

# THE COVENANTER

## December 09, 2018

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



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

**TODAY—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!

## 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

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's **FEED MY SHEEP** 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. (see pg. 4 for deals on these items at your local grocery store). *Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough.*

**Remember in Prayer:** Kathy Boardman, who had to delay her departure until midmonth, but continuing her preparations for ministry in state parks around the country; Kay Brooks & family, in the death of her mother Carol June Trussell in Grand Junction, CO, during surgery for a blocked artery on Nov.29; June Meyers & family, in the death of her sister Lois in PA on Dec.2, after a 3-year bout with leukemia; Cliff Brock's grandmother Martha, briefly hospitalized in Hillsboro, and his cousin Brooke, a newly-wed 29-yr-old, now in a coma with a severe brain injury, hospitalized after a bad car accident; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Pauline Marshall, at Highland Hills; and Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta.

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Dec. 10	John 1: 1-9
Tuesday	Dec. 11	Isaiah 9: 2-4
Wednesday	Dec. 12	Deuteronomy 6: 4-9
Thursday	Dec. 13	I John 4: 7-21
Friday	Dec. 14	Philippians 2: 1-11
Saturday	Dec. 15	Colossians 3: 12-14
Sunday	Dec. 16	I Thessalonians 3: 6-13

"A Not So Silent Night!"

Third Week of Advent: *A Light of Love  
in the Darkness"*

Our loving words resonate with  
God's desires for us!

**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. Beach boy (or girl): \_\_\_\_\_
2. What a lamb is not: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Not tame: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Week # 23

Anticipated Pledges: \$205,873.44

Received Pledges: \$194,691.27

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*



**Answers to HINTEROO:**

1. Surfer
2. Ferocious
3. feral

#### 2019 Ministry Team Chairs

Building & Grounds – Alex Clark, Rich Reaves

Care & Nurture of Young Children – Lola Bell,  
Ellen Stoneburner

Christian Education – Mary Barnett,  
Sarah Shannon

Community Outreach – Paige Campbell,  
Steve Rathbun

Congregational Care – Luanne Rigsby

Congregational Fellowship – Ann Anderson,  
James Malone

Finance – Dennis Calbos

Witness – Sandy Whitney

Worship – Jennifer Frey, Dick Zimdars

Clerk of Session – Cheryl Devaney,  
with substitute Luanne Rigsby

**Congratulations** to Dennis & Carol Calbos upon the birth of their granddaughter, Carson Elisabeth Calbos, on Nov.29 (two weeks early) in Memphis, born to their son Mark & his wife Laura & 2-yr-old son.

**Congratulations** to Larry & Carolyn Hatfield upon the birth of a granddaughter, Kailani Helen Sanders, born Thanksgiving Day Nov.22, in Okinawa, to their daughter Alexandra & Derrick Sanders and brother Tre, age 6, and sister Gracie, age 9. Carolyn hopes to go visit in January.

## CHIME CHOIR REHEARSALS

Friday, December 7—5pm until ?

Sunday, December 9—9am—9:30am Warm Ups



# Hello December

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.

Sunday, Dec. 9	9am Chime Choir Rehearsal 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 (final)
Sunday, Dec. 16	10:45am Worship
Wed., Dec. 19	7:00pm Taize (final)
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— <i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>
Wed, Dec 26—28	Office Closed

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!

## Designated Opportunities to Give

### Covenant Presbyterian Church

2018-2019



Dear Members and Friends of Covenant: As the Christmas season approaches with the New Year 'just around the corner' practicing generosity to help others brings delight to our hearts and to the holiday season. Someone has said, "The best way to catch the spirit of Christmas is to give it to someone else."

To help us restore life-giving balance, Covenant offers alternatives, so that giving can once again become the sign of the season which celebrates the gift of God's serving love, born in a stable in Bethlehem long ago. On the bright orange page in your mailboxes (or on the table in the narthex) you will find a list of other benevolent opportunities to support along with a list of special offerings received during the year for your planning. Make your check payable to:

Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate how you want your contribution to be used. *Thanks!*

### Memorial Funds News:

Please notice how well lighted some of our church facility areas are now that the days are growing shorter, new light bulbs and light fixtures, provided by gifts given in memory of loved ones and friends, brighten the Worship Center, Fellowship Hall, and the Upper Room. The Christmas Eve service now has a warm glow!

