

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, April 24 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER April 24, 2022

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

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF ELDERS BEGINS- *Forming a Nominating Committee*

Each year, Covenant elects elders to serve a 3-year term on the Session. The involvement of the congregation is important during the entire process. Kay Brooks is the Nominating Committee chair this year, with Donny Whitehead as the second (inactive) elder approved by the Session. Marie Ballard-Myer is the nominee for election by the congregation. There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, April 24, immediately following worship** to elect this member of the Nominating Committee.



MISSIONS—LOCAL & WORLDWIDE (FORMERLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH)

LUNCH & LEARN SUNDAY, MAY 1

Join us following worship for Chili & Cornbread and learn more about our impact on the local community including the homeless, food pantry, and other mission outreach opportunities. Guest speakers are Travis Williams, Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator, Andie Besceglia, UGArden and John Morris, Advantage Behavior's Street Missions. **Please Sign up on the bulletin board!** Zoom will also be available for those who cannot attend in person. *Look for the link on Saturday before the meeting on Sunday.*



Choir to meet to warm up at
9:30am on Sunday morning. Choir Will practice after
Worship at 11:10 in the Choir
Room. Thanks, *Jennifer and Betsy*

Just a reminder to please return your pledge cards on or before Sunday, **April 24th**. This is when we the body of Christ at Covenant will offer our commitments to God's church. Making the bold, faith-filled statement that we believe in God's Kingdom-building work that starts here at Covenant and stretches out into our community and across the world.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT COVENANT'S 2022-2023 PROPOSED BUDGET!

Dear Covenant friends,

I am writing to give you a brief narrative description of next year's proposed budget, which you received in the mail along with your pledge cards. That way you will be able to get an overview of changes we are suggesting without having to wade through all the numbers.

First, a note about the budget process. To create the preliminary budget, the Finance Ministry Team (FMT) requests budget amounts from each Ministry Team. They provide amounts based on past spending as well as expected future needs. This has been difficult for the past two years during COVID, but the teams were told to plan for a church that is fully open with all programs operating in person. This preliminary budget is considered to be a "wish budget", with the understanding that amounts may be altered once all pledges are in. At that point, the FMT determines if cuts to the budget should be made and how best to make them, in conjunction with the individual teams where necessary. A final proposed budget is presented to Session, and they vote whether or not to approve it after making any additional changes they desire. The congregation does not vote on the budget but receives it for information. A copy of the current budget is available on the church website.

This year's proposed budget is based on the requests from all ministry teams. There is one error in the printed budget you received—the total budget for 2021–2022 should be \$449,547 as listed on the top. The bottom value double-counts Travis' salary and FICA, a mistake I made in preparing the spreadsheet. Highlights from the proposed budget include:

- A 6% increase in salaries for all employees but Dana based on the recommendations from Personnel to cover the cost of living increases due to inflation. Dana's salary is from his interim contract and he said no increase was necessary. Note that Karen got the same percentage increase but it is divided between salary and an IRA contribution at her request.
- A one-time line item in Administration for \$700 (based on Dana's recommendation) for a congregational study required before a new pastor search can commence.
- An additional line item for funding for training for Session as they work to prepare for a new pastor.
- A reorganization of line items in Christian Ed to reflect function (meals, etc.) rather than programming (Cov. Connection) and to add an intern to help with children's programming such as Cov. Connection and a small stipend for the new library.
- Significant increases in Community Outreach (now renamed Missions—Local/Global) to reflect our continuing needs from the community. The Family Promise model has changed from mostly volunteers to paid staff on weekends, which is more expensive. They also requested an increase in money for the food pantry due to continuing needs in this area.
- No mission trip is planned this year due to continuing concern about travel restrictions. The Montreat trip this June is covered under our special restricted accounts for 2021–2022. The \$1000 in the 2022–2023 budget for Montreat is a placeholder as discussions about youth ministry/ participation continue.
- Care and Nurture of Young Children has been moved to the Worship section.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions about the numbers or the budget process, or come to our monthly Finance meetings and get involved in the budget discussion! Pam Knox, Treasurer, pnknox@yahoo.com or 706-543-9560 (home)

