

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, December 25 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER  
 December 25, 2022

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

Christmas Eve Worship  
 Candlelight and Communion

Saturday, Dec. 24  
 at 5:30pm

Please note there will be child care  
 for the **Christmas Eve**  
 worship service.



Christmas Day Worship  
 Sunday, December 25  
 at 11:00am  
 (no church school)



**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.**



**The Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. *We will receive this offering through the month of January, 2023.*



50% of your gifts assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of your gifts make it possible for student to learn and grow in faith in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously...*for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

**Ways to Give:** donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy) or text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give, or make check out to Covenant with JOY OFFERING in the memo portion of the check.

**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 25

Liturgist: Sandy Whitney

Ushers/Greeters: Katy Terry, Judy Capie

Sunday, January 1

Liturgist: Jim Anderson

Ushers/Greeters: Stephanie Cahill, DeLynda & Hank Tweedell,  
Paige Cummings



**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 25, 2022

bring Your Child to Church  
day!

January 1, 2022 bring you child to church  
day!

**Wonderful Wednesdays Resumes January 11, 2023**

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](mailto: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:** Brian