

Please click here to view Covenants LIVE STREAM Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, December 26 at 10am:**

<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER
December 26, 2021



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



MEALS ON WHEELS
AMERICA
TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

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.**

Covid Updates

The session is monitoring the COVID situation in our community. We will announce any changes to our COVID guidelines if and when they are made. Thank you for wearing a mask and social distancing as we care for one another. Worship services will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel for those who are traveling or unable to gather in-person this Christmas season.



Family Promise[®]
Building communities,
strengthening lives.

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: Marsha Crowell and family in the passing of Wayne Crowell, December 21, a memorial service will be in mid-January; Pastor Dana Waters and family in the passing of his step-mother, Cindy Bailey in Birmingham; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; all those affected by the recent tornadoes; the food insecure and homeless; and our nation.

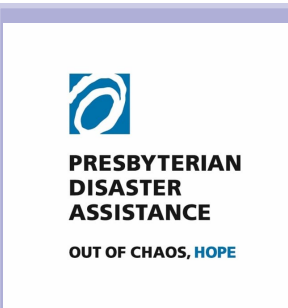
Daily Bible Readings December 27—January 2

Monday I Samuel 2: 18 - 20
 Tuesday I Samuel 2: 26
 Wednesday Psalm 148: 1 - 6
 Thursday Psalm 148: 7-14
 Friday Colossians 3: 12-15
 Saturday Colossians 3: 16-17
 Sunday Luke 2: 41-52



Congratulations NICE GOING! ... to Pam Knox who has been chosen to receive the 2022 Walter Bartram Hill Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service and Outreach. This is a lifetime achievement award at UGA for public service faculty.
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS ...to Ansley Tweedell who graduated cum laude with a 3.64 GPA from Georgia College and State University on Dec. 11. She was a double major in Sociology and English.
CHEERS Take A BEST WISHES!
 Ansley is moving back to the Athens area and will be job hunting after a little down time at home. ...to Carrie Tweedell who made the Dean's List for her first semester at UGA. She has enjoyed being a majorette and is looking forward to traveling to Miami with the Red Coat Band for the Orange Bowl. They will be going on charter buses though and she is a little upset about the long ride.
 ...to Andrew Zimdars who graduated from UGA this month with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies.

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 **Covenanter**. 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 **Covenanter**, 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—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: *Fifty Sandwiches*

Justin Wilder Doering learned that 3.5 million people in America experience homelessness annually. His response was to take a three-and-a-half month, 34-city, 14,000-mile journey across the country, interviewing people who were homeless and wished to share their stories. It includes many photographs. This is a beautiful book you will never forget. To learn more, visit FiftySandwiches.com. Our library's copy can be found in Bay E, Shelf 4. –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

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,

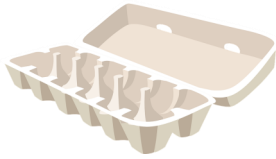
Tuesday- More Than Four Quartet 9:30am—11:00am; (2nd Tues of each month) Stamp Club 7pm in Fellowship Hall

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



EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

The Athens Emergency Food Bank are still in need of egg cartons and brown paper grocery bags. PLEASE NO 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.

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 #25
Anticipated Pledges – \$205,173.25
Actual Pledges – \$215,293.38
Thank you for your faithful giving!
Meals on Wheels: \$5,825.00

Join the **Covenant Social Justice Book Club** in January 2022 as we discuss Chinua Achebe’s “Things Fall Apart.” Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, Things Fall Apart explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, Things Fall Apart provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, but he also conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities. **Join us** starting January @ 20th @ 7 PM via Zoom to explore this essential read. Our first session will cover Chapters 1-14 (pages 1-135). TW



Church School Classes via ZOOM!



Upper Room Class

Sunday, December 26 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.

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.

Covenant Church Office Hours

Monday – closed
Tuesday – 10am – 12 noon
Wednesday – closed (*working from home*)
Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm

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!



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

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!*



Birthdays!

2 Pam Knox

4 Bob Reinert

Eli Whitehead

5 Cheryl Devaney

6 Wyatt Herndon

10 Brian Parido

11 Jan Wolfe

Ross Johnson

13 Margaret Frey

17 Joan Baird

19 Karl Ritzler

21 James Anderson

Louise Schimmel

James Foutz

Lily Herndon

23 Linda Koehler

25 Jessica Wolfe

27 Sharon Hix

Al Huber

Charlie Huber

29 Shannon Goodrick

Rebecca Silver

John Chamblee



Every week during the school year 4 UGA students come in twice a week and cook hot meals and deliver those meals to local homeless encampments and the local homeless day center.

To continue our food program through the semester break we need a little help on Tuesday, December 28, 9am—12 noon. We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to cook and deliver meals to unhoused persons in our area. We cook at the church and deliver locally. You don't have to bring anything but yourself and the commitment to serve others. Please see the below link to sign up to serve. We cook promptly at 9 AM and are usually done with deliveries by noon.

Sign-Up Link: <https://givepul.se/u42dil>