

THE COVENANTER - double issue December 23 & 30, 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 service 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.

Candlelight
COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:30 P.M.



Childcare is available!



Presbyterian Women
Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

All women are invited to our monthly
Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Thursday, January 10, at 9:30am in the Gathering Room, studying "God's Promise: I Am With You." Come for great devotion, discussion, missions, fellowship, and refreshments. Study booklets (\$11) are available in the copy room. Read chapter 5 - God is with us when we're powerless - as well as Bible passages, 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 and Deuteronomy 20:1-4.

Hope you can attend!

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: Anne Page, with advanced but contained colon cancer, discussing surgery possibilities for early January; Caren Snook's niece's husband, Larry Harper recently diagnosed with a lung tumor and broken rib; Marie Ballard-Myer's mother, with vascular dementia, undergoing tests; France Boney, recovering from a recent fall; friends & family of Walter Brown who was recently killed, especially his wife Chiquita and 3 boys in ACC schools (neighbors of the Ritzlers); family & friends of Tony Young who recently died of cancer (neighbor of the Stones); Chuck Rosenberger's 4-yr-old granddaughter Laurel (Clair's daughter), learning to live with juvenile diabetes; Mrs. Bowen's family & neighbors; Kathy Boardman, who had to delay her departure, but continues 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. 24	Matthew 1: 18-25
Tuesday	Dec. 25	Luke 2: 1-21
Wednesday	Dec. 26	Luke 2: 22-33
Thursday	Dec. 27	Psalms 148
Friday	Dec. 28	Colossians 3: 12-17
Saturday	Dec. 29	Luke 2: 41-52
Sunday	Dec. 30	I John 3: 1-3

Title: *Time to Catch On!*

Theme: The Coming new year offers new appreciation for God's gift of time — to trust & hope & grow.

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. Catch, in cop talk: _____
2. The good ship: _____
3. Come together, roughly: _____



Answers to HINTEROO:

1. Collar
2. Lollipop
3. collide

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Year to Date: Week # 25

Anticipated Pledges: \$223,826.50

Received Pledges: \$213,754.27

Thank you for your faithful Giving!

Meals on Wheels \$7,330.00

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.





Heartfelt thanks to Betsy Burmeister for 35 years on staff in music ministry at Covenant, and to Pam Knox for 15 years as a worship pianist, and to Julius Bostick for 25 years as custodian, and to Beecher Mathes for 25 years as associate pastor. And the beat goes on!



and Happy New Year!
with love from your office staff,
Judy, Sharon and Karen!

Upcoming Events for 2019

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Thurs. Jan 10 | 9:30am Presbyterian Women Bible Study |
| Sun. Jan.13 | 10:45am, Ordination & Installation of Elders during worship
12:15pm, Lasagna Lunch fundraiser for Youth Conference/Mission Trips |
| Tues. Jan.15 | 11:30am, Restaurant Roadtrip to Mirko's Italian in Watkinsville |
| Wed. Jan.16 | 10:00am, Adult Bible Study
5:30pm, Covenant Connection
6:30pm, Adult Bible Study |
| Sat. Jan.19 | 7:00am, FEAST food truck delivery
9:00am, Women's prayer breakfast at East Friendship Baptist Church |
| Sun. Jan.20 | 8:30am, Early worship resumes
IHN hosting week begins |
| Mon. Jan.21 | 8:00am, Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road |
| Jan. 25-26 | Session Retreat at Rock Eagle |
| Sun. Jan.27 | Guest preacher, Connie Tuttle
IHN hosting week ends |
| Tues. Jan.29 | 11:30am, Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside |
| Sun. Feb.3 | Souper Bowl of Caring |

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



Congratulations to Joe & Jessica Wolfe Zehna who were married by Mark Harper on Saturday, December 15.

Proud parents are Kent and Heidi Wolfe, with grandparents Lee & Jan Wolfe and Shirley Hunt. Plus Shirley baked the wedding cake! Blessings to all on this joyous occasion and in the years to come.