Several funds have been combined to create financial help for our Covenant young people who want to attend camp or participate in mission trips. It is called the **Youth Mission Memorial Fund.**

A fund designated for Building and Grounds has helped provide the new "Entrance" and "Exit" signs for our parking lot. Training for our Elders has benefitted from a gift designated for Christian Education.

Thank you for your gifts. They are used at Covenant and for our outreach to the community. *Elsie Bothwell*

**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*

### Best Deals on Athens Area Emergency Food Bank Items—FEED MY SHEEP

For the month of December, the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs cold cereal, saltines, and fruit juice. Here are the best deals on these 3 items at 3 area stores:

Cereal: Kroger's own brand of 28 oz. bags \$2.79. (\$.10 per oz.)

Publix: Several varieties of General Mills, 10.7-12.4 oz., BOGO \$3.25 for 2 or \$1.63 for 1. ( \$.13-\$.15 per oz.)

Aldi: Millville Brand \$1.79, \$.06 to \$.18 per oz.,

Saltines: Kroger: p\$St... brand, \$.89 for 16 oz.; Publix brand, \$1.19 for 16 oz. Aldi: Savoritz Brand \$.75 for 16 oz.

Fruit juice: Kroger's own brand of Apple Juice, \$1.50 for 64 oz. Publix' own brand of Cranberry and Cranberry Blends, \$1.87 for 64 oz. Aldi: Nature's Nectar Apple Juice, \$1.09 for 64 oz.

These prices will most likely be in effect through Tuesday, Dec. 11. Many thanks to all who faithfully support the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. *Caren Snook*

**Meals on Wheels** - Special offering received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve Communion services to sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$1,848.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support six (6) older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously as a way to participate with our members and friends making deliveries: *Jim & Jere Bowden, Marilyn Brown, Phil Hale, Ann Anderson, Sue & David Loegel, Phil & Linda Koehler, Dorothy & Jim Newland, Ed Ralph, Caren Snook, and Heide & Juergen Wiegel.* **Consider making a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.** Please find an envelope in your mailbox or on the table in the narthex.



**5th Sunday Worship - 5th Sunday Worship,  
Dec 23 - 5th Sunday Worship, Dec 23 -**  
Children and Youth are participating:

- Musically. Betsy Burmeister is coordinating:  
[betsy.b.happy@hotmail.com](mailto:betsy.b.happy@hotmail.com)
- In a **Christmas Pageant**. Christine Carpenter is directing! Rehearsals are Sunday, Dec 16th and Dec 23rd at 9:30, as well as other times to be announced. Liturgically, with readings, etc. Craig Topple is coordinating this portion. [ctopple@covpresathens.org](mailto:ctopple@covpresathens.org)

If you haven't already let any of the above people of your child's eagerness to participate please do so! God be praised for the gift of one another.

**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.

12/2/18 Eli Stone 12/9/18 Ruby Topple  
12/16/18 Delaney Braswell 12/23/18 various  
12/30/18 none

**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!** "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. There are a number of children's activities throughout December, including Christmas Choral Worship Sunday prep on Dec 9, and Christmas pageant prep, including Dec 16 at 9:30am, leading up to the Christmas Pageant on Dec 23. Please be on the lookout for information about the pageant from Christine Carpenter.

**Parents Corner.** 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 hope, love, joy, and peace. Mary takes central stage in this part of the story of Jesus. Yes, Mary is Jesus' mother, and, she is a *model of faith*. She is a willing servant of God who exhibits the four characteristics of the season. 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."

Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition of Athens—  
Candlelight Vigil  
December 12, 2018

City Hall—Athens

6pm—8pm

Lift your voices for **ACTION**  
and Your prayers for **JUSTICE!**



Because the office will be closed the week of Christmas we will produce a double issue of the Covenant on December 23rd. It will include week of Dec. 23 and Dec. 30th. So send in your info for the newsletter soon!

Thanks!

