



Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, July 17 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER July 17, 2022

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

COVENANT'S COVID POLICIES FOR RED RATING

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:

RED RATING—MASK WEARING IS REQUIRED

Other changes may be recommended by the session if deemed necessary, such as virtual services, social distancing, in-person worship attendance caps, or restricted food and drink activities.

DO NOT plan to attend in person gatherings if you are feeling ill in any way or have been diagnosed with a current case of COVID-19 or recently exposed to someone who has.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE FULLY VACCINATED BEFORE ENTERING THE FACILITY.

PSA FROM YOUR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR! Recently there has been an uptick in phishing scam emails targeting our congregation. We would like to share some tips in order to better spot these scams as well as advice for how to respond if you think you have received one.

1. A major indicator that an email is fraudulent is when the sender's name is in all caps., such as "JOHN DOE". This is a tactic to get your attention but it is not how we normally format our titles.
2. Another indicator is if the sender says they are not available to take calls, but the email is urgent. If there is a pressing matter at hand, we will make ourselves available by phone or in person.
3. Check the sender's email address. All of our official contact will come from an @covpresathens address. If you see that the email is from a nondescript address, for example "revmail33@gmail.com", this is not from a church staff member.
4. If the sender is asking for money or contact information, you should be wary. We will never ask for money outside of the normal giving process.

If you suspect you are being contacted by a phisher, there are a few things you can do.

1. Forward the email to Asher adhill@covpresathens.org to verify its legitimacy.
2. Contact the church member or staff in question directly via phone or in person to see if they have sent you an email.
3. If you are certain that an email address is fraudulent, you can report it to google (assuming it is a gmail account) here <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>. If the account is not a gmail account, you may need to check with their host about reporting procedures.

If you have any further questions or concerns on the subject, feel free to email Asher at adhill@covpresathens.org.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Warren Combs' sister, Marjean Marshall, unexpectedly passed away on Tuesday morning of a bacterial blood infection; Joe Meyers is home and feeling better following the Proton Beam Therapy at Emory. His recovery will take about 6 months. They will not know the success of his treatment for 6 months; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky Horvath undergoing chemo; Nancy Omdahl continuing to receive chemo treatments.

Daily Bible Readings for July 18—24

Monday	Amos 8: 1—12
Tuesday	Psalm 52
Wednesday	Genesis 18: 1—10a
Thursday	Psalm 15
Friday	Colossians 1: 15-20
Saturday	Colossians 1: 21-28
Sunday	Luke 10: 38-42

Thank You

Joe Meyers sends his heartfelt thanks to all in the church for the meals, cards, and messages of hope and positive prayers.

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.

THANK YOU to all who participated in the *Holy Cow! Surveys*.

Would you like to know the outcome and recommendations from our responses?

Join us on **SUNDAY, August 14**
4-6pm in the Fellowship Hall

for a panel from the session to share the responses and take-aways for moving forward. We will update you on next steps for our church.

We hope to see you there!



Some Building and Grounds projects you can help with:

Just one little thing!

Grab some steel wool and maybe some 'Goof-Off' solvent and clean the graffiti off the old playground slide. Graffiti just invites more graffiti.

Progress! 'Team Ellen' is well staffed and the Journey room reno is marching along. Don Bower took care of the old lamps and the railing projects on the back of the building.

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



Covenant's Food Pantry

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.

**Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry Thursdays,
1pm—3pm.**

Next food distribution is on Thursday, July 21

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. Please consider volunteering at [SIGNUP GENIUS](#). You can also share the 2-hour time slot with 2 friends! *(the UGA Student Volunteers are gone for the summer) And all those who have been volunteering from the start...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!*

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN 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. *(did you know that about \$500 will purchase 2,883 lbs of food from the Food Bank of NEGA which feeds approximately 111 families each week)*
- We can use paper grocery bags and some plastic bags to pack the food. If you call the church, someone could even come out to your car and get it.

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 sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to provide a floral arrangement for worship. Thank you!

If you requested pledge envelopes for the 2022-2023 year they are in your church mailbox. If you cannot come to church to get yours please let the church office know and we will mail them to you. Thanks!

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:

RED RATING—MASK WEARING IS REQUIRED

Social distancing, in-person worship attendance caps, restricted food and drink activities and virtual services only may be recommended.

Any changes to ACC's rating will be announced in the *Covenanter*, 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!*

June 28, 2022 Session Meeting Highlights

Kay Brooks opened the meeting by reading the poem "A Prayer for the Hard Times" from *Presbyterian Today* and with prayer.

Clayton Adams, Finance Ministry Team, reported that the budget is on hold, pending information from the Personnel Committee on staffing and priorities. The Session voted to continue operating at 2021-2022 budget levels until the new budget is approved.

There will be a special offering on Sunday, August 7th, to support our sister church in Olomouc in their Ukrainian refugee work.

Session approved increasing the stipend available from the Bowden Vocation Fund to \$2500 per student per year. That fund will be administered by Congregational Care Ministry Team. That fund is now able to support two seminary students for 3 years.

Session approved the transfer of membership of Caren Snook to Friendship Presbyterian Church.

