

THE COVENANTER

December 16, 2018

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



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.

Wednesday

TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICE
through December 19th

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
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. *Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough.*

Remember in Prayer: Cliff Brock & family in Hillsboro, in the death of his cousin Brooke on Sat. Dec. 8, a newly-wed 29-yr-old, after a terrible car accident – visitation (11am) and a memorial service (noon) are Sat. Dec. 15 at Monticello Baptist Church; Marie Ballard-Myer's mother, Mary Ruth Ballard, suffering from vascular dementia and scheduled for an MRI; Hannah Baird's friend Megan, in the recent death of her father; Bert Ballard-Myer's father Bob Myer, with chronic pain this past year; Mrs. Bowen's move to a new home, with hope for good relationships with neighbors; Kathy Boardman, who had to delay her departure, but continuing her preparations for ministry in state parks around the country; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Pauline Marshall, at Highland Hills; and Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Dec. 17	I Kings 19: 1-13
Tuesday	Dec. 18	Psalms 46
Wednesday	Dec. 19	Zephaniah 3: 14-18
Thursday	Dec. 20	Philippians 4: 4-8
Friday	Dec. 21	Isaiah 11: 1-9
Saturday	Dec. 22	Isaiah 9: 5-7
Sunday	Dec. 23	Isaiah 9: 5-7
Monday	Dec. 24	Matthew 1: 18-25
Tuesday	Dec. 25	Luke 2: 1-21

"A Not So Silent Night!"

Fourth Week of Advent: "Promises of Peace"

God's still small voice sings, "I Am with you!"

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. Lots and lots: _____
2. Goddess of blooms: _____
3. British transport: _____

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Year to Date: Week # 24

Anticipated Pledges: \$214,873.44

Received Pledges: \$200,031.37

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Meals on Wheels: \$2,743.00



1. Galore
2. Flora
3. Lorry

Answers to HINTEROO:

ATTENTION ALL PROCRASTINATORS: Your friendly Green

Dream Team has a twofold plan for your holiday gift giving – (1) love your mother (EARTH) by making a contribution in honor or in memory of a loved one to a worthy environmental organization; (2) trade &/or share extra, unused gift bags, paper, ribbon by bringing your extra stuff to the Green Dream Team area for others & taking what you can use.





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—OFFICE CLOSED
Wed, Dec 26—28	Office Closed

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.



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

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

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

Musically. Betsy Burmeister is coordinating:

betsy.b.happy@hotmail.com

• In a **Christmas Pageant**. Christine Carpenter is directing! Rehearsals are Sundays, Dec 16th and Dec 23rd at 9:45, and Wednesday, Dec 19th at 5:30pm; Liturgically, with readings, etc. Craig Topple is coordinating this portion.

ctopple@covpresathens.org

If you haven't already let any of the above people know of your child's interest in participating 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 1/09/2019 Jacob Page

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."

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

Taize Survey: Parents/Grandparents who ensure their children come to CovConnection, would you go to the Wednesday evening Taize service (7-7:30) if child care were extended to 7:30 on Wednesdays? Please let Craig know. If enough folks say "yes," we will seek to provide for this. Taize is a lovely way to have midweek 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)

We look forward to WoRM resuming after winter break on January 13th

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."

Merry Christmas and a Hopeful New Year! Let's share the message of Christ's love with our homebound - with a card or call or visit. Blessings and peace to all.

Coffee Worth, Jubilee Partners, PO Box 68, Comer, GA 30629

Jean Gibson, The Oaks #101, 490 Kathwood Drive, Athens, GA 30607

Pauline Marshall, Highland Hills #134, 1660 Jennings Mill Road, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Anne Page, 115 Arbor View Drive, Athens, GA 30605

Gene & Anna Holshouser, 15 Walden Lane, Lexington, GA 30648

Kay Swan, Dogwood Forest of Dunwoody, 7400 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30328

Grace Eubank, Branchwater Village #26, 763 Medical Center Pkwy, Boaz, AL 35957

Jacqueline Mathes, 295 Segrest Circle, Athens, GA 30605



Wonderful Wednesdays will resume 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, while camping, once decorated a Christmas tree with string licorice?

Who's Who: Kathy Boardman



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 or 814-243-4778 .

YOUTH LASAGNA LUNCHEON

JANUARY 13 following 10:45am worship

You can place your order NOW for whole lasagnas (\$30) or half pan (\$15). (see DeLynda Tweedell for tickets)

Purchase your tickets before the day of the Luncheon for

ADULTS \$8.00

CHILDREN 4-12 \$4.00

UNDER 3 FREE

Day of luncheon prices increase to Adults \$10 and Children (4-12) \$5

Meal includes Lasagna (meat, spinach or cheese) garlic bread, desert and drink.



