



Narrative Budget for 2027



Beyond the Bricks

FPC STEWARDSHIP 2027

Introduction



What is a Narrative Budget?

A Narrative Budget tells the story of how our church practices good stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us. It provides a vision of where our church hopes to be in the coming budget cycle.

Included in this Narrative Budget:

- ◇ FPC Mission Statement and Core Values
- ◇ Organizational Chart of our Servant Leadership
- ◇ Current Budget for 2026
- ◇ Budget Hopes with Rationale for 2027



Mission:

FPC 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.



Core Values:

1. *Reaching Out:* We believe the work of the church is to “act justly,” “love mercy,” and “walk humbly” with God. As servants, we care for strangers, heal the sick, feed the hungry, help the oppressed, and share the Gospel.
2. *Engaging:* We believe in the engagement of all of God’s children, both inside and outside the church, through their own spiritual gifts as we continue to grow.
3. *Belonging:* We believe in celebrating everyone’s journey as we share compassion, acceptance, and love for one another.
4. *Connecting:* We believe that we are part of the church universal that rejoices in all of God’s children and celebrates the differences among us.



The Church Operating Budget

Listed below is the actual budget for fiscal year 2026 (FY26) and our dream budget for fiscal year 2027 (FY27). The next two pages breakdown our servant leaders with their ministry areas, and a pie chart illustrating the budget’s percentile breakdown for facilities, personnel, and our many ministries, plus this year's special 200th anniversary dream budget! We have also included a further percentile breakdown of the ministries portion of the full budget.

The pages that follow describe each ministry area’s dream budget for FY27 and list their current budget for FY26.

We submit this information for your prayerful consideration of your 2027 financial pledge. The final 2027 operating budget must be prepared and approved by the Session and will be based on your generous pledges.

Dream Budget for 2027:

\$661,427

Total Church Budget for FY26:

\$587,091

13% increase from 2026 to 2027





2027
Organizational
Chart



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVINGTON, GA

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta	
<u>Clergy.</u> Senior Pastor & Session Moderator Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane	<u>Session</u> Clerk of Session John McCarthy

Reaching Out Elders	
<u>Witness</u> Sara Chini Yvonne Hill-Davenport Stephanie Scarborough Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane	<u>Thriving</u> <u>Congregations</u> Bob Tabb Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane

Engaging Elders	
<u>Worship</u> Hardy Sideris Angie Woodham Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane Mark Fiddie	<u>Faith Formation</u> Krista Firkus Chuck Williams Staff: Riley Taylor

Belonging Elders	
<u>Welcome</u> Bethany Wells Pat Harper Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane Catherine Laseter	<u>Finance</u> Gary Boteler Staff: Peni Kehoe Neeley Rentz Lane

Connecting Deacons	
<u>Pastoral Care</u> Cathy Dobbs Denny Dobbs Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane Chuck Williams	<u>Faith & Fellowship</u> Darcel Tabb Beverly Kratz Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane

More Elders	
<u>Facilities</u> Kenny Compton Staff: Catherine Laseter Neeley Rentz Lane	<u>Preschool</u> Donna Weesner Staff: Denise Gabriel Neeley Rentz Lane Riley Taylor
<u>Personnel</u> Jo Anna Fish Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane	<u>Nominating</u> <u>Committee</u> Hardy Sideris Staff: Neeley Rentz Lane

Staff			
<u>Clergy.</u> Senior Pastor & Head of Staff Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane		<u>Prayer</u> Parish Associate Chuck Williams	<u>Nursery.</u> Hattie Bellinger, Jahniyah Greene, Tyler King, Sarah Puckett, Shelby Sharpe, Sylvia Woods
<u>Programming</u> Director of Children & Youth Riley Taylor		<u>Music</u> Dir. of Music & Worship Arts Mark Fiddie Organist Alice Walker	<u>Custodial</u> Bernard Jackson, Stephanie Jackson
<u>Administration</u> Dir. of Communication & Operations Catherine Laseter Finance Administrator Peni Kehoe		<u>Community Preschool</u> Preschool Director Denise Gabriel Preschool Teachers Heather Caldwell, Lori Frix, Jahniyah Greene, Victorie Huff, Lynn Owens, Kaitlynn Phillips, Kara Selwidge, Shelby Sharpe, Jade Stalvey, Tammi Welch, Ella Williams	

