

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, June 19 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER
June 19, 2022

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



BEAT THE HEAT and join in the fun on

Game Night this Friday, June 24 from 7-9 pm at the church.

You are welcome to bring a favorite game to share.

AUGUST 6 - 12—Help Us Welcome Our Friend From The Czech Republic

We are happy to announce that Jan Dostal is coming to visit us from the Czech Republic beginning August 6 and departing August 12. He is excited to meet as many of you as possible. A sign up sheet is posted for you to volunteer to visit with Honza by offering him a meal (Breakfast, Lunch, or Dinner), a trip to a point of interest, opportunity to volunteer with you at an outreach program, or a recreational activity. If you are available, but not going by the church to sign up, please email Valerie Stone or Rebecca Silver to volunteer to participate. We are preparing his Athens itinerary for customs.

Jan is a Ph.D. student of International Relations and representative of the PCUSA & Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren partnership program.

Please contact us: Valerie Frey Stone, valeriefreystone@gmail.com

Rebecca Silver, ohiosilver@windstream.net.

We look forward to helping organize a valuable week for "Honza".

Thank-you in advance for your assistance.



Some Building and Grounds projects you can help with:

We took the old fluorescent lamps from the nursery for recycling, but we just discovered a whole crate downstairs. These are 8-footers so you'll need a pickup or at least a sunroof.

On the Aldi's side of the church we straightened and welded a bent railing. It's ready for some paint to make it more VISIBLE.

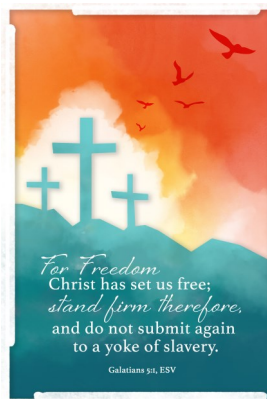
While we're on that side of the church, the posts for the wood railing need to be sawn off and finials added.

Encouragingly B&G chair Brian Striggow (misterflask@gmail.com, 706-340-6352)

PRAYER CONCERNS: Dee Tweedell's father recovering at home from surgery; Steve Bowden will have a third oblation on June 20; Carolyn Hatfield's father is in hospice care; Bert and Marie's friend Trish had a port put in on June 14 for chemo treatments; prayers for our partnership church in Olomouc, Czech Republic as they work with the other ECCB churches to help the Ukrainian Refugees during this time of war and resettlement; Joe Meyers is a little over halfway through cancer treatments at Emory; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky Horvath undergoing chemo; Nancy Omdahl continuing to receive chemo treatments.

Daily Bible Readings for June 20—26

Monday II Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14
 Tuesday Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20
 Wednesday I Kings 19: 15– 16
 Thursday I Kings 19: 19—21
 Friday Psalm 16
 Saturday Galatians 5: 1, 13-25
 Sunday Luke 9: 51-62



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.

MAY 24, 2022 SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Valerie Stone opened the meeting with a devotional from a poem by Rumi entitled *Love Dogs* and with prayer.

- Clayton Adams, Finance Ministry Team Chair, reported on the budget for the upcoming year. The proposed budget is \$425,892.00. Pledges have amounted to \$378,000.00 giving a shortfall of almost \$50,000.00.
- For Continuing Elder Education, Dana covered the last three chapters from *Presbyterian Polity for Church Leaders* which, stressed that session meetings are open to all, reflected on conflict in the church and how to restore order, and emphasized the importance of working together to bring unity to worship.
- Bert Ballard-Myer, Linder Koehler, Abby Horvath and Chris Wilson were approved to serve on the Mission Study Task Force which will compile information generated by the CAT survey.
- A motion from Building and Grounds Ministry Team to add \$9,100.00/year to the annual budget under B&G for the mowing/upkeep of church grounds was approved. Service will be provided by Creek View Landscaping.
- A motion to designate the use of this year's Central-Covenant Endowment Fund allocation for B&G Renovations Restricted Fund was approved.
- A motion from the Personnel Committee to revise the job descriptions for Director of Music Ministry and Piano Accompanist and to increase the salary for the Music Director by \$6,000 and the Piano Accompanist by \$3,000. The salary increase for the first year will come from the Carol Wheeler Fund.
- Valerie Stone reported on the May 14th Presbytery meeting. Brian Striggow reported on a church safety seminar that he recently attended. Bert Ballard-Myer and Chris Wilson announced the church will continue with the weekly food distribution after Travis leaves.

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*, online, and in worship. You can check [ACC's current CDC rating](#) here.



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

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL REQUEST — *Betty McGinnis, Czech Mission Network*

For the last four years, the PCUSA and Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren have had a wonderful experience through Shared Advent Devotions. We invite you to contribute to this year's devotions. You may use pictures, photos, drawings, etc. Our partners in the ECCB will organize and translate. The devotional guide is explained in the attached letter https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_4gpN_dbKhNcolTkUfMjqu9i1AMLC3ozfqg57BMePd4/edit

The list of texts for respective dates are listed: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P_M2q3Nfv27ocThGC37EZBYHvDEtcMOeSEnranXPscQ/edit#gid=0 Please would you help us to complete the calendar by August so our partners can translate and organize to get it back out to us. Thank you for your consideration! If you have trouble with the links please contact Rebecca Silver at ohosilver@windstream.net



It is time to sign up to bring

Punch & Cookies

for after 10:00am worship service beginning June 12. You will find the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes. Coordinators should plan to set-up, bring punch and cookies for 40—50, serve, and clean-up. Please feel free to pair up with others or reach out to Valerie Stone or Kay Brooks for assistance.

