

Please click here to view Covenants LIVE STREAM Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, December 19 at 10am:**
<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER December 19, 2021

Merry
Christmas

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



MEALS ON WHEELS is received for the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service. Please consider sponsoring 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 \$2,000.00.

Last year’s offering enabled Covenant to support 7.5 older Athenians for

this year. Did you know: *Our healthy and delicious meals ensure that each person we serve receives adequate nutrition necessary for health, functionality and independence. Our Meals on Wheels recipients are given weekly menus with the option to choose a meal that suits their tastes and dietary requirements. They can receive daily meals, frozen meals for nights and weekends and/or shelf stable commodities. In addition, through community partnerships, they receive fresh produce deliveries, holiday meals and bi-monthly commodity bags.*

The congregation is encouraged to give generously. Consider making a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.



*Once in our world, a stable had
something in it that was bigger than
our whole world.*

- C.S. Lewis-

As is our beautiful tradition at Covenant, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a family-friendly service at 5:30 PM, on Friday, December 24. Communion will be served to all who wish to participate. All are welcome in this place and at our table. Masks are required for adults and school-age children.

Every year Covenant’s Knitters and Knotters make fleece blankets as Christmas Gifts for the abused women who are living at Project Safe. This year the Knitters and Knotters have made 22 blankets for these women. The blankets are on display in the church hallway. Please remember these women in your prayers.

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK...January 2- 9, 2022 Covenant will be the Family Promise host congregation for the first week of January. Two of our guest families recently graduated and moved into their new homes, leaving one large family. We will host one mother and father and their six children. Hosting will remain at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, the same location that we used for our last several hostings. We will need volunteers for meals, overnights, and day shifts. Please go to the sign up genius and pick times and activities that work for you: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith>
Together we will help this family get back on its feet.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Patti Huberty's sister Shelly Coe is in the ICU in Emory following open heart surgery; Pastor Dana Waters' step-mother, Cindy Bailey in Birmingham in hospice care at home; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; all those affected by the recent tornadoes; the food insecure and homeless as the holiday season approaches; and our nation.

Daily Bible Readings December 20-26

Monday	1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Tuesday	Luke 6: 12-16
Wednesday	Mark 14: 32-42
Thursday	Luke 21: 26-36
Friday	Isaiah 9: 2-7
Saturday	Revelation 22: 1-5
Sunday	Psalms 148



The Worship Ministry Team would like to encourage everyone to submit **Concerns and Celebrations**, and **Announcements** to Karen Wetherington at kwetherington@covpresathens.org or 706-548-2756, each week, for placement in the **Covenant**. We have listened to many people raise the issue of how much time we devote to these important additions to our service. For that reason we ask that you help us move these important additions to the **Covenant**, so that our services may end in a timely manner. Let's all give it a good try. Please submit those to Karen by Wednesday, each week. It will continue to be the pastor's discretion to highlight concerns, celebrations, and announcements that he or she feels necessary during worship. *Thank you from the WMT.*



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, **HOPE**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE—In the early hours of December 11th, several tornadoes ripped through multiple U.S. states, resulting in extensive damage and significant loss of life. PDA is in touch with affected presbyteries to coordinate resources and assistance. To register interest in volunteering for rebuilding efforts when they are ready, email PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org. To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000015](#) If you wish to give thru Covenant please designate on your check or envelope *PDA Tornado*.

Library Corner: *A Biblical Feast: Foods from the Holy Land*

Those of you who know me must have known I'd come around to sharing recipes before too long! I came across this book by Kitty Morse at a thrift shop and was instantly intrigued. I've always enjoyed books that help me learn more about life in the Holy Land during Christ's time.

We have many titles in Bay A, Shelf 2 that help us picture what life was like for Jesus and his followers. In *A Biblical Feast*, I loved reading about the foods they ate, and was intrigued by recipes for flavored honey (grapes, pomegranates, or dates), Fig Cakes, flatbreads, and stews. Maybe we should pass out some of the recipes to Covenant's wonderful cooks and have a Holy Land Covered Dish Supper! -- Valerie Stone



Folks - Volunteers to open and close the building for Sunday morning worship now are being sought. This is a function of the Worship as well as Building & Grounds ministry teams.

Primarily this involves unlocking the doors to worship space, turning on lights, setting HVAC controls an hour before the service; and closing down these facilities about 30 minutes after worship.