FY27 Operating Budget

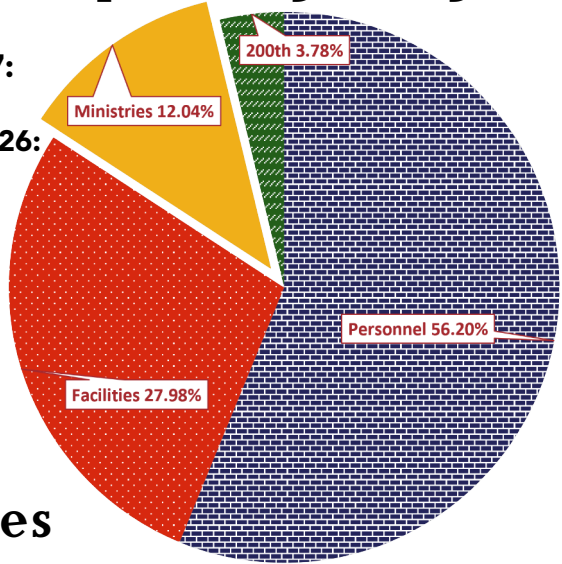
Dream Budget for 2027:

\$661,427

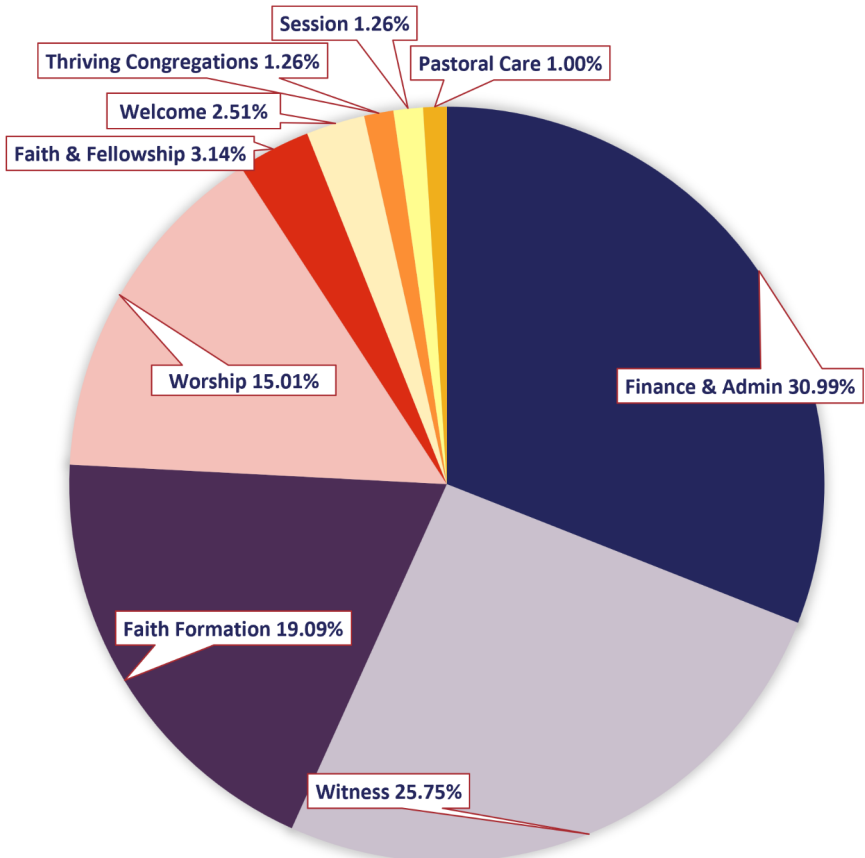
Total Church Budget for FY26:

\$587,091

overall **13% increase**
from 2026 to 2027



Our Ministries Budget



Our Ministries

REACHING OUT

Witness

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$20,500

25.75% of Ministries Budget & 3.10% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$19,600



The Witness Committee exists to embody Christ's love through outreach, service, and support—locally and globally.

When we give it is about participating in the ministry of the church and its missions. Our gifts help support the church's many community programs. The contributions help provide a place where people can grow in their faith

through a loving and caring church family.

