

# THE COVENANTER

## December 02, 2018

Member NE GEORGIA Presbytery, Synod  
of the South Atlantic, General Assembly  
of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



### *Covenant's Annual Christmas Choral Worship*

Sunday, December 9, Beginning promptly at 10:45am

Join us for a morning of carols and festive music on Dec. 9th at 10:30. This is our annual tradition of Christmas Choral Worship, and there will be offerings from our chime choir, adult and children's choir, as well as solos and instrumental pieces. We will also hear the premiere of the song entitled *A Not so Silent Night* lyrics written by Mark Harper with music by Cliff Brock. Please join us for this music filled service. A Catered Luncheon of sandwiches, veggies, and fruit hosted by Congregational Fellowship will follow in the fellowship hall. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Everyone's invited to join our retirees for their monthly **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 12:30pm to enjoy good food & fellowship and a program of Christmas music provided by Covenant's "More Than Four" - Linda Rogers, Carol Huber, Rich Reaves, and Jim Anderson, with Betsy Burmeister on piano. We'll join them for some caroling too. Bring a dish to share, and bring a friend. Ham and beverages will be provided. A great way to celebrate the season of Advent!

### **A Ride to 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship at Covenant**

If you would prefer not to drive after dark and would like to have someone pick you up for the 5:30 Christmas Eve service, please call the church office to be placed on a pick up list. You will be notified of further details as we identify those who would like to have a ride.



COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)



Covenant is collecting for the Athens Area Emergency Food bank for the month of **DECEMBER:**  
**Cold breakfast cereal, saltines, and fruit juice;**  
And as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough.

**Remember in Prayer:** Warren Combs' sister, Marjean Combs Marshall recovering from a procedure to address a severe kidney infection; Judy Capie's son Michael, having tests for severe leg pain after being struck by lightning on the job; Mrs. Bowen's family & neighborhood, in difficult times; Ann Anderson, recovering from a fall; Kathy Boardman, on her mission trek to the Southwest, leaving the church parking lot, Sat.Dec.1 at 11am; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Pauline Marshall, at Highland Hills; Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta; Marion Wilmot, at home.

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Dec. 3	Psalm 25: 1-5
Tuesday	Dec. 4	Luke 1: 39-45
Wednesday	Dec. 5	Luke 1: 46-55
Thursday	Dec. 6	Isaiah 12
Friday	Dec. 7	Isaiah 35
Saturday	Dec. 8	Isaiah 61: 1-4
Sunday	Dec. 9	Luke 1: 67-79

"A Not So Silent Night!"

Second Week of Advent: "Advent Alleluias!"

With the Christ Child, we hear sounds of hope for a new beginning!

**HINTEROO.** All the puzzle words have a 3-letter sequence in common. That's the "Hinteroo", which will help you find the correct answers:

1. Hip, Rad, Wayout: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Headcover: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Hip-hop pugilist: \_\_\_\_\_



1. Groovy
2. Roof
3. Kangaroo

Answers to HINTEROO:



*Purchase a beautiful live Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special! They are used in the Worship Center throughout the Christmas Season. Sign up sheet is outside the church office. Make your check payable to Covenant and put poinsettia in the memo portion of your check. \$10 each. These poinsettias are purchased from the UGA Horticulturist Honor Society-Pi Alpha Xi. Our support means they can continue buying supplies and keep their greenhouses up-and-running. Thank you Covenant!*

Dear Covenant Family,  
My dog Robbie, "Mother" the van, and I will be at the church parking lot on Saturday, Dec. 1, at 11am. Please join us for an informal time of blessings & prayers and some ritual as we embark on this journey. We will head west that afternoon on our mission to family & new friends in the RV parks of the US.