PRAYER CONCERNS: Beecher Mathes and family in the passing of her mother, Jacqueline Mathes. A memorial service will be held at Presbyterian Village Chapel on Wednesday, April 27 at 10am: Helen Epps and the family of Richard Bouldin following his passing on 4/17; Sally Boardman, waiting for report; Bert Ballard-Myer's mom, Agnes started radiation treatment; Ansley & Carrie Tweedell's cousin, Ashton gave birth to a baby girl, Evelise Jade, Both mother and child are doing well; Joyce Placek is a cancer survivor and is doing very well; Nancy Omdahl continuing to receive chemo treatments; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; the nation.

Daily Bible Readings April 25—May 1

Monday	Acts 9: 1-6
Tuesday	Acts 9: 7-20
Wednesday	Psalm 30
Thursday	Isaiah 61: 1-3
Friday	Psalm 90: 13-17
Saturday	Revelation 5: 11-14
Sunday	John 21: 1-19



For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING by making an online gift at anytime at pcusa.org/oghs or mail your check to PCUSA P. O. Box 643700, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700 or mark your checks for OGHS and put in the offering plate or mail. Thank you for your generous giving. *Please click on this link for more info: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>*

Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or kwetherington@covpresathens.org. or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to Pastor Dana.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! HOST WEEK May 8—15

Covenant is the host congregation for Family Promise during the week of May 8-15. Again this time, the families are staying at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. Volunteering is safe and easy at MABC, and with the Day Center open with FP staff present during weekday business hours we will not need daytime hosts. We DO need evening meals preparers and evening and overnight hosts. We will likely have 3 families in the program. The sign-up genius site is here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022>

For more information contact Phil Hale (phale50@hotmail.com), 706-614-0812.

Thank you!

COVENANT'S COVID POLICIES (EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2022)

We look forward to worshipping with you. We continue to strive to protect our loved ones and believe in transparency. Our current COVID policies are based on the CDC's community level rating for Athens Clarke County.

Guidelines for gathering inside Covenant Presbyterian Church:

Green Rating – Mask wearing is optional. Indoor and outdoor food and drinks are permitted. Anyone showing signs and symptoms of COVID is invited to worship with us virtually. Please be considerate of personal preferences to remain contact-free and social distance.

Any changes to ACC's rating will be announced in the *Covenant-er*, online, and in worship. You can check [ACC's current CDC rating](#) here.

Pastor Dana will be away for a church leadership retreat in North Carolina from Wednesday, April 27 through Sunday, May 1.

Karen will be on vacation May 8—May 19



Nursery

The Toddler room has been freshly painted and cleaned and is now available for parents & children during worship.

Beginning May 1 supervision will be provided. If you would like to be added to the list of volunteers to assist once a quarter please contact the church office or Ellen at ellenstoneburner@gmail.com. *Thanks!*

April 1-
May 31

A \$25 donation sends love, flowers, and a card to a worthy mother in our community!



Adopt -a- Mom 2022

The Ark honors single warrior moms, grandmothers raising their grandbabies, and isolated mothers in our local nursing homes and hospice care programs!

Go to
www.athensark.org/adoptamom2022
to adopt today!

All proceeds benefit The Ark's Single Working Mothers Fund, which assists single moms who experience an unexpected loss of income or an unexpected expense. Help us prevent disconnections and evictions!



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who assisted with the Holy Week and Easter Services and the Easter Breakfast! We experi-

enced beautiful and meaningful Services and a wonderful Easter morning of Worship and Fellowship! We are so grateful to so many who gave of their time and talents for us to journey through Holy Week together and then to celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday. When we walk and work together, we learn and grow together. The past few years have been challenging, due to the pandemic and other issues. And there are challenges ahead. So, let us continue this journey together. As Terri McDowell Ott says in our Lenten Devotional, "Making the Road: Walking through Lent," in the Easter Sunday entry, "A new road needs to be made. From this day forward, we walk with the resurrected Christ. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!"

