

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, August 28 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER August 28, 2022

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

COVID 19 Community
Level:
Orange Rating -

You are encouraged to follow
your own comfort levels with
masking.



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 announce-
ment 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 im-
portant ingredient in all that binds us together. We also value a
worship service that begins on time, in a quiet and reflective at-
mosphere 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/](https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/rally-day/)

NEW FALL SCHEDULE

9:30am – 12 noon –

NURSERY

ages birth to Kindergarten

9:30am – Worship & Arts

(K-5th),

Journey Adult Church

School Class,

Upper Room Adult

Church School Class

10:30am Fellowship

11:00am Worship

COVID-19 UPDATE

- masks are optional
- indoor food and drinks are allowed
- everyone is encouraged to participate according to their personal level of comfort

With the recent change in guidance and relaxed restrictions from the CDC, the Session has approved a change to Covenant's COVID policies. Masks are now optional and indoor food and drink restrictions have been lifted. Everyone is encouraged to follow their own comfort levels with masking and dining. Accommodations such as distanced seating and outdoor options for events will be available. Virtual worship will also continue to be provided.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATED SESSION MEETING ON AUGUST 23, 2022

Don Bower presented a devotional on "A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast," where the hosts interviewed Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker of Atlanta on his thoughts about how congregations can face conflict and disagreements and work to resolve them with new insights. He opened the meeting with a prayer for wisdom and vision.

The Session received a letter of resignation from the Session from Kathy Boardman with best wishes and gratitude for her work on the Session.

The proposed budget from Finance Ministry Team for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was approved. The total proposed budget is \$402,437. Finance Ministry Team requested an additional \$23,600 from Session to be taken from unspent funds (\$58,997.49) from the 2021-2022 fiscal year. This would bring the total 2022-2023 budget expenditures, including the Session additions, to \$426,037. Treasurer Pam Knox will place her "Plain Language Summary" of the budget in "The Covenant". The entire budget spreadsheet will be available in the church office.

Rev. Dana Waters shared with the Session that Covenant's policy of allowing homeless persons to camp out on our premises, as long as they and their belongings are removed by morning, has become a divisive issue for the congregation. There will be a special called Session meeting to discuss the issue on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Session approved the job description from the Personnel Committee for the position of Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministries and Christian Education.

Clayton Adams, Chris Wilson, Jennifer Frey and Linda Koehler served as Covenant's commissioners to the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA, on August 20, 2022. Jennifer provided highlights of the meeting.

Session approved a motion that Covenant's Covid-19 food and drink restrictions be lifted to allow food and drink to be served inside with masking optional. Attendees to events are encouraged to follow their own comfort levels with masking. Accommodations such as distanced seating and outdoor options will be available.

Discussion of Montreat's "Thriving Congregations" program will be held at a later meeting.

Fellowship Ministry Team reported several upcoming fellowship opportunities including Game Night on August 26th, hot dog lunch after Rally Day, Fall Picnic in September and coffee fellowship time after church services in the near future.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of the Session

Dear Covenant friends,

This week the Session passed our 2022-2023 budget. Here is a summary of the changes that have been made to last year's budget. If you would like to see a detailed spreadsheet, you can find it at this link: [budget 2022-2023](#).

The total proposed budget is \$402,437. Of this, \$385,440 is expected to come from pledges, \$3,000 to come from rent and other sources, and \$13,997 from non-pledged income, which may include late pledges, visitor contributions, and new member contributions.

In addition, Session authorized \$23,600 to be taken from unspent funds from the 2021-2022 fiscal year (the net money unspent last year was \$58,997.49) to pay for additional items that were not included in the 2022-2023 budget due to limited pledged income. This will fund the 3-month transition salary and health care for the Technical Director, capital reserve, an intern for Christian Education, the pastor's contingency fund, and an external financial audit. That would make the total budgeted expenditures including the Session additions equal to \$426,037.

The 2022-2023 budget includes the following adjustments from the previous year:

- A 4% cost of living raise for all employees except for Dana, who is already covered by his original contract, as recommended by Personnel.

- A continuation of 10% cuts (last year's was also cut 10 percent from the 2020-2021 budget) for all ministry teams except where they have updated their requests to reflect changes in operation or cost (such as for the CCL music license). This means that most ministry teams will keep the same budget as last year.

- The removal of the items listed in the paragraph above the bulleted list to be funded by Session instead of in the regular budget.

- The conversion of the Technical Director's position from full-time to 10 hours per week with a 3-month transition period starting August 1, as previously approved by Session. Expenses for the transition above 10 hours per week will be paid out of Session funds as listed in the paragraph above the bulleted list.

- Adjustment of the Technical Assistant's job to include 3 hours per week, which reflects what is actually used.