If you are so inclined to write (serialpilgrim@gmail.com), I am imagining how loving it will be to read your thoughts & blessings each night while my life transforms, heading into the desert. Gratefully & Humbly,

*Katiemac Serial Pilgrim*  
(Kathy Boardman)

**MAID OF CLAY POTTERY** will be in Watkinsville this weekend for the OCAF Holiday Market, Friday evening from 5-8, Saturday and Sunday 10-5. There will be over 70 booths for lots of Christmas shopping. We will be in the old school gym, Rocket Hall, in booth 108 all the way in the back on the right. Hope you will be able to come by to see us. *Diane Davies*

## CHIME CHOIR REHEARSALS

Saturday, December 8...5pm



# Hello December

Sunday, Dec. 2	8:30am Worship (final) 9:30am Church School (WoRM) (final)
Monday, Dec. 3	8am Covenant Breakfast Club
Tuesday, Dec. 4	<u>6:30pm</u> Stated Session Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 5	10am Adult Bible Study 5pm Youth (downstairs with adult supervision) 5:30pm—7:00pm CovConn 7:00pm Taize 7:30am Adult Choir (final)
Thursday, Dec. 6	2pm Knitters & Knotters
Friday, Dec. 7	10am Presbyterian Women Cookie Party
Saturday, Dec. 8	10:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal 11:30am Chime Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 9	10:45am Christmas Choral Worship Catered Luncheon (all are welcome)
Tuesday, Dec. 11	12:30pm Graduate Covered Dish Luncheon with Christmas Carols 6:30pm Finance
Wed., Dec. 12	5:30pm—7:00pm CovConn with Santa 7:00pm Taize
Thurs., Dec 13	2pm Knitters & Knotters
Sunday, Dec. 16	10:45am Worship
Wed., Dec. 19	7:00pm Taize
Sunday, Dec. 23	10:45am Worship (Christmas Pageant with Children and Youth)
Monday, Dec. 24	5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and Candlelight
Tuesday, Dec. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS—OFFICE CLOSED
Wed, Dec 26—28	Office Closed

### Congratulations to:

**Erik and Nami Kisaalita Edwards** on the recent birth of their daughter **Sanyu Christine Marianna Edwards**, in Decatur on Nov. 10. Proud and excited grandparents are **Rose and William Kisaalita**. **Dr. Trasie Topple**, who recently defended her doctoral dissertation at UGA in social work. **Asher Hill** recently hired as a technical director at the Morton Theater.

Everyone's invited, all ages, to the **Restaurant Roadtrip** on Tues. Dec. 18, to enjoy lunch together at 11:30am at Chops & Hops in Watkinsville. Separate checks. Meet us there, or carpool from the Covenant parking lot at 11:15am. Either way, please SIGNUP on the bulletin board to let us know you're coming. A great time of fellowship during Advent.

First Presbyterian Church downtown is hosting the **Athens Area Holiday Benevolence Market** this season, on Sunday, December 16, 9am-1pm, to support 28 non-profit organizations in their ongoing work this coming year. This is an inter-faith project now, a giving tradition since 1994. See our bulletin board for a checklist of what you might generously provide. Many thanks!



## ANGEL TREE.

Each ornament on the tree represents a need or wish of young children connected to the Athens DFCS. This year we are sponsoring 3yo Alora, 2.5 yo Sophia, and 5yo Kason. Covenant folks and Athens Mothers Center (AMC) moms are encouraged to take an ornament, purchase the item indicated, and turn it in **unwrapped to the church office by Dec 4**. If you have questions, call or message me at 706.424.5907. If anyone with the means would like to privately sponsor a child's full wish list, message me and I can provide the name of this year's coordinator at DFCS.

