



Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, August 21 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER August 21, 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.



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*.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022

REJOICE! Rally Day is back! All are welcome to enjoy this return to celebration as we talk about upcoming programs for the fall! Bring your best smiles for a photo booth to capture the day!

9:30am -10:30am gathering in the Fellowship Hall for announcement of programming for the fall! Hear about Sunday school offerings and the return of Covenant Connection.

11:00 am WORSHIP

Following Worship- a hotdog luncheon with all the fixings for fellowship and gathering for the new year!



We have always enjoyed our time for fellowship. It is an important ingredient in all that binds us together. We also value a worship service that begins on time, in a quiet and reflective atmosphere that allows each of us to prepare our hearts and our heads for God's word.

We look forward to seeing you on August 28!

Click on this link for the Rally Day! Flyer: <https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/rally-day/>

PRAYER CONCERNS: Bill Barstow on the loss of his sister Arlene Fresia, 97, on August 12 in Massachusetts; 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 successfully completed chemo and is now on radiation and doing well; Abby Horvath's friend, Maddie with leukemia, came home this past week and is cancer free; Nancy Omdahl at home.

Daily Bible Readings for August 22—28

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Monday | Jeremiah 2: 4-13 |
| Tuesday | Psalm 81: 1, 10—16 |
| Wednesday | Proverbs 25: 6-7 |
| Thursday | Psalm 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. 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!*



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 # 7**

Anticipated Pledges — \$52,826.92

Actual Pledges — \$51,989.60

Non-Pledged — \$3,443.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Olomouc/Ukraine Refugee \$4,315.10



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, **8:15am—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



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, August 25 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: Misquoting Jesus:
The Story Behind Who Changed the
Bible and Why**

Scholar Bart D. Ehrman of the
University of North Carolina

Chapel Hill is the author of many books exploring Bible history and culture. In this book he goes back to the original New Testament texts, examining them as documents. He also sets them into a framework of history and culture. One review on the back cover sum it up well: "Whichever side you sit on regarding Bible inerrancy, this is a rewarding read." (Bay A, Shelf 3) -
Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*



COFFEE CLOSET

If you like coffee, tea, or chocolate consider buying organic, Fair Trade products from our Coffee Cabinet in the Gathering Room. Fair Trade products return more of your purchase price to the farmers, and also insures that the workers are paid and treated fairly. The coffee we sell is excellent, and cheaper than fair trade coffee offered in stores. If you want more information about Equal Exchange and their products (including many more than we can stock) check out their web site. I would be happy to include your special requests, and save shipping costs for all! <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/>



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 25

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!



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



Mark your calendar for Covenant Game Night on Friday, August 26 from 7pm to 9pm.

All ages are welcome!

We have a stack of games to choose from, but you are welcome to bring your favorites. This month the Stone family will be setting up a Mexican Train Dominoes table for anyone wanting to play or learn.

They find it the perfect group game – enough strategy to be interesting yet simple enough that it is easy to chat while you play.

In the Stone family, kids begin joining in the fun around age four, so it isn't too complicated. Come give it a try!

Or start off the weekend with an easygoing board game or card game with a buddy, your kids, or grandkids.

(Whenever we are in the Covid-19 "green zone", feel free to bring personal or shared snacks to game nights.)

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 |



to everyone who participated in the Holy Cow Survey Results Meeting. Over 75 folks attended .

AND thank you to the elders who presented the program for their hard work and excellent presentation:

Bert Ballard-Myer, Abby Horvath, Linda Koehler and Chris Wilson!

And to Asher for his technical mastery.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm
Wednesdays 10 am - 4 pm
(by phone 706-548-2756 or email kwetherington@covpresathens.org)
Thursdays 10 am - 4 pm
Fridays 10 am - 4 pm

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.

For the month of August Covenant will
receive offerings for the Olomouc Refugee
Program for the Ukraine.

*Earmark your check for Olomouc/
Ukraine.*

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