5th Sunday Worship, Dec 23 -

Children and Youth are offering musical gifts, a Christmas Pageant, and leading liturgical aspects of worship. Their gifts will inspire in our worship of God!



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

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."

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

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.

This will support the youth going to Montreat in June and other Youth Conferences in the summer of 2019!



WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant has traveled north of the Arctic Circle? (no, not Santa!)

Steve Follin
Who's Who:

FROM YOUR TREASURER:

Dear Ministry Team captains old and new,

We are approaching the half-way point of the fiscal year. Now is a great time to review your budget to see how things are going financially. It's also a good time for new Ministry Team leaders to learn what they will be responsible for in the coming year. Karen will provide you with a list of what you have spent so far this year to help you with your review.

As you are reviewing your budget for this year, please note that we will be starting the budget process for the new fiscal year in January. I would like to have a proposed budget for the next fiscal year (July 2019 to June 2020) in hand from each ministry team no later than January 31, 2019, so that I can begin to put together the next proposed budget. That gives you the month of January to get your team together if needed to decide what if any changes should be made. You can email them to my address below or drop a note in my church mailbox. Thanks for your faithful service to the congregation and your support of me personally as we work through this process. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and come back refreshed and ready to work in 2019!

Gratefully,
Pam Knox, Treasurer

Youth Group Happenings!

Winter break has come for Sunday evening youth programming. 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 So 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, it's 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!

January Birthdays

1 Terry Centner	13 Margaret Frey	21 Lily Herndon
2 Anna Holshouser	Abigail Whitney	23 Linda Koehler
Pam Knox	16 Mark Harper	25 Jessica Wolfe Zehna
4 Bob Reinert	17 Joan Baird	26 Patti Priester
Eli Whitehead	Jonathan Green	27 Sharon Hix
5 Cheryl Devaney	19 Karl Ritzler	Al Huber
6 Wyatt Herndon	Mackenzie Bryant	Charlie Huber
Jack Chamblee	Madison Bryant	28 Ruby Gene Toppie
10 Brian Parido	20 Steve Bell	29 Shannon Goodrick
Nathan Brooks	21 Jim Anderson	Rebecca Silver
11 Jan Wolfe	Louise Schimmel	John Chamblee
Dianne Ralph	James Foutz	30 William Capie



WEEK OF January 06, 2018

SUNDAY-

10:45am Worship
12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
No Youth Groups

MONDAY- 8am Covenant Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel
on Epps Bridge Road
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY- 9:30am Athens Mothers Center
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-
7pm TAIZE Worship
7:30pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY-
9:30am Presbyterian Women Bible Study
2pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery
8pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY-
9:30am Athens Mothers Center
3:30pm The Cave
8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY- Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—January 06, 2018

10:45am—

Reader: Sarah Shannon

Ushers: Don Bower, Marie Ballard-Myer, Shirley Reinert, Steve Rathbun

Greeters: Sandy & Jim Whitney

Congregational Care: Marilyn Brown

Counters: Judy Capie, Ellen Stoneburner

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Steve Bell

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Ed Ralph (Jan. 7—13)

Nursery/Super: Joan Baird

Birth—Walking: Joan Baird

Walking—5 years old: Jim & Ann Anderson, Stephanie Cahill

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
(childcare will be provided)

TU



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

WEEK OF December 30, 2018

SUNDAY-

10:45am Worship

12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous

3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,

No Youth Groups

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY- OFFICE CLOSED FOR

NEW YEARS DAY

8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-

No Evening Activities

THURSDAY-

2pm Knitters & Knotters

6:30pm YOGA

7pm Celebrate Recovery

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center

8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY- Fellowship Hall Cleaned



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

WORSHIP—December 30, 2018

10:45am-

Reader: Sallie Hale

Ushers: Heide & Juergen Wiegel, The Tweedell Family

Greeters: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb

Congregational Care: Marilyn Brown

Counters: Bill Barstow, Randy Parish

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (Dec. 31—Jan. 6)

Nursery/Super: Joan Baird

Birth—Walking: Joan Baird

Walking—5 years old: Adam & Rebecca Rea, Robyn & James Malone