



Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, August 14 at 10am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER August 14, 2022

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

COVID 19 Community Level:



**Yellow Rating –  
Mask wearing is  
highly recommended.**  
Outdoor food and drink  
options are allowed.

### *Holy Cow! CAT Surveys.*

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

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

There will be a panel from the session to share the responses and take-aways for moving forward. And there will be an update on next steps for our church.

*Childcare will be provided! ZOOM is available at this link:*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83210053072?pwd=elh2cCt5bGxkZGVZaW9pa3EOakJhUT09>

*Access the Holy Cow Survey here and print out a copy to bring with you:*

<https://www.covpresathens.org/holy-cow-survey-results/>



### **First Grade Breakfast**

**Sunday, August 21**

is a special day for our First Graders;

*Rainey and Rory Bowen, Emma Parido,  
Frederick Ritzler, and Nathan Foskey*

The children will have a special tour of the worship center, during which time will be spent talking about baptism and communion. Our first graders will be introduced to the congregation during the service and will be presented with their very own copy of our Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory to God*. (If you know of any first graders that are not listed above and would like to be included please let the church office know.)

### **NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE!**

**Sunday, August 28th**

Adult Church School begins at 9:30am

Children's Worship & Arts 9:45am

(K- 5th grade)

Worship at 11:00am



*Outdoor "Hot Dog" luncheon with all the fix'ins following worship*

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** France & Nash Boney relocated to live closer to their daughter in Richmond, VA; Dell Whitehead and family in the passing of her brother, Miller Deaton 8/03; Bert Ballard-Myer's mom, Agnes Myer surgery went well 8/5; 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; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky Horvath undergoing chemo; Nancy Omdahl working with her oncologist with new treatment plan.

**Daily Bible Readings for August 15—21**

Monday	Jeremiah 2: 4-13
Tuesday	Psalms 81: 1, 10—16
Wednesday	Proverbs 25: 6-7
Thursday	Psalms 112
Friday	Hebrews 13: 1-8
Saturday	Hebrews 13: 15-16
Sunday	Luke 14: 1, 7-14



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

**COVENANT'S COVID POLICIES- Yellow Rating – Mask wearing is highly recommended.** Outdoor food and drink options are allowed. Please be considerate of personal preferences to remain contact-free and social distance. 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: [ACC's current CDC rating](#)



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



Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in desperate need of brown paper bags. You can bring them to the church and place on the table in the gathering room where the egg cartons go. And they still need egg cartons. *Thank you!*





## 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, August 18**

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.

For the month of July 1,325 food insecure persons were served.

That includes 451 Children, 216 senior adults, and 658 Adults.

Thank you Covenant and May we All have Enough!



Congratulations to Brittney and Justin Meadows on the birth of twins Wylder James and Everly Eloise on Sunday, August 7 in Augusta. They join big brother Riot who is 2 years old. Proud grandparents are James and Robyn Malone.

**Covenant's Presbyterian Women** will meet the second Thursday morning each month in the Conference Room, in-person and via Zoom (for those who are unable to attend in-person meetings). The PW Study for 2022-2023 will be the Horizons Bible Study, "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight". Our first meeting will be on September 8th, at 9:30am. Since part of the PW Purpose is to "nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study", this Horizons Bible Study guides us in that process. We enjoy fellowship in addition to our prayer and Bible study. So, please join us! We welcome all the women of the church! For more information contact Jennifer Frey or Betsy Burmeister.

Study books are available in the copy room for \$11



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](mailto: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](http://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 #6**

Anticipated Pledges — \$49,241.44

Actual Pledges — \$42,088.86

Non-Pledged — \$2,700.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

*Olomouc/Ukraine Refugee \$3,295.00*



**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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com), to receive your ZOOM invitation.

**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

**JOURNEY CLASS**—Sunday mornings, **8:15am—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](mailto:phale50@hotmail.com)



**Knitter and Knotters —**

*Thursday, August 18 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**



**Library Corner: *Waking Up White***

Debby Irving wrote this account of her personal journey to better understand racism. A native New Englander, she felt she was from a part of the country that didn't have race issues, yet she had a sense that she was failing to understand how to support diversity in her job as an arts administrator. As she began asking the questions that had long gone unaddressed, Irving began to better understand some of the cultural and governmental structures that affect race in the United States. At times it is an eye-opening read. (Bay E, Shelf 1) -

*Church Librarian Valerie Stone.*

## Fiscal summary statement for 2021-2022 fiscal year

The 2021-2022 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2022. Here is a summary of income and expenses for the year.