Gratefully, Jennifer Frey, Co-Chair Worship Ministry Team

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 previous years please let me know at kwetherington@covpresathens.

HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

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

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #42

Anticipated Pledges — \$344,690.77

Actual Pledges — \$344,443.02

Thank you for your faithful giving!

One Great Hour of Sharing \$ 2,250.00

Join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club starting on April 28st at 7 PM via Zoom as we discuss “Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?”, the 1967 book by African-American minister, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and social justice campaigner Martin Luther King Jr. “Where Do We Go From Here” was King's fourth and last book before his 1968 assassination. Our first session will cover up to chapter 4. *Travis*



Church School Classes via ZOOM!

UPPER ROOM CLASS- Sunday mornings 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 the book, *Speaking of Faith*, by Krista Tippett. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com

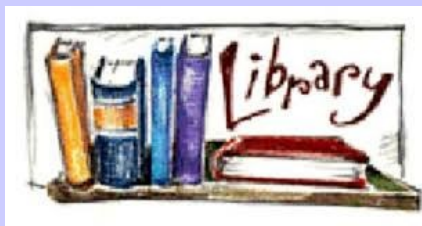


Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, April 28 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship
and fun!

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE is actively seeking applicants for music director & piano accompanist. If anyone in the congregation knows someone who is interested, please give their contact information to *Katy Terry, Gloria Pylant, Betsy Burmeister, Laura Foskey, Jerry Shannon or Abby Horvath.*



Week of April 24 Library Corner

***Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses* by Bruce Feiler**

Bruce Feiler grew up in the Jewish community of Savannah. During a lull in his professional life, he decided to explore the modern Holy Land. The resulting book, part travelogue and part personal spiritual exploration, allows the reader to vividly connect with the Old Testament (Bay B, Shelf 2). —

Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

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.

Next food distribution is on Thursday, April 28!

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!

Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!

Feeding 100 families every week is hard work and we need your help! Our drive-thru pantry is awesome and you should join us and impact your community.

<https://givepul.se/6xemwu>

1. Have you been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19? [See the CDC's risk assessment guidance.](#)
2. Do you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19? Symptoms can include a cough or shortness of breath or at least two of the following: Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Head-ache, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell. [See the CDC's symptom information.](#)

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we ask you **not** to register. We are doing all we can to align with best practices and keep our community healthy.

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.

The Food Pantry distribution for the month of March served 1,055 food insecure folks including 298 children and 198 senior adults.

Thank you Covenant and May We All Have Enough!



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|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ann Anderson | 15 Brandon Doughty | 28 Isaac Carpenter |
| Arnelle Combs | 16 Steve Rathbun | 31 Ssempe Kisaalita |
| Karen Wetherington | 19 Sue Loegel | |
| Hannah Baird | Annie Meyers | |
| 2 Elsie Bothwell | Ansley Tweedell | |
| Linda VanSickle | 22 Kent Silver | |
| 3 Alex Clark | 23 Tim Simpson | |
| Wesley Whitehead | 21 Dick Zimdars | |
| 4 Anna Hocking | Ntumwa Kisaalita | |
| 6 Evan Knox | 25 Carol Calbos | |
| 10 Caren Snook | Emily Ballard-Myer | |
| 12 Abby Horvath | 26 Tim Bemisderfer | |
| Marcia Verbrugge | Luke Shannon | |
| 13 Catharine Tyson | 27 Joan Prittie | |
| 14 Louie Boyd | 28 Emily Bower | |
| Teresa Mauldin | Spencer Baird | |
| 15 David Boardman | Eric Zimdars | |



COVENANT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 7 from 5 pm – 8 pm

Dust off your strawberry recipes and plan to join the fun with a picnic on the back lawn, outdoor games, and a strawberry bake-off.

Need strawberries? Plan to pick on Friday, May 6 at 3:30 pm.

More details coming . . .

Kay Brooks & Valerie Stone, Fellowship Ministry Chairs