*Ruby Basham for the Athens Mothers Center*

Athens Choral Society

*Presents*

*The*

*Many Moods of Christmas*

Arranged by Robert Shaw and

Robert Russell Bennett

Tuesday, December 4

8pm

Hugh Hodgson Hall

FREE—no ticket required

[www.athenschoralsociety.com](http://www.athenschoralsociety.com)

# Wednesday

TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE

WEEKLY SERVICE

Beginning September 5, 2018  
7:00-7:30 PM



Please join us for a time of:

Simple Song  
Silence  
Communal Prayer

This service is open to the community.  
*All are welcome in this place.*

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School Rd Athens GA 30605

Athens Master Chorale,

*Joseph Napoli, Conductor*

30th anniversary season

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

The Classis Center Atrium at 4pm

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**



## COFFEE CABINET GOODIES!

Wonderful Fair Trade coffees and chocolates have arrived for your shopping pleasure. Ground or Whole bean and delicious organic chocolate bars. Coffee Whole Bean - Red Bag \$7.50 each; Whole Bean—Conga \$10.00 each; Coffee Ground—Red Bag \$7.50; Chocolate bars \$3.00 each. These would make great Christmas gifts!

*The Witness Ministry Team*

It is time for the Worship Ministry Team to create the schedule for *Ushers, Scripture Readers, and Greeters* for the first half of the new calendar year 2019. If you are not on the current schedule(s) and would be willing to participate in the Sunday morning worship with any of these responsibilities, please let Julie Bower or Dick Zimdars know by December 2. We look forward to including YOU!



**5th Sunday Worship - 5th Sunday Worship, Dec 23** - Children and Youth are being asked to participate in the following ways: Musically, if your youth/child would be willing to offer a special musical piece that fits with the season, please let Betsy Burmeister <[betsy.b.happy@hotmail.com](mailto:betsy.b.happy@hotmail.com)> know;

In a **Christmas Pageant**, please let Christine Carpenter (facebook or [ces0008@yahoo.com](mailto:ces0008@yahoo.com)) know of your youth's/child's willingness to participate in a more traditional pageant;

And, there will be other liturgical aspects to the worship service; please let Craig [ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org) know if you will be in town and willing to participate in any way.

#### **Child Liturgist (10:45 Service)**

**NOTE:** Beginning Dec 2, the Child Liturgist, along with siblings, parents, and/or friends, will also assist with the placement of the Nativity Scene figurines.

Please let Craig Topple know if your child would like to become a part of the rotation:  
[ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)

12/2/18 Eli Stone 12/9/18 Jacob Page  
12/16/18 Delaney Braswell 12/23/18 Ruby TOpple

*Instructions:* The bulletin is emailed by the end of the week on your week. Practice with your child. During the "Voluntary" of the worship service, the liturgist may join the pastors in the chancel. To begin, your child can invite the congregation, "Please join me in the Call to Worship."

#### **Going underground with WoRM! Going underground with WoRM!**

"let the little children come unto me." - Jesus

December Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

*Memory Verses:* "Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'" Luke 1:38 (NRSV)

**Dec Rotation:** WoRM will only meet the first Sunday of December. Patrick McMaster will lead the K-2 group in Loaves and Fishes Cafe, and Craig Topple will lead the 3rd - 5th group in Potter's Workshop. There are a number of children's activities throughout December, including a Christmas Pageant. Please be on the lookout for information about the pageant from Christine Carpenter

**Parents Corner:** Sometimes when Trasie and I celebrate birthdays of our daughters' friends, in addition to wishing the child being celebrated a happy birthday, we also wish a "happy birthing day" to the child's mother. December means the season of Advent--a time of expectation and hope. Mary takes central stage in this part of the story of Jesus. Yes, Mary is Jesus' mother, and she is also a model of faith. She trusts. She hopes. She is a willing servant of God. As you experience the Advent season leading to the birth of Jesus, pay attention with your children to Mary. See how she is depicted and honored during this season. As we anticipate and eventual celebrate Jesus' birth, might we also consider celebrating Mary, wishing her a "happy birthing day."

**Remember:** Please help prepare your children for WoRM by telling them who their teacher and shepherd are and where their lesson will be: Temple Courtyard, Potter's Workshop, Loaves and Fishes, or Oasis Theatre.