Contact the church office or Rich Reaves, 706-248-2819, to sign-up and for further details.

Speaking in Celebration, the B&G MT commends the following volunteers as weekly Grounds Stewards each month.

First Monday week = Katy Terry & Chris Wilson;

Second Monday week = Don Bower & Alex Clark

Third Monday week = Phil Hale & Phil Koehler;

Fourth Monday week = Susan & Randy Parish

Fifth Monday week = Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



Hope is hard to find during a long pandemic. Dark feelings of grief, loss, anger, betrayal and despair plague our souls and our communities. As the light fades and the evenings grow long this December, the season of Advent reminds us that God is with us in the night. We can see and observe God at work in the dark, marvel at the beauty of creation lit by moon and stars, and rest from the day's labor. Darkness is often associated with evil and suffering, but a devotional exploration of "night" bears witness to Christ's Good News. Exploring biblical happenings that occur at night – visions, angel visits, prisoners set free – we will move through this Advent season as watchful disciples, keeping vigil for the One who is promised to arrive like a thief in the night.

Please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org if you would like a hard copy of this years Advent Devotional. [Click on this link](#) to access the devotional online.



EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

The Athens Emergency Food Bank are still in need of egg cartons and brown paper grocery bags and heavy duty plastic bags.

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

Please click on this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/session-minutes/> for the session minutes. When you scroll down you will see links to earlier minutes. If you would like minutes from 2020 please let me know at kwetherington@covpresathens.org.

HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/> . Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office or give in person. Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #23
 Anticipated Pledges — \$188,759.39
 Actual Pledges — \$200,953.38
Thank you for your faithful giving!
Thornwell—\$2,052.75

A neighbor family near Covenant is in need of twin beds for their two children ages 6 and 8. Please contact Travis Williams, 706-389-0897, if you can help either with finances or you have a bed you can give to the family.



SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB

Book Club will resume in January, 2022.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.



Church School Classes via ZOOM!

Upper Room Class

Sunday, December 19 at **11:30am**, James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com, to receive your ZOOM invitation.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

JOURNEY CLASS—Sunday mornings, 8:30am—9:45am, Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste—the Origins of Our Discontent*. Soon we will complete this book and early next year we'll begin a study of the book, *Speaking of Faith* by Krista Tippett. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com to receive your Zoom invitation.

Groups Meeting at Covenant:

(these small groups may or may not be meeting at Covenant at this time)

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday—Campus Kitchen (UGA),

Monday—Scouts at 6:30pm; Bells of Northeast Georgia Choir 7pm,

Tuesday—More Than Four Quartet 9:30am—11:00am; (2nd Tues of each month) Stamp Club 7pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday—Covenant Handbell Choir 6pm—7:15pm; 12 step group 7pm (downstairs)

Thursday—Knitters & Knotters 2pm (conf. room); 12 Step Group 7pm (conf. room)

Saturday—(upper room) 12 Step Group 10:30am; 11/20 UGA Campus Kitchen at 12 noon

Sunday (upper room) 12 Step Group 12:30pm; 11/21 UGA Campus Kitchen at 12 noon

Knitter and Knotters —

Will resume on Thursday, January 6 at 2pm

(Please be sure and wear your mask)

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!

Covenant Church Office Hours

Monday — closed

Tuesday — 10am — 12 noon

Wednesday — closed (*working from home*)

Thursday & Friday 10am — 4pm



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

In Memory of:

Jim Bowden

Frances & David Glaspey

Jake Tinga

Ginger Davis-Beck, Carol Wheeler

Mammie Branch, Purnie Cannon

Catharine & Ashton Longstreet

Ellen Larson, Margaret Reinert

Barbara Taylor

Betty & Dan Calbos

Jane Bundy & Stim Brown

Dot Handley, Anne Page

Gloria & Jimmy Langford

Margaret & Truman Terry

John Wetherington, Violet Morrow

In Honor of:

Jere Bowden

Judy Capie, Asher Hill, Arin Lozefski, &

Robyn Malone, Hank Tweedell

From:

Julie & Don Bower, Ellen Stoneburner,
Alan & Sharon Edwards, Gloria Pylant

Judy Capie

Pat Tinga

Betsy Burmeister & Rich Reaves

Bruce & Pam Butts

Chris Wilson

Shirley Reinert

Alan & Sharon Edwards

Carol & Dennis Calbos

Carol & Dennis Calbos

Alan & Sharon Edwards

Beth Nunnally

Katy Terry

Karen, Avery, & Clayton Wetherington

From:

Julie & Don Bower, Gloria Pylant

Karen Wetherington

Designated Opportunities to Give
Covenant Presbyterian Church
2021 - 2022

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. Below are descriptions of the special opportunities to give.