Through witness we all can invest in the future ministry of our congregation and community. We aim to reflect God's love and justice in the world through tangible acts of service, advocacy, and partnership.



Thriving Congregations

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$1,000

1.26% of Ministries Budget & 0.15% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$1,000

Thriving Congregations is all about helping our church grow faithfully, intentionally, and joyfully as we seek to live out God's mission together. This team reminds us that a healthy church doesn't just happen by chance—it happens when we listen deeply to one another, plan prayerfully, and stay open to where the Holy Spirit is leading. Through one-on-one conversations, listening sessions, and community advocacy, Thriving Congregations helps us stay grounded in our core values while dreaming boldly about the future. The work of Thriving Congregations ensures that our ministries, spaces, and outreach efforts reflect the radical welcome and love of Christ for all people. By investing in this ministry, we're committing to continual growth—not only in numbers, but in faith,

compassion, and impact—as we follow God’s call to be a vibrant, welcoming, and Spirit-led congregation. Thriving Congregations is our host of the advocacy group: Presbyterian’s for a Better Georgia. It is the work of Thriving Congregations that keeps us mission minded as we work together to live into our goals as the church of Jesus Christ. We embrace the motto of reformed and always reforming: examining who we are, who our church is in the community and all the time listening to each other and God, listening for who God wants us to be, where and to what God is calling us.



ENGAGING

Worship

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$11,950
15.01% of Ministries Budget & 1.81% of total FY27 Budget
Current FY26 Budget – \$10,650

Worship brings our church family together to praise God, grow in faith, and share Christ’s love. Through prayer, scripture, music, the sacraments, and participation from people of all ages, we create meaningful experiences that connect us with God and one another.

We foster creativity and dynamic worship by participating in Sacred Arts opportunities. These experiences offer inspiration and ideas that enrich our music, worship leadership, and use of the arts.

Our 2027 worship budget will support the practical needs of our growing ministries. It includes additional acolyte robes, allowing more children and youth to participate comfortably, along with new gloves for our handbell ringers. The budget also covers communion supplies, paraments, seasonal worship materials, music, and other resources that make worship welcoming and meaningful.



Faith Formation

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$15,200

19.09% of Ministries Budget & 2.30% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$13,500

Faith Formation continues to grow and develop as we seek to provide meaningful opportunities for children, youth, and families to grow in their faith and connect with our church community.

This year, we have seen encouraging growth in participation in our children's and youth ministries. Our youth group numbers continue to grow, and we are grateful to see new children and families becoming involved in the life of the church. We have also begun offering food as part of our LOGOS program. Providing dinner allows children to gather around the table before programming begins and creates an additional opportunity for fellowship and community.

We are also excited to welcome our new Director of Children and Youth, Riley Taylor, who is working to strengthen and expand our faith formation programs. This position provides dedicated leadership for our children's and youth ministries and allows us to be more intentional about building relationships with young people, supporting families, and creating engaging opportunities for faith development.

As participation continues to increase, our budget needs to grow alongside our ministries. Funding supports curriculum and educational resources, supplies for children's and youth programming, meals for gatherings, special events and service opportunities for our young people to participate in retreats, trips, and other faith-forming experiences.

Continued investment in Faith Formation will allow us to welcome more children and youth, strengthen relationships with families, and create spaces where young people can experience God's love and discover their place within the church.



BELONGING

Welcome

*Proposed 2027 Budget - \$2,000
2.51% of Ministries Budget & 0.30% of total FY27 Budget
Current FY26 Budget – \$2,000*

The Welcome Team helps ensure that every person who walks through our doors feels seen, valued, and at home. So far in 2026, we celebrated 17 new adult members joining our church family, along with several new children and youth. We also welcomed many visitors throughout the year, helping them learn more about our congregation and find meaningful connections within the life of the church.

Throughout the year, the Welcome Team hosted new member lunches, providing opportunities for new members to meet church leaders, learn more about our ministries, and begin building relationships within the congregation. We are also updating our church directory having offered new family photographs, helping our growing church family put names with faces and stay connected.

We joyfully welcome individuals and families of all shapes, sizes, ages, and backgrounds. Our goal is for everyone, from a first-time visitor to a longtime member, to know that there is a place for them here.