- The combination of Judy and Robyn's position into a single job that Judy will take over. To prevent conflicts with one person controlling both income and expenditures, she will always count the offering with another person present.

- A new position previously approved by Session that will combine Christian Education and the Neighborhood Coordinator position to be paid \$26,000 per year plus FICA for part-time work. A position description was approved by Session on August 24, 2022.

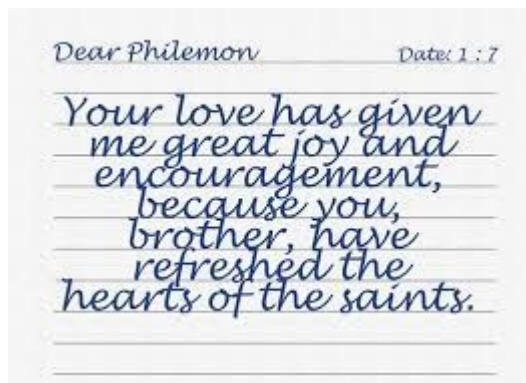
Thank you for your continued faithful support of Covenant's programs and mission through your pledges, volunteer work, and prayer. You have blessed our church in many ways! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at pnknox@yahoo.com or call me at 706-543-9560 at home.

Sincerely, Pam Knox, Treasurer

PRAYER CONCERNS: DeLynda Tweedell's stepmother, Clarice and her health, as she cares for DeLynda's Dad who is home from the hospital; 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 29—Sept. 4

Monday	Jeremiah 18: 1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 139: 1-6
Wednesday	Psalm 139: 13-18
Thursday	Deuteronomy 30: 15-20
Friday	Psalm 1
Saturday	Philemon 1: 1-21
Sunday	Luke 14: 25-33



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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



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 # 8**

Anticipated Pledges — \$59,298.46

Actual Pledges — \$60,098.69

Non-Pledged — \$3,443.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Olomouc/Ukraine Refugee \$4,315.10



Church School Classes IN PERSON & 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, September 1 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 Book of Joy* This

book explores the idea of joy through the teachings of the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. What is the nature of true joy? What are the obstacles to joy? The book outlines eight pillars of joy—perspective, humility, humor, acceptance, forgiveness, gratitude, compassion, and generosity. Couldn't you use a little more joy in your life? (Bay 1, Shelf 3) – Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*. (If you would like to write a few sentences highlighting a book or DVD in our library, please contact me.)



**Graduates Covered
Dish Luncheon
(Covenant's Retirees)**

Will resume on Tuesday,
September 13 at 12:30pm
with program guest Pastor Dana Waters.

More info to follow!



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, September 1

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!

HAPPY 60th
anniversary

Congratulations to

Jim & Marcia Verbrugge

*On their 60th Wedding Anniversary
this week!*



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/>



**ONLINE READERS! Covenant Game Night
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.

(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 |



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

Earmark your check for Olomouc/Ukraine.

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.



Please click on this link for more information:
[80+ Capital Campaign](#)



September

Birthdays!

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Frey | 16 Mary Barnett |
| Dennis Calbos | 20 Zoe Brewster |
| 3 Beecher Mathes | 22 Mark Bell |
| Megan Sperr | 25 Janet Smith |
| 4 Adam Brooks | 27 Asher Hill |
| 5 Kay Swan | 28 Alice Herndon |
| 8 Shari Cobb | |
| 9 Nami Kisaalita | |
| 12 Joyce Placek | |
| Steve Follin | |



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS....

- **Game Night** – August 26. All ages are welcome. We've got a lot of games to choose from and will also have a table set up to learn/play Mexican Train Dominoes.
- **Rally Day!** -- August 28. Gather to hear more about Covenant's offerings for the coming year and enjoy a hot dog lunch after church.
- **Fall Picnic** – (date TBD) Come enjoy barbecue and good company on Covenant's grounds from 5:30pm to 8pm!
- **Game Night** -- September 23. What new game will you learn or what old one can you teach?
- **World Communion Reception** -- October 2. Enjoy a reception after worship on Sunday that features different types of bread and grapes. We're celebrating unity with churches of many denominations across the globe.
- **Game Night** -- October 21. Got a favorite game you'd like to show everyone? Let us know!
- **Game Night** -- November 18. The holiday season is coming. Come try out some games that you can later share with family.
- **Holiday Decorating Party** -- November 27. After church on Sunday, let's decorate the outside of the church and the Fellowship Hall. Covid-19 precautions allowing, we hope to offer a light lunch.
- **Christmas Progressive Dinner** – December 3. Covid-19 numbers permitting, we hope to bring back Covenant's beloved tradition where people sign up to share parts of a meal in different homes. (December 10 is the backup date if UGA plays in the SEC Championships on December 3.)