# Wonderful Wednesdays

**10:00am Adult Bible Study**—This fall we explore the relationship between our Christian faith and science, guided by a DVD series from Living the Question, “Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith!” Facilitated by Mark Harper.

## COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

5:30pm—6:00pm K-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant Time

6:00pm—6:30pm Family Dinner for children, youth and adults

6:30pm—7:00pm 3rd—5th Grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

## WEDNESDAY COVENANT CONNECTION For Youth

5:00pm Supervision for Middle and High School Youth in the youth rooms begins—

*Youth Rooms will NOT be open until then.*

5:30pm "Wednesday School—Bible Study" for Middle School Youth led by Mark and Beecher (optional for High School), High School Youth continue to fellowship

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Faith and Film

7:00pm Depart

**6:30pm Adult Bible Study—**

## TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

**7:00pm—7:30pm**

Come & join us for this new offering at Covenant every Wednesday night.

This introspective worship is built on these 3 tenets: *repetitive song, prayer, and silence.*

Led primarily by the pastors and Cliff Brock, the services will include devotional music and chants from the Taize tradition, along with scripture and prayer. This time of centering and prayer is open to the community, so



**WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant donated the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall in 2014?**

Who's Who: Brad & Nancy  
Courtenay – friends of Covenant



Covenant's own Wyatt Herndon will star in the high school production of "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Madison Co. High School Theater, December 13, 14, & 15. Evenings at 7pm and Saturday at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 and cash only. You can purchase your tickets from Brian Herndon.

## **OLOMOUC**—4th English Camp Planning Meeting

There will be a Olomouc English Camp planning meeting right after the 10:45am service on Sunday, December 16th. English Camp dates-July 6-14, 2019. Please come and find out about this great opportunity with our brothers and sisters of the ECCB Church in the Czech Republic. Any questions please contact Sue Rathbun: [irish\\_2242@yahoo.com](mailto:irish_2242@yahoo.com) or 814-243-4778 .

## **YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS!**

**Youth Leaders wanted!** Would you be willing to help out with the Sunday Evening youth programming from time to time. We have a group of committed adult leaders, but sometimes schedules don't always permit enough adults to be present as we need. Please contact Craig to say "yes" or for more details:

[ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)



**Sunday Mornings, 9:35-10:30**, Abby Horvath is leading B.A.S.I.C. in the youth room!

**Sunday Evening Youth Group, 5pm - 7pm, at church unless otherwise announced:**

Nov 25: Youth Group; Dec. 2 Youth Group (Leader Meeting at 7pm); Dec. 9 Youth Group  
Dec. 15-16: Lock-in/Christmas Party – details to be announced

**Wednesday Covenant Connection at 5:30 -7pm**

*(5pm Youth are invited to hangout in the youth rooms– The youth rooms will not be open until 5pm as there will not be adult supervision until that time)*

5:30 - 6 - Bible Study with Pastors Mark and Beecher

6-6:30 - Supper

6:30 - 7 - Faith and Film with Craig Barber

**Mark Your Calendars!** The Christian Ed team is looking ahead to some great summer activities for youth

**Lasagna Lunch, Jan 13 after church. Participants in any summer youth conference are expected to assist with this yummy event.**

**Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8.** An awesome week is in store for any rising 9th - graduated from HS! We will again share the GA Lodge with Covenant Augusta. Registration has begun, and if you know you (your child) wants to go, please submit a \$100 deposit by Dec 1. For more information visit [montreat.org](http://montreat.org), and contact [ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)

**Middle School Conference--Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21.** A unique energetic week is in store for rising 6th - completed 8th graders! Registration has begun, and if you know you (your child) wants to go, please submit a \$100 deposit by Feb 1. For more information visit [montreat.org](http://montreat.org), and contact [ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)

**[Presbyterian Youth Triennium](#)** is July 16-20 at Purdue University. What is Presbyterian Youth Triennium? A gathering of over 3000 students from PCUSA churches all over the country. The Northeast Georgia Presbytery is planning to send a delegation. Space for each church in the presbytery is limited, but if any rising 10th - graduated HS student wants to attend, please contact Brian Herndon. We estimate 40-45 students from the presbytery joining in this summer adventure.