Jennifer Frey, Chris Wilson, Linda Koehler and Clayton Adams will represent Covenant at the Presbytery meeting on August 20, 2022, at Athens first Presbyterian Church.

The Session discussed how to best share the results of the CAT from Holy Cow Consulting with the congregation. Session approved contracting with Susan Czolgosz of Holy Cow to provide a 5-6 page summary of the results of the survey. There will be a pot luck dinner to further discuss the survey and to answer any questions.

There will be several Fellowship opportunities in June and July, including game nights and punch and cookies after Worship.

The food distribution provided food for 1728 individuals, 374 under the age of 18 and 270 over the age of 65, in the month of May. New hours are 1:00-3:00 on Thursdays. We need to increase our number of volunteers from 3 to 10 for the summer months with the absence of help from UGA students.

Now that the 2022 General Assembly has ended – the first-ever hybrid assembly – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will try to live into the commitments made and the work ahead. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis, the new co-moderators, stood for election using the theme “Unbounded We Thrive,” and the assembly spoke its mind on issues affecting the church and the world.

Israel/Palestine. The assembly voted 266-116 to approve one of the most controversial items before it – INT-02, declaring that the PC(USA) recognize the laws, policies and practices of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people “fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid.” Some have criticized the PC(USA) stance towards Israel as antisemitic, saying it hurts interfaith relations. Others say the assembly spoke courageously in supporting human rights for the Palestinian people.

Climate change. Voting 340-41, the assembly directed PC(USA) entities to divest from five oil and gas companies it concluded are not moving quickly enough to try to slow global warming – Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy. The vote reflected continued support for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI)’s strategy of corporate engagement and selective divestment. Action on another item, ENV-09, also affirmed “that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many” and assured Presbyterians that “divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.”

Litany of repentance. One of the assembly’s most powerful emotional moments came when White Presbyterians recited a litany of repentance from RGJ-08, offering an apology to African Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy. One assembly committee focused exclusively on issues of race and gender justice – including violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, disparities experienced by Black women and girls, and racial disparities in health care. Other concerns: confronting White supremacy in the PC(USA) and working for reparative justice.

Gun violence. With recent mass shootings still echoing, the assembly approved VIOL-07, declaring 2022-2032 a “Decade to End Gun Violence” – asking the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to develop tools for faith-based advocacy against gun violence and for studying “the intersection of white supremacy culture, Christian nationalism, and gender with gun violence.” It also approved VIOL-11, directing MRTI to begin a process of corporate engagement with Walmart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, and Kroger, three publicly-traded companies included in the investment portfolios of either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, and which sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons. (Those weapons previously mentioned are already on the divestment list.)

Family leave. The assembly approved a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to say a minister’s terms of call shall include at least 12 weeks of paid family medical leave (covering the birth, fostering or adoption of a child; care for ill or disabled family members; and healing following a loss or tragic event). To take effect, the proposed change needs approval from a majority of the presbyteries.

Immigration. The assembly voted 340-25 to declare the PC(USA) a “sanctuary and accompaniment church” – saying the denomination stands with immigrants and asylum-seekers and is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy. That work often involves Presbyterians accompanying immigrants by offering housing and legal assistance, going with them to immigration hearings and other appointments and trying to get people released from detention. Restructuring. Supporting recommendations from a special committee, the assembly voted to create a commission with the power to act and the responsibility for unifying the PMA and the Office of the General Assembly – basically, to restructure the top level of the PC(USA). Citing financial stress on congregations and presbyteries, the assembly also created a team to develop experimental models as alternatives to the current per capita funding system.

Reproductive justice. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the assembly approved a resolution on reproductive justice – saying the PC(USA) rejects “attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit, or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care.”

LGBTQIA+ equity. The assembly created a new LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee as a permanent committee of the General Assembly – equivalent in access and accountability to the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee.

Per capita. The assembly set the new General Assembly per capita assessment at \$9.85 per member for 2023 and \$9.80 per member for 2024. That compares to the current per capita rate of \$8.98 per member.

2024 General Assembly. Presented with four options, the assembly opted for a hybrid approach again for the 2024 assembly – choosing Plan Omega with online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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 #2

Anticipated Pledges — \$16,413.84

Actual Pledges — \$13,203.60

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, July 21 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.*

What's In A Name? Find the first name that fits: Example: _____ sled. Answer: bob

1. _____ Adore
2. _____ Shaw
3. _____ Wire

By Marilyn Brown



Answers to *What's in A Name:*
 1. Steve
 2. Rick
 3. Guy

pppst.com

**Are you
Team
Dukes
or Team
Hellmans?**



**Tomatoes at Terrapin
July 23rd • 4-7pm**

TomatoesAtTerrapin.com

Athens Nurses Clinic Tomatoes at Terrapin Fundraiser, coming July 23th at Terrapin from 4-7. No charge for the Tomato Sandwich Party, with the Green Flag Band playing, although you do have to pay the entrance fee to Terrapin. And of course, we will have a donation bucket out!!

We appreciate your support as we serve the least of us, as God intended.