The Welcome Team's annual budget will remain unchanged at \$2,000. These funds allow us to continue offering hospitality, supporting new member gatherings, and creating opportunities that help visitors and new members feel that they truly belong.



Finance & Office Administration

*Proposed 2027 Budget - \$24,675
30.99% of Ministries Budget & 3.73% of total FY27 Budget
Current FY26 Budget – \$20,824*

Faithful stewardship requires thoughtful and responsible care of all that has been entrusted to us. Our Finance Team plays a vital role in ensuring that the financial resources of our congregation are managed with transparency, accountability, and in ways that reflect our mission and values. As stewards of our operating



budget, the Finance Team meets regularly to review income and expenses, monitor the financial health of the church, and help ensure that our resources support the ministries God is calling us to do. The Finance Team also oversees the work of our Stewardship Team and works closely with our Endowment Team, helping us faithfully care for both the gifts we receive today and the resources entrusted to us for the future. The Finance Team budget also

includes many of the administrative costs needed to keep the church operational for the day to day including office supplies, printing, payment processing fees, and our website. Through careful planning, prayerful discernment, and responsible financial practices, we seek to remember that our budget is more than numbers on a page, it is a reflection of our priorities, our ministry, and our commitment to being faithful stewards of God's abundant gifts.

Session & Leadership Expenses

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$1,000

1.26% of Ministries Budget & 0.15% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$1,000

Strong and faithful ministry begins with leaders who are equipped, encouraged, and supported. Our Session and Leadership Budget provides opportunities to nurture the servant leaders of our congregation through Session retreats, book studies, officer training, and continuing education for our elders and deacons. These opportunities create space for prayer, discernment, relationship-building, and learning as our leaders seek to faithfully guide the life and ministry of our church. As Ephesians reminds us, we are called to "equip the saints for the work of ministry," and investing in our leaders helps strengthen the entire congregation. By investing in those who lead and serve, we are building a stronger foundation for the ministry God is calling us to do together.



CONNECTING

Pastoral Care

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$800

1.00% of Ministries Budget & 0.12% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$800



We are called to care for one another through all of life's ups and downs, celebrating joys, carrying sorrows, and reminding one another that no one walks alone. Our Pastoral Care Budget

helps us live out this calling in tangible ways through cards, meals, funeral hospitality, grief resources, at-home communion, celebrations of new babies, hospital visitation, and care during seasons of illness, loss, transition, and joy. It also provides opportunities for workshops and gatherings throughout the year that nurture the emotional, spiritual, and relational well-being of our church family. Pastoral care is also about creating places of connection and belonging. Our SOS (Seasoned Older Saints) ministry gathers for lunches, fellowship, and day trips, while our growing Men's Fellowship Breakfast offers an opportunity to break bread together and deepen relationships. Through the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life, we seek to be the Body of Christ for one another by showing up, sharing the journey, and surrounding one another with Christ's love and care.

Faith & Fellowship

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$2,500

3.14% of Ministries Budget & 0.38% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$2,500

Faith grows in community, and sometimes the most meaningful connections happen when we simply gather around a table, share a treat, laugh together, and enjoy one another's company. Our Faith & Fellowship Team creates opportunities throughout the year for our church family to deepen relationships and experience the joy of being together. From Campfire Church and Lemonade on the Lawn to cider and donuts, popsicles after



worship, and other simple moments of hospitality, this ministry helps create a welcoming community where relationships can flourish. Our quarterly Soul Feast church family dinners bring all generations together around the table for food, fellowship, and fun, while beloved traditions like our chili cook-off and annual talent show give us opportunities to celebrate the many gifts and personalities that make up our church family. These gatherings remind us that fellowship is more than having fun, it is part of how we become a faithful, loving family, building relationships that sustain us as we worship, serve, and grow together.



MORE

Personnel

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$371,752
56.20% of total FY27 Budget
FY26 Budget - \$371,667

Our ministry is made possible by people. From our pastor and program staff to our administrative team, musicians, preschool staff, and nursery workers, our staff faithfully supports the life and ministry of our congregation. It is through our Personnel Budget that we support them. Our commitment to stewardship includes providing fair compensation and benefits, caring for the well-being of our staff, and offering continuing education opportunities so they can continue to learn, grow, and bring new energy to their ministries.