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Youth Group Happenings!

Winter break has come for Sunday evening youth programming. This Friday, Dec 14th is the Senior High Lock-in. Look for information on GroupMe, or contact Bert Ballard-Myer for more information.

The 6th/7th grade gathering on Sunday Dec 16 is canceled due to a scheduling conflict. Take advantage of a time to breathe this holiday season!



Mark Your Calendars!

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

Area Youth Joint activities for youth 6th - 12th grade

January 21 - MLK day of service

March 3rd - Frozen Chosen Cup

April 7 - Area Church Youth Worship at Madison Presbyterian

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. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact 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, and contact 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 hope 40-45 students from the presbytery will join in this summer adventure.

A Not Silent Night!

Lyrics by Mark Harper

The sun goes down on the side of town where all the windows have bars. No life in the ground, without a car it's a long walk home—and the rain won't stop—and the bus don't come.

Grandma wrapped in a blanket tight, she drifts to sleep in the TV light. Her pantry's bare. Her neighbors scream and fight. She lifts her prayer into a not so silent night.

Come Lord Jesus, come and dwell with us, here Emmanuel.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Servant King in the face of fear—help us to sing.

A man sits alone on the steps of stone ten months back from the war. But he's still not home, without a job, its a long, long day. And he can't sleep at night and there's nothing to say.

A little girl tries to think of her daddy's face, but he's locked away in a distant place. She don't like school cause her shoes aren't right, she lifts her prayer into a not so silent night.

Come Lord Jesus, come and dwell with us, here Emmanuel.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Servant King in the face of fear—help us to sing.

Fire and smoke choke out our hope. Relentless rain and creation's pain when all we hear is too much to bear!

Come to us Child of light receive our prayer into a not so silent night!

Come Lord Jesus, come and dwell with us, here Emmanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, our Servant King to the face of fear—help us to sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!



The beautiful poinsettias in the Worship Center were given in honor or memory of the following:

In Memory of:

Jake Tinga

Wilma & Archie Silver

Eileen Becker

Bill Powell

Thomas & Dorothy Coleman

Frances & David Glaspey

Anna & Charles Wynes

Dolly Barstow

Barbara Wilson Smith

Franklin & Alma Hansen

Floyd & Harriette Stoneburner

Ellen Larson

In Honor Of:

WoRM Leaders, Teachers, & Shepherds

Willene O'Neal

Mary & Charles Norville

Pauline & Stan Marshall

Longtime Preschool, S.S. Teachers—Lola Bell,

Ellen Stoneburner, and Pam Knox

Alex & Hilda Clark

Cliff Brock

From:

Pat Tinga

Alex & Hilda Clark

Kent & Rebecca Silver

The Tweedells

The Tweedells

Joan Baird

Judy Capie

Mary Anna Wynes

Betsy Burmeister & Rich Reaves

Carolyn Hatfield

Dan & Ellen Stoneburner

Dan & Ellen Stoneburner

Bob & Shirley Reinert

Betsy Burmeister & Rich Reaves

Jennifer Frey

Kent & Rebecca Silver

Paula & Dick Zimdars

Betsy Burmeister & Rich Reaves

Juergen & Heide Wiegel

Juergen & Heide Wiegel

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
8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY— Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WEEK OF December 23, 2018

SUNDAY-

10:45am Children & Youth Program Worship
12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous
5:00pm Youth Groups

MONDAY-

OFFICE CLOSED

5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship- Communion & Candlelight

TUESDAY-



WEDNESDAY—

OFFICE CLOSED

No Evening Activities

THURSDAY—

OFFICE CLOSED

No Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

FRIDAY—

OFFICE CLOSED

8pm New Freedom in the Fellowship Hall

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: Ellen Stoneburner, 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: Lola Bell

Birth—Walking: Juergen Wiegel

Walking—5 years old: Lola Bell, Hannah Barnett, Lindsey Bowden

WORSHIP—December 23, 2018

10:45am—

Liturgist— various

Reader: various

Ushers: Julie & Don Bower, Robyn Malone, Phil & Linda Koehler

Greeters: Tim & Karen Foutz

Congregational Care: Chuck Rosenberger

Counters: Pam Knox, Caren Snook

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Rich Reaves

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (Dec. 24—30)

Nursery/Super: Don Bower

Birth—Walking: Don Bower

Walking—5 years old: Lola & Steve Bell, Carrie Tweedell