

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, December 04 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
 December 04, 2022

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

Covenant welcomes our new Outreach Coordinator, Amy Baer! More details to come in next weeks Covenanter.



Christmas Choral Worship

Sunday, December 11 at 10:45am sharp

Join us for a morning of carols and festive music. This is our tradition of Christmas Choral Worship and there will be offerings from our handbell choir and adult choir as well as solos and instrumental pieces. There will be a cookies and punch reception after service hosted by Fellowship.

Meals on Wheels - to be received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$2,000.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 6 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously. You will find an envelope on the table in the narthex. Please mark in the memo portion of your check MOW. **Consider making a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.**



Time Is Coming!

For one week every three months, Covenant has the opportunity to serve our homeless neighbors through the Family Promise program. Families that meet FP criteria use temporary living quarters at Milledge Ave Baptist Church. Covenant members select opportunities such as providing evening meals, serving as evening or overnight hosts during the week, serving as morning, mid-day, afternoon, evening or overnight hosts on weekends at MABC. December can be crazy busy but we hope your celebration and gifting plans will include giving some time to serve the neediest among us. Covenant's week is December 11-18, so check out the available time slots at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022> Julie and Don Bower

Presbyterian Women will meet Dec 8th, at 9:30am. Gloria will be leading our lesson. We will be having brunch after the lesson and ask each one to bring a food that "Laughs" to share with the group. The definition of "Laughs" is found on page 43 of our Study Book. Sharing these foods will complement our lesson, part of the series on Sabbath.

Purchase a beautiful live Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special! They are used in the Worship Center throughout the Christmas Season. Sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering room. Make your check payable to Covenant with poinsettia in the memo portion of your check. \$10 each.



Thursday, Dec. 8, 15 at 2pm	Knitters & Knotters
Sunday, Dec 4	9:30am Church School, 11:00am Worship
Wednesday, Dec 7 & 14 at 5:30pm	Wonderful Wednesdays
Thursday, Dec. 8	9:30am Presbyterian Women Bible Study
Sunday, December 11 10:45am Sharp	Christmas Choral Worship with a cookies and punch reception in the fellowship hall following worship
Tuesday, Dec 13	Covenant Retirees Luncheon at Presbyterian Village
Sunday, Dec 18	9:30am Church School, 11:00am Worship
Saturday, Dec 24	5:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

CHOIR & BELL PRACTICE TIMES!

Choir—Wednesday, Dec 7th at 7:15pm

Choral Worship rehearsal Saturday, Dec 10th: Bells need to arrive at 9:00am and Choir at 9:45am

Choral Worship Sunday, Dec 11th starts at 10:45am SHARP! Bells need to arrive at 9:30am and Choir at 10:00am warm up



OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUT AT CHRISTMAS!

As most members know, Covenant is one of several local congregations serving as hosts to families in the Family Promise of Athens program, which provides temporary shelter to a few families at a time in the Athens area. We thank all who volunteer their time during our four weeks of hosting per year at Milledge Ave. Baptist Church.

Beyond that, there is a great need to support FP families with donations during the holidays. The FP Executive Director, Madison Sanders, tells us that they will greatly appreciate any of the following donations for Christmas: Walmart gift cards, cash/check, and online donations (familypromiseathens.org). Some Covenant folks enjoy shopping for gifts for specific guests, and the FP staff is happy to provide a list of their needs. In that case, please call Tenaja English, the Shelter Coordinator, at 706-425-1881, or contact her via email: serve@familypromiseathens.org

Depending on what and how you may wish to donate, you have the option of mail, online donations, or in-person drop-offs at the FP Day Center, 355 Pulaski St., located in the First Baptist Church of Athens.

Thanks in advance, for your generosity to the greater Athens community during this holiday season.

**NEW FALL
SCHEDULE for Sunday**

**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

Sunday, December 4

Liturgist: Jerry Shannon

Ushers/Greeters: Dorothy Newland, Jim Newland, Jim Whitney, Sandy Whitney

Sunday, December 11

Liturgist: Pam Knox

Ushers/Greeters: Randy Parish, Susan Parish, Robyn Malone

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

_____	***	1st Sunday	Judy Capie	2nd Sunday
Pam Knox		3rd Sunday	Tim Foutz	4th Sunday
Dick Zimdars		5th Sunday		

GROUNDS STEWARDS

- First Monday Week—Katy Terry & Chris Wilson
- Second Monday Week—Don Bower & Alex Clark
- Third Monday Week—Phil Hale & Phil Koehler
- Fourth Monday Week—Susan & Randy Parish



December 4, 2022

Marie Ballard-Myer, Sandy Whitney

December 11, 2022

Joan & Hannah Baird

Wonderful Wednesday's December 7th

5:30pm—6:30pm Dinner & Fellowship.

Donations are welcome .

Please come a little early to help set up and/or stay to help clean up. There will be homework and activity time for kids of all ages.

6:00pm Handbell Practice

6:30pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Dana

7:30pm Adult Choir

***** An Open and Shut Case*****

An opener/closer is needed for the first Sunday of the month. Just show up first, unlock, the doors, turn on the lights. Do the opposite when everyone leaves (*well, this IS covpres and nothing is ever that simple, but I promise you won't be overtasked*). Please see me or Rich Reeves if you can fill this important role.

Brian Striggow, B&G chair

Covenant's Retirees will have their December luncheon

at Presbyterian Village, Tuesday, Dec. 13, hosted by Sara

& Tom Cooney. Car pooling will meet at the church at

11:30am and will depart at 11:45am sharp. *There are still*

some spots available -Please reserve your spot with Sara!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Patrick McMaster's mother, Belle, had a fall and is in the ICU in Covington; Patrick's brother, Neal, is at Emory recovering from heart cath and no blockage; Steve Rathbun's father, Bob, at home after hospitalization for cellulitis, and Steve's mother, Maria, under hospice care; Teresa Mauldin's cousin Ruth Lingle, who has been diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and will start antibody therapy soon; Bob Reinert and family in the passing of Shirley Reinert; Pastor Dana's mom, Joy, at home, diagnosed with glioblastoma; our nation.

Bible Readings for —December 5—11

Isaiah 35: 1-10, Psalm 146: 5-10, Luke 1:46b-55

James 5: 7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11

Read in your Advent Devotional...

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.

GUEST VIOLINIST THIS SUNDAY

Guest violinist Itamar Zorman will play two Dvorak selections in celebration of the November 27th 41st wedding anniversary of Paula and Dick Zimdars and in honor of the December 8th 77th wedding anniversary of Marie and George Zimdars. Dvorak was born 160 miles from Olomouc, location of Covenant's sister congregation. The city of Olomouc holds an annual Dvorak Festival. Dvorak's two most important sacred works, Te Deum and Requiem, were given their European premiers in Olomouc.

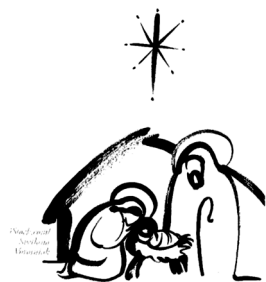
Katharine and Ben Patrick are pleased to announce the birth of their first child on November 16 - Abigail Claire. She will be called Abby. Proud grandparents are Linda Rogers and Steve Follin. Mother, father, and child are doing well. We have seen Abby and she is the cutest thing! **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Paper copies of the Advent Devotional, *Attending to Advent*, are available on the table in the narthex. (large print are also available) The online link was sent out Friday, November 18.

*The Presbyterian Outlook has requested that a copy of the devotional **not** be posted online.*

Attending to Advent:
poetry, prose and prayer

OUTLOOK



About these devotions:

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be hectic and full. The opportunity to pause and attend to Advent can get lost amid preparations for the big holiday, vacation plans, or end-of-year work. This daily devotional, which includes submissions from poets you have read in the pages of the Outlook, invites readers to pause and reflect on narratives in the Christmas story. Each week, the devotions address a different theme: Week 1: Mary; Week 2: Joseph; Week 3: Herod; Week 4: the Christ child; Christmas Eve: Emmanuel. Daily readings will take us deeper into the scriptural story of the birth of Christ and explore contemporary subjects like parenting, power, war and violence, vulnerability, innocence, and the many ways God's incarnation can be experienced. From the Presbyterian

Outlook.

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 #22**

Anticipated Pledges — \$163,070.76

Actual Pledges — \$162,234.39

Non-Pledged — \$13,814.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!
Thornwell Home for Children—\$1,376.50*



Church School Classes IN PERSON & via ZOOM!

UPPER ROOM CLASS- Sunday mornings at **9:30am**, James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, via ZOOM please contact James at gill-billvolume1@yahoo.com. Class meets in person in the upper room.

**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

JOURNEY CLASS—Sunday mornings, **9:30am**, Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using the book, **How God Works**, by David DeSteno. If you would like to participate via ZOOM please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com. Class meet in person in the Journey Class Room.

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.*



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, Dec. 8 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!

LIBRARY



Library Corner: *A Treasury of Christmas Stories*

Henry Van Dyke wrote the classic Christmas story “The Other Wise Man.” *A Treasury of Christmas Stories* includes this story as well as eleven others for your holiday reading pleasure. Find this book as well as other holiday books at Bay C, Shelf 3. —Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

Please note that the deadline for articles for the Covenanter is Thursday by 12noon. Thank you for your help. Karen

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, December 8

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.

Town & Gown presents: *Murder on the Orient Express*

Story by: Agatha Christie

Adapted by: Ken Ludwig **Starring Covenant's own WYATT HERNDON!**

Directed by: Derek Adams

All Aboard for Murder! Based on the classic Agatha Christie novel, Ken Ludwig's adaptation gives us a ticket onto the famous train when a man is found dead and a snowdrift stops the locomotive in its tracks. Detective Poirot must uncover each passenger's secrets to find the killer before he or she strikes again!

Show Dates:

December 2, 2022 at 8:00 pm
December 3, 2022 at 8:00 pm
December 4, 2022 at 2:00 pm
December 8, 2022 at 8:00 pm
December 9, 2022 at 8:00 pm
December 10, 2022 at 8:00 pm
December 11, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Admission:

\$20 for Adults
\$15 for Members, Seniors, and Students
\$12 for Members, Seniors, and Students on Thursday
All guests are required to wear a mask while inside the theater. Masks must cover the mouth and nose and fit tightly to the face (no bandanas, face shields, or gaiters). Vaccinations and boosters, while not required for entry, are strongly recommended.
Address: 115 Grady Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

Whew! While the repairs to the termite-eaten sills of the CE wing were finished a few weeks ago, there remained the matter of the undermined corner of the adjacent lobby slab suspended over the excavation. During the last week, B&G poured a new concrete footing under the corner before the slab cracked or collapsed. Dodged that one. As with the structural work on the breezeway in the weeks before, the assistance of Jeffrey, our yard guy, and Matt, our homeless-guest carpenter, was essential. Brian Striggow, B&G chair.