(Please no red punch)

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 faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #50

Anticipated Pledges — \$410,346.15

Actual Pledges — \$412,954.28

Thank you for your faithful giving!



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, **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, June 23 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.*



Library Corner: *The Journal of John Wesley*

In honor of Father's Day, how about a book about the "Father of Methodism"? John Wesley (1707-1791) was born in England and ordained in 1728. By 1736, he was living in the fledgling town of Savannah in America's 13th colony. His journals talk about his life and work, a first-hand account of a long spiritual journey and a life that touched many. Bay F, Shelf 4). — 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, June 23

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 over a 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> or [SIGNUP GENIUS](#)

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 May Covenant and UGA volunteers served 1,978 food insecure persons, that includes 374 children and 290 senior adults.

Thank you Covenant & UGA student volunteers!



We are coming to the end of the fiscal year.

Now is the time to catch up on those pledges and/or turn in any receipts that you have for Covenant. Thank you!

THIS WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNLIKE ANY OTHER.

For the first time in four years, General Assembly commissioners will gather in person – at least for committee meetings – for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s first hybrid assembly, built around the theme “From Lament to Hope.” The assembly will be longer than usual: stretched out from June 18 to July 9, three action-packed weeks instead of one, with 471 commissioners and 111 advisory delegates. Committees will meet in newly-renovated space at the PC(USA)’s national offices in Louisville with mandatory masks and COVID-19 vaccinations.



Plenary sessions will be online — including a Juneteenth worship service on June 19, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. An online “Hands and Feet” event July 7 will focus on ending cash bail.

The business coming this year reflects public policy concerns – from racism to gun violence to global warming – as well as internal issues facing a denomination such as declining membership and a growing number of small but faithful congregations. Here’s some of what to expect.

Climate change. The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) is recommending that the PC(USA) divest from five energy companies – Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy – that MRTI says are not making sufficient progress to protect the planet from global warming. An overture from Hudson River Presbytery is calling for the denomination to fully divest from fossil fuel companies — setting up a likely debate over what’s the most responsible approach and whether the PC(USA) is moving quickly and forcefully enough in its response to climate change.

Racism. This assembly has a committee devoted specifically to issues of race and gender justice — including a report from the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation, which calls for more work to be done to “explore and expose where White supremacy is embedded institutionally and foundationally” in the PC(USA), and encourages congregations to investigate their own histories involving people of color. An overture from the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy calls for the PC(USA) to apologize to African Americans “for the sin of slavery and its legacy.” And the committee will consider a report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force.

Israel/Palestine. There have been rumblings in recent months over remarks that J. Herbert Nelson, the PC(USA)’s stated clerk, made describing Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories as “21st century slavery.” Debate over that may rise up again — perhaps as the assembly considers an overture from Grace Presbytery to declare that Israel’s policies, laws and practices regarding the Palestinian people amount to apartheid.

Financial sustainability. The Special Committee on Per-Capita Based Funding and National Church Financial Sustainability is proposing a restructuring of the top levels of the national church — a recommendation that reflects concern about the ability of the current per capita funding system to sustain the denomination when so many mid councils and small congregations are feeling financial pressure. At the heart of this discussion: what structure and funding systems are needed for a denomination that’s half the size it was 20 years ago?

Gun violence. Week after week, people of faith are called to pray for those killed and injured after yet another mass shooting. An assembly committee on Addressing Violence in the USA will consider overtures calling for the PC(USA) to support tighter gun control, including universal background checks before firearms can be purchased and a ban on the sale and ownership of assault weapons. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy wants the assembly to approve the “Decade to End Gun Violence,” a 10-year campaign from 2022 to 2032 “to be conducted at all levels of the church.”

Denominational matters. The assembly also will consider issues affecting the church itself, including a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to require that the minimum terms of call for all ministers would include 12 weeks of paid family medical leave. Also of interest: several recommendations to write new confessions for the PC(USA) and measures seeking to provide more flexibility for new worshipping communities and immigrant congregations in allowing their leaders to become ruling elders with voice and vote at presbytery.

Leadership. Two teams are standing to serve as the assembly’s co-moderators:

Josefina Ahumada, a commissioned ruling elder from the Presbytery de risto, with **Marilyn McKelvey Tucker-Marek**, a minister from Flint River Presbytery; and **Shavon Starling-Louis** of Charlotte Presbytery with **Ruth Santana-Grace** of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, both ministers. The election will be held June 18.

Follow along from home: Presbyterians can watch General Assembly committee and plenary sessions via a live stream on the internet, and can track assembly business through www.pc-biz.org.