On the back of this page are 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE DURING ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

Meals on Wheels - to be received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service 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 \$2,000.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 7.5 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously.

Consider making a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

COVENANT'S SPECIAL FUNDS

Benevolence Fund - to assist members and neighbors of the church in a crisis.

Bowden Church Vocation Fund – to provide financial assistance toward the education of members who feel called to full-time employment in ministry and to provide support to those who are mission volunteers through PCUSA or specific ministries of outreach supported by Covenant.

Memorial Fund - set up to receive gifts in memory of loved ones to be used for or through Covenant Church in consultation with the family of the deceased.

SPECIAL SEASONAL OFFERINGS

January - Joy Gift - to assist retired ministers by supplementing Medicare premiums and to assist minority Presbyterian colleges.

February - Bowden Church Vocation Fund - to provide financial assistance toward the education of members who feel called to full-time employment in ministry and to provide support to those who are mission volunteers through PCUSA or specific ministries of outreach supported by Covenant.

(continued on Page 7)

DESIGNATED OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE—continued from page 7

Easter - *One Great Hour of Sharing* - to combat hunger, disease, and poverty world-wide.

May - *Presbyterian Homes* - to support our homes for older adults in Georgia.

October - *Peacemaking* - to support ministries of peace throughout the world and within the local community.

November - *Thornwell Home and School for Children* - to provide a home and family and schooling for children and youth who would otherwise be homeless.

December – *Meals on Wheels* (see front of sheet)

COMMUNITY MISSIONS

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry- Each Tuesday, 1 – 4 serving over 100 food insecure neighbors per week, with food that many times helps to bridge the gap between food stamps and/or other assistance and the new job.

Athens Nurses Clinic—The Athens Nurses Clinic is a non-profit 501(c)(3) health care clinic providing free evaluation, treatment, and education for acute and chronic medical and dental conditions to uninsured low-and-no income residents of Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding communities.

Homeless Shelter - ecumenical ministry to provide lodging and food.

The Ark - an ecumenical referral agency which advises and helps those in need.

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank - ecumenical agency to feed the hungry. (see the Feed My Sheep table)

Jubilee Partners - a community of Christians who provide food, lodging and help for refugees and immigrants.

Habitat for Humanity - ecumenical efforts to build homes for those in need.

Our Daily Bread Community Kitchen - serves meals Monday through Friday for anyone in need. Annually, our program provides more than 75,000 nutritious meals with gracious hospitality to men, women and children in need and offers a gateway to other transformational services. Partnering with more than 70 volunteer groups, our daily bread has served guests in Athens, Georgia since 1989. We are grateful to the many, many guests, volunteers, and donors who have sustained this ministry over the decades!

Project Safe - a shelter or home to provide a refuge of safety, lodging, and community for women who have been abused physically or psychologically.

Family Promise - Athens Area Churches unite to assist homeless families who become guests of the hosting congregation for one week at a time. Donations are used for supplies for overnight lodging and meals. Covenant currently provides services for IHN four times a year.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." Members, and friends of Covenant have been giving generously of their time and talents to the Emergency Food Pantry. As you can imagine, the need is great.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry Thursdays, 1pm—4pm.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

STAY SAFE—If there is any reason at all that you should NOT physically volunteer-consider the following:

Make a financial donation to the Food Pantry by sending a check to Covenant and write "food pantry" in the subject line. (*You could send it in at the same time you send in your pledge*).

We can use grocery bags (paper or plastic), and small boxes to pack the food. If you call the church, someone could even come out to your car and get it.

If you are able to physically be present as a volunteer:

You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. [Click this link](#) to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: *SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.*

Isaiah 58:10—Feed the hungry and help those in trouble, then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

For the month of November Covenant volunteers and staff served 1,624 food insecure neighbors over 4 Thursdays. This includes 803 adults, 578 children, and 248 Senior Adults!

Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*