The Personnel Budget also provides childcare that makes many of our ministries accessible to families and strengthens our commitment to being a teaching congregation by welcoming seminary interns to learn and serve alongside us. In 2027, our Personnel Budget also includes funding for a Sabbatical Bridge Pastor and pulpit supply for the summer of 2027 while Pastor Neeley is away on sabbatical, ensuring that worship, pastoral care, staff



support, and the ministries of FPC continue to thrive. When we invest in our staff, we invest in the people who help equip all of us to live out God's call together.

Facilities & Grounds

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$185,050

27.98% of total FY27 Budget

Current FY26 Budget - \$143,550

Our church building and grounds are more than bricks, classrooms, offices, and green spaces. They are places where ministry happens every day. From Sunday morning worship and fellowship to preschool families, children and youth, community groups, and neighbors who walk through our doors, our facilities help us live out our call to welcome, serve, and grow together.

As our Children's Ministry continues to grow and more preschool families enjoy our playground, caring for this well-loved space remains an important priority. Maintaining a safe, inviting, and joyful place for children to play is one of the many ways we care for the youngest members of our church and community.

In the year ahead, we anticipate several important facility needs, including HVAC maintenance and repairs, lawn and grounds care, technology updates, playground upkeep, and other projects that come with caring for a historic and active church campus.

During 2026, we have already invested in new lighting, a new AC compressor, and a variety of smaller repairs and improvements throughout our building and grounds. We are especially grateful for our custodial staff, whose faithful work keeps our spaces clean, welcoming, and ready for ministry.

We are thankful for our church workdays and for the many volunteers who give their time and talents to repair, clean, paint, organize, and care for our church home. Every hour volunteered and every dollar given toward our facilities is an investment in the ministry that happens within and beyond these walls.



200th Anniversary Celebration

Proposed 2027 Budget - \$25,000

3.78% of total FY27 Budget

In 2027, First Presbyterian Church will celebrate an incredible milestone: 200 years of faith, fellowship, and service! For two centuries, generations have gathered here to worship God, nurture one another, serve our neighbors, and share Christ's love throughout our community.



Our 200th Anniversary Planning Team is excited to honor this rich history with a weekend of joy, April 23–25. We will welcome former pastors and church leaders, past members, community partners, neighbors, and friends to celebrate the people and stories that have shaped our congregation.

Our anniversary budget will help provide food and fellowship, special worship experiences, music, a community church picnic, hospitality for our guests, decorations, historical displays, and other opportunities to celebrate together.

More than a birthday celebration, this weekend will be an opportunity to give thanks for the generations who came before us, celebrate what God is doing among us today, and look with hope and joy toward the next chapter of our ministry.

First Presbyterian Community Preschool

What a difference a year makes! In our first full year, First Presbyterian Community Preschool has experienced tremendous growth, welcoming more children and families into our church community and filling our classrooms, playground, and hallways with even more laughter, learning, and joy.

The preschool continues to operate with its own independent budget, overseen by the Preschool Board, while our Finance Team provides guidance and support to encourage healthy collaboration and transparency. First Presbyterian Community Preschool is an important ministry of First Presbyterian Church and an extension of our commitment to children, families, and our community. Our church supports the preschool by covering facility

overhead and utilities, investing in this vital work of education, care and faith formation.

We are so grateful for the generosity of our church and community members who have donated to our preschool scholarship fund. We have already been able to help five families in our community attend First Presbyterian Community Preschool and become part of our amazing preschool family through our scholarship fund. For some, this opportunity may not have been possible without this support. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this ministry accessible to more children and families.



We are grateful for the faithful leadership of the Preschool Board, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the families who have entrusted their children to our care.

Our hope for 2027 is to continue growing, create even more fun experiences for our students, and keep building partnerships with local businesses and our community. Most of all, we look forward to continuing to serve children and families and are so thankful for everyone who supports our preschool!

Conclusion

In closing we remind you of our mission at First Presbyterian Church Covington, and we pray that you will be reminded of all that has been laid out in this narrative budget and how it serves to glorify God while you make your Pledge for 2027.

Mission

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.





**Scan the QR code or visit
fpccov.org/stewardship to learn
how to contribute to our Beyond
the Bricks Stewardship Campaign
and help us reach our goals laid
out in this narrative budget!**



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