**WEEK OF December 02, 2018****SUNDAY-**

8:30am Worship (final until January 20)  
 9:30am Church School for all Ages (final WoRM)  
 10:45am Worship  
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous  
 5:00pm Youth Groups (7pm Youth Leaders Meeting)  
 5pm Elder Review

**MONDAY-**

OFFICE CLOSED

8am Covenant Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road  
 6:00pm Scouts

**TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 6:30pm Session Meeting  
 7pm—8pm The School of Thought (Cliff Brock)  
 8pm New Freedom

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS-**

10:00am Adult Bible Study  
 5:30pm—7:00pm Cov Conn  
 (youth rooms will open with Adult Supervision at 5pm)  
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study  
 7:00pm Taize  
 7:30pm Adult Choir

**THURSDAY—**

2pm Knitters & Knotters  
 6:30pm YOGA 7pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

**FRIDAY—**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
 10am PW Cookie Party  
 3:30pm The Cave 5pm—6pm Chime Choir Rehearsal  
 8pm New Freedom

**SATURDAY— 10:00am Children's Choir Rehearsal**

**10:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal; 11:30am Chime Choir**  
 Fellowship Hall Cleaned

**WORSHIP—December 02, 2018****8:30am**

Reader: Bruce Menke

Coffee: Shirley Hunt

Ushers: Warren &amp; Arnell Combs

**10:45am—**

Reader: Phil Hale

Ushers: Jim &amp; Dorothy Newland, Stephanie Cahill, Betsy Pless

Greeters: Anna, Shari &amp; Jimmy Cobb

Congregational Care: Chuck Rosenberger

Counters: Pam Knox, Bill Barstow

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (Dec. 3—9)

Nursery/Super: Sandy Whitney

Birth—Walking: Sandy Whitney

Walking—5 years old: Brian &amp; Lily Herndon, Marcia Page

**WEEK OF December 09, 2018****SUNDAY-**

9:30am Church School (No WoRM)  
 10:45am Christmas Choral Worship  
 12:15pm Catered Luncheon by *Fellowship Ministry Team*  
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous  
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous  
 5:00pm Youth Groups

**MONDAY-**

OFFICE CLOSED

6:00pm Scouts

**TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 6:30pm Finance Ministry Meeting  
 12:30pm Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon 6:30pm Finance  
 7pm Athens Stamp Club  
 7pm—8pm The School of Thought (Cliff Brock)  
 8pm New Freedom

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS-**

10:00am Adult Bible Study  
 5:30pm—7:00pm Cov Conn with Santa  
 (youth rooms will open with Adult Supervision at 5pm)  
 6pm-8pm Candle Light Vigil at City Hall (immigration)  
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study  
 7:00pm Taize  
 No Adult Choir

**THURSDAY—**

2pm Knitters & Knotters  
 6:30pm YOGA  
 7pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

**FRIDAY— YOUTH LOCK IN Begins!**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
 3:30pm The Cave (final)

**SATURDAY— YOUTH LOCK IN Ends!**

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

**WORSHIP—December 09, 2018****10:45am—**

Liturgist— Jacob Page

Reader: Carol Huber

Ushers: Susan &amp; Randy Parish, Bill Rigsby, Julie &amp; Don Bower

Congregational Care: Chuck Rosenberger

Counters: Randy Parish, Paige Campbell

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Jim Bowden

Grounds Stewards: Ed Ralph (Dec. 10—16)

Nursery/Super: Marie Ballard-Myer

Birth—Walking: Marie Ballard-Myer

Walking—5 years old: Chuck Rosenberger, Tim Foutz, Adam Brooks