**COMMUNITY POLICY CONVERSION ON  
100% CLEAN ENERGY! Sunday, December 16th  
at 3pm**

2025 Baxter Street, Athens - Join Athens for Everyone, the Sierra Club, Environment Georgia, city commissioners, and friends for a town hall meeting to discuss the plan to get Athens to 100% clean energy in the near future! This event will include presentations on global and local perspectives on the importance of clean energy transition, other cities around the country who have initiated 100% plans, the 100% Clean Energy proposal for Athens, and an action-oriented conversation about how to bring this vision to fruition. **FREE BUT YOU NEED TO REGISTER** at

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z0000027JXwQAM&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=Community%20Policy%20Conversation%20on%20100%25%20Clean%20Energy@33.945006,-83.403651>

# 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. (final until January 16th))



**COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn) with SANTA!** (final until January 16th)

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** (final until January 16th)

**TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE** continues through December 19th

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 please share this invitation with colleagues and neighbors and all who are spiritually hungry and thirsty.



**WHO'S WHO at Covenant?** Who at Covenant played bassoon in the high school band?

Who's Who: *Arnelle Combs*



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.

**Highlights of the stated Session meeting** on Tues.Dec.4 include: 1) welcome to the new classes of Elders - (2020) Jennifer Frey and (2021) Paige Campbell, Steve Rathbun, Rich Reaves, & Sarah Shannon - who shared their faith journeys and were recommended by the Elder Review Team who met with them on Dec.2 - - many thanks to Marilyn Brown, Patti Huberty, Katy McGill, and Sandy Whitney (chair); 2) appointment of commissioners to presbytery meeting on Sat.Feb.23 at Covenant/ Augusta - Patti Huberty, Katy McGill, Luanne Rigsby, and Sandy Whitney (with Ellen Stoneburner, alternate); 3) approval of Pam Knox as 2019 Church Treasurer and Cheryl Devaney as 2019 Clerk of Session; 4) approval of baptism for Wells Newland on Sun.Dec.23, grandchild of Jim & Dorothy Newland; 5) update on the new playground, as UGA students begin its design; 6) approved change in Craig Topple's job title to "Part-time Pastor for Children & Youth Ministries," only for IRS purposes (not a called/installed position); and 7) heartfelt gratitude and appreciation extended to the outgoing 2018 class of Elders for their faithful & creative service these past 3 years - - Marilyn Brown, Terry Centner, Patti Huberty, and Katy McGill. *Ongoing copies of the minutes of Session meetings, as well as Ministry Team minutes, can be found on the table in the narthex. All Session meetings are open to anyone's attendance.*

**WEEK OF December 09, 2018****SUNDAY- 9am Chime Choir Rehearsal**

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 (final)  
 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— Ruby Topple

Reader: Luanne Rigsby

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

Greeters: Phil & Sallie Hale

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

**WEEK OF December 16, 2018****SUNDAY-**

10:45am Worship  
 12:15pm Olomouc English Camp Planning Meeting  
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous  
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous  
 5:00pm Youth Groups

**MONDAY-**

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

**TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center  
 11:30am Restaurant Roadtrip to Chops & Hops in Watkinsville  
 7pm—8pm The School of Thought (Cliff Brock)  
 8pm New Freedom

**WEDNESDAY—**

No Adult Bible Study  
 No CovConn  
 7pm Taize  
 No Adult Choir

**THURSDAY—**

NO Knitters & Knotters  
 6:30pm YOGA  
 7pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)  
 8pm Happy Squares

**FRIDAY—**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center

**SATURDAY— Fellowship Hall Cleaned****WORSHIP—December 16, 2018****10:45am—**

Liturgist— Delaney Braswell

Reader: Carol Huber

Ushers: Kent Silver, Marie Ballard-Myer, Shirley Reinert, Steve Rathbun

Greeters: Don & Julie Bower

Congregational Care: Chuck Rosenberger

Counters: Sue Loegel, Judy Capie

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Steve Bell

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (Dec. 17—23)

Nursery/Super: Pam Knox

Birth—Walking: Juergen Wiegel

Walking—5 years old: Pam Knox, Hannah Barnett, Lindsey Bowden