Income was received from the following sources: Pledges \$439,198.88 (anticipated \$426,760.00), non-pledged income \$2,318.32 (budgeted \$19,787), other income including rent \$1,488.00 (budgeted \$3,000) for a total of \$443,005.20 compared to a budgeted amount from all sources of \$449,547. Some amounts that were originally counted as non-pledged income turned into pledged income due to late pledges received last fall after the budget was finalized.



Expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year totaled \$384,007.71. The amount budgeted was \$428,455.14, leading to a net balance of \$44,447.43 in budgeted funds not spent. A detailed list of expenditures was provided to Session for the ministry team heads in the July Session packet. Karen can provide copies if needed.

Based on the income minus expenses, the net amount of money received minus expenses was \$58,997.49 (\$443,005.20-\$384,007.71). In 2022-2023, \$23,600 of this unspent money will be used to pay for items removed from the proposed 2022-2023 budget, including capital reserve (\$7,500), three months of transition funding for the Technical Director position (\$8,775) plus health care (\$1,875), an intern for Christian Education (\$2,250), an external financial audit (\$1,200) and \$2,000 for the pastor's benevolence fund. The remainder of unspent funds will be placed in the general fund of the church to be used for future needs as designated by the Session.

Thanks to all of our Covenant family for faithfully fulfilling their pledges as well as supporting the church in so many other ways!

Sincerely submitted,

*Pam Knox*, Treasurer

### **An Intersection.**

I usually write about things that B&G could use help with (oh gosh, please help us) and sometimes about issues with our homeless. Today I'd like to share something about both. Kirby Kesler had a tent here with his significant other when we had the encampment here. Unlike most of the other campers, when he left the only remnant was a dry spot in the leaves. We stayed in touch as he's preternaturally friendly and he gives us advice on flooring and carpet, which is his lifelong trade.

When the Journey room finally was ready for a floor, I took Kirby by his old employer to pick up his tools and he did an expert job of laying the tile in that room (take a look). After he finished, he told me, "I want to thank you for the work, not for the money, but because someone trusted me, and that means a lot".

A couple days ago, Kirby told me he was out 'signing', when his brother (also his ex-employer) stopped by in his truck, got out, and told him he'd been looking for him for two days. He's been estranged from his brother for over a year, but his brother hugged him and told him to come back to work Thursday. Kirby had been itching to get off the streets and eagerly accepted.

*Brian Striggow*

Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters,

I'm really honored to have a possibility to address you today. Many greetings from Olomouc, the partner congregation of the ECCB, from all our members as well as from my wife Dagmar. It's been a long time since we met one another. The main reason was Covid.

But on the other hand, we started to prepare the partnership conference 2023 in Olomouc and we are looking forward to meeting after a long break. I suppose there will be many topics to be discussed next year!

All of You, who already visited our congregation and are planning to come again, will see many changes. Two new bridges in the nearest neighbourhood, the new regulation of the river Morava as well as some improvements inside. I think You will be surprised.....

But the main change, much more worse than Covid, is a war in Ukraine and its struggle to survive under Russian aggression. Our congregation accommodated/gave shelter to one whole family in February in upper rooms of our church (manse). The family moved already to their own flat, and we could welcome recently a second one. Besides that, in a small flat downstairs stays another Ukrainian woman from Kyiv – Svitlana, with her dog. Different people, but equally difficult stories, full of pain. All those people are great and I must say – we became friends. Two of the children joined us in our summer camp...

Besides that we provided a possibility for the meetings of Ukrainian community in Olomouc. About 30 – 40 people used to come every Wednesday since March to have their program in their mother tongue. Now they have a summer break, but the meetings can continue in September.

On Wednesdays at 6.p.m. we have a regular prayers for Ukraine. You can join us, if you want. We pray for Ukraine to win the war and save its freedom. We pray for Putin to be stopped.

The evil must always be resisted, sometimes even by weapons; the policy of appeasement is false. These are our frequent topics of discussion....

Dear friends in Christ, we think about You and pray for you all. We hope to see you soon.

Yours truly, Jan Lukáš, pastor

*Please see page 7 for stories from Ukraine Refugees.*

**Many thanks** go to all who helped Jan Dostal have a wonderful experience in Athens. From the Welcome gathering, Sunday Church Service, and the church reception where many greeted Jan; to folks hosting him at a meal, a special experience or a mini trip. Jan has had a wonderful experience and has enjoyed getting to know so many Covenant Church friends. Thank-you all.

*Rebecca Silver & Valerie Stone*

## Project Safe Needs List AUGUST 2022

Toilet paper	Powdered Laundry
All-purpose cleaner refills	Detergent
Paper towels	Hand Soap Refills
Facial tissues	Restaurant/Fast Food
Dish soap (single size)	gift cards
Paper cups	Prepaid phones
Gas cards	Phone cards

Donations are accepted at the Project Safe Thrift Store on Hawthorne Avenue in Bell's Shopping Center. Donations can be left inside the store Monday—Saturday 11am—5pm indicated that they are for the shelter. Please do not leave donations on the sidewalk.

## Stories of Ukrainians from the Czech Republic

My friend called me on 24th February at 6:20 am. I heard from the phone: "Have you heard the explosions? The war has begun!" It was unexpected, strange, unbelievable. Together with our friend and her family we left our homes the very first day, in a rush, not knowing what we're doing. We got into a car and drove for 31 hours without sleep. Before us there was only void and uncertainty. We stayed for a couple days in Moldavia with my friend's relatives. We read the reports from Ukraine about military operations in Gostomel, Irpin and Bucha - those are towns near Kyiv. Also about air bombings, that were undertaken in different parts of the country. It was clear that there is no way back in the near future. Already on the way to Moldavia I had a thought that later became a decision - go to Czechia. I visited this beautiful country twice as a tourist. I liked it very much - nature, architecture, people and language. Something here reminds me of Ukraine. I didn't know a single person here, despite that fact I went through four countries and now I'm here...It was morally very tough, because what's happening in my country is also happening in my heart no matter where I am at. But even in the most difficult situations you have to keep moving forward and do something for it. So over time I managed to find a job, make new friends and get to a very cozy home in a very friendly atmosphere in the evangelical church. I am grateful to people who gave me the feeling of safety, feeling every citizen of Ukraine is in a dire need of right now. We've all lost the most precious things in our lives. Our home and the hope in the future. Ruthless aggression, occurring as we speak in our country, is just beyond comprehension. Why did one country decide to completely enslave another independent country? There is no answer for that. I really wish for peace, prosperity and happiness for Ukraine! It's a rich country with a long history, beautiful nature and modern society.

*Svitlana Arceva*

Spring two years ago we walked in surgical masks, watched tens of thousands of cases of new COVID infections and were worried about our elderly relatives and friends... A year ago we tried to keep track of the vaccination rules and waited for our turn... This spring I checked news on websites and on Facebook every few hours in a hope that a rocket didn't hit my birth town or that one of my close ones did not die in the war...The stories of the refugees I met at the KACPU (regional center for helping the Ukrainians), or at the meetings at Blahoslavova 1 (evangelical church) or every Friday at the psychological assistance group at Pavelčákova 1, that's not propaganda. It's pain, tears, the loss of own house' comfort, it's weeks of hiding in the basement, a 700 km long journey through villages, 50 checkpoints in these villages...It's shattered windows, cooking on a fire in a yard of a tall building, rocket launches and souls departing... It's stories of Russian soldiers looting and it's stories of an incredible support of Ukrainians, Czechs, Poles, Russians in Europe, support from the entire world, in which humanity still prevails over nationality. When I see disoriented refugees, running from Kyiv, Charkov, Chernigov, all being bombarded, lost their homes and closed ones in Mariupol, rum from Hostomel and Bucha, I am grateful to the Czech Republic, that these refugees have a place to go and save their lives and lives of their children. In the past few months, I met tens of honest hearts, who help regardless of the resources, times and energy loss. Thank y'all for help, thanks Czech people for supporting Ukrainian refugees and Ukrainian soldiers. I strongly hope that newly built independent Ukraine will be a democratic country, where everyone is respected for his/her actions and those who helped in difficult times are remembered. Thanks, Olomouc, thanks, Czechia.

*Sergej Cápec*