Noon In-Person/Virtual

Links for virtual worship and RSVP are in the mid-week *First Press*. Call the church office if you don't have internet to make reservations.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

We seek to be a welcoming community of faith for all God's people! Therefore, the Welcome Team is looking for Greeters before Sunday school and Worship! Sign up today to be a FPC Greeter! You can use the link in the enews to sign up for particular Sundays or you may call the church office and we will help you sign up.

The link for sign-up genius is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848a9a62da1fd0-fpcgreeter>



Thanks to Our Church Mice!

An old building is always needing some repairs or replacements or just cleaning up. There are little church mice who do the jobs and don't always get thanked or mentioned!

This month we call attention to a few of those "mice"!

- ◆ Jean Wolverton for cleaning up the "mail room" and for working on scrapbooks (with additions by Miriam Wheeler and Eleanor Scarborough).
- ◆ Chris Martin and Curtis Watson for replacing the threshold at the Adult Sunday School entrance.
- ◆ Chris Martin for faithfully taking our recycling to the recycler
- ◆ Stan Hall, chair of Facilities Team...who does all sorts of stuff week-in and week-out! And to his chief helper, Dana!

Tear Soup

"A Recipe for Healing"



GRIEF SMALL GROUP

What is true about soup making is also true about grieving. Our FPC Pastoral Care Team wants to provide a space for us all to create our own batches of "Tear Soup" as we grieve various experiences of loss in our lives. Tear Soup provides cooking tips to use in dealing with grief if you are the cook, if your friend is the cook, if a child is the cook, if you are longing to cook with another, and/or if you just want to share in the recipes.

March 16, 6pm on Zoom - April 20 & May 18, 6pm (Location TBD)