

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

T H E C O V E N A N T E R
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Member NE GEORGIA Presbytery,
Synod of the South Atlantic,
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



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.

MEET COVENANT'S NEW COORDINATOR OF OUTREACH! Greetings, my new CPC Friends! My name is Amy Baer and I am your new Coordinator of Outreach. I am thankful to be stepping back into ministry with you all here at Covenant after several years of working from home with my three children. Just a little bit about me...I am originally from Kansas City, MO. and I grew up in a church that was very focused on service to our community. From an early age, my church family taught me the importance of using our hands and feet to help our neighbors...whether it was serving a meal, organizing a clothes closet, helping at the shelter, painting and yard work, tutoring at the after school program, or stocking a food pantry.



I graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with dual-bachelors degrees in Communication and Art-Graphic Design. My first career was as an in-house Graphic Designer a non-profit teachers association and a corporate publishing company. But that career took a backseat to ministry within a few years when my husband and I moved to Decatur, GA. to attend Columbia Theological Seminary. During those years of study, I also volunteered with every Atlanta organization serving people in need that I could find. After graduation and ordination, I spent a few years as a Hospice Chaplain and then I served as the Director of Volunteers and Congregational Development for CROS Ministries in Palm Beach County, FL. We facilitated a wide variety of hunger-relief programs ranging from daily emergency food pantries, hot food programs, after-school snack programs, a county-wide gleaning program, and summer camps for the most underserved children in the county.

My husband Ryan and I have three sons, Joshua (8), Nathan (11) and Daniel (11). I look forward to serving Christ alongside you! *Amy*

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.**



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.



- Sunday, December 11 Christmas Choral Worship with a cookies and punch
10:45am Sharp reception in the fellowship hall following worship
- Tuesday, Dec 13 Covenant Retirees Luncheon at Presbyterian Village
- Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30pm Wonderful Wednesdays
- Thursday, Dec 15 at 2pm Knitters & Knotters
- Sunday, Dec 18 9:30am Church School, 11:00am Worship
- Saturday, Dec 24 at 5:30pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with
Communion
- Sunday, Dec 25 11:00am Christmas Worship with carols

For further information please check elsewhere in the Covenanter

CHOIR & BELL PRACTICE TIMES!

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 11

Liturgist: Pam Knox

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

Sunday, December 18

Liturgist: Luanne Rigsby

Ushers/Greeters: Bill & Luanne Rigsby, Alan Edwards, Judy Capie

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

Fifth Monday Week—Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



December 11, 2022

Joan & Hannah Baird

December 18, 2022

DeLynda & Ansley Tweedell

Wonderful Wednesdays December 14th

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

**Volunteers
Needed!**



Looking for a way to express your God given talents and minister to our children?? Volunteers are needed for our young people, grades

k—5th grade for Sunday morning Church School.

Let Amy know at abaer@covpresathens.org if you are interested or just want more information.

Thanks!

For the Holidays the church office will be closed December 27 and January 3.

Pastor Dana will be on vacation on December 28—31



PRAYER CONCERNS: Ellie McMinn having lumbar spine surgery, Monday, Dec 12 at St. Mary's; Patrick McMaster's mother, Belle, recovering from fall; Pastor Dana's mom, Joy, undergoing treatment for glioblastoma; Asher Hill diagnosed with IgA nephropathy, an auto-immune disorder that affects the kidneys; and our nation.

Bible Readings for —December 12-18

Isaiah 7: 10-16, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19,
Romans 1: 1-7, Matthew 1: 18-25

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.*

Highlights of the December 6, 2023, Stated Session Meeting

As her devotional, Katy Arora read Acts 14:21-28, which says that in every place they visited, Paul and Barnabas would appoint leaders in each church to be elders.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, read a letter from the UGA Presbyterian Student Center requesting that each church in the NEGA Presbytery consider making a pledge to the Nexxt80 Campaign for renovation of their building.

The Session reviewed the Financial Summary for November, 2022, as well as the detailed financial report for the month. According to the report, everything looks to be on track for the month and year.

The Class of 2025 Elders, Kathryn Fowler, Carolyn Hatfield, Ansley Tweedell and Dick Zimdars, as well as Donny Whitehead, who is filling the unexpired term of Kathy Boardman, Class of 2023, was examined and passed with flying colors. The new elders will co-chair the following Ministry Teams: Carolyn Hatfield - Building and Grounds, Kathryn Fowler – Finance, Ansley Tweedell - Congregational Care, Donny Whitehead - Christian Education, Dick Zimdars - Worship. The Session expressed sincere gratitude to the Class of 2022, Don Bower, Kay Brooks, Brian Striggow and Chris Wilson, who are rotating off of the Session in January.

The 2023 Session Retreat will be January 27-28, 2023. Location to be determined.

The Session discussed the Mission Study Task Force report, beautifully compiled by Bert Ballard-Myer, Abby Horvath, Linda Koehler and Chris Wilson. The report was approved with suggested changes. Completion of this document is a big step towards establishing a Pastor Nominating Committee. The report will now be sent to the NEGA Presbytery Committee on Ministry for approval and then presented to the congregation in January of February during a question/answer session. The Session approved a letter drafted by the Mission Study Task Force to be sent to members who we haven't seen since Covid in an effort to establish an accurate number of active members.

There will be a volunteer recognition/ appreciation event on February 12, 2023.

Some members of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church are very willing to come and help with outreach activities such as the food bank, grounds pickup, etc.

More volunteers are needed for Covenant's host week with Family Promise, December 11-18, 2022.

Submitted by Clerk of Session, *Luanne Rigsby*

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 #23**

Anticipated Pledges — \$170,483.08

Actual Pledges — \$178,880.64

Non-Pledged — \$14,303.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Thornwell Home for Children—\$2,476.50

MOW—\$4,250.00



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 gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com. Class meets in person in the upper room.

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.

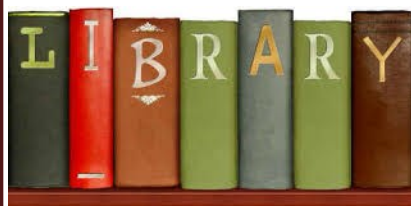
THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE is actively seeking applicants for music director & piano accompanist. If anyone in the congregation knows someone who is interested, please give their contact information to *Katy Terry, Gloria Pylant, Betsy Burmeister, Laura Foskey, Jerry Shannon or Abby Horvath.*



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, Dec. 15 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!



Library Corner: *Spark Joy*

Marie Kondo's popular book about organizing and tidying up holds a spiritual component. *The Wall Street Journal* called it "a mystical manifesto on letting go of the stuff we don't need." If December sometimes feels like a time of excess, this book may inspire you to make a few changes in 2023. It can be found at Bay 1, Shelf 2 —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 15

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 November Covenant served 903 food insecure folks over 3 Thursdays.
That includes 384 adults, 296 children and 223 senior adults.
Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Designated Opportunities to Give 2022-2023

As the Christmas season approaches with the New Year just around the corner, practicing generosity to help others brings delight to our hearts and to the holiday season. Someone said, “the best way to catch the spirit of Christmas is to give it to someone else.”

To help us restore life-giving balance, Covenant offers alternatives, so that giving can once again become the sign of the season which celebrates the gift of God's serving love, born in a stable in Bethlehem long ago. You will find on the table in the narthex a list of benevolent opportunities to support along with a list of special offerings received during the year for your planning. Make you check payable to Covenant and designate how you want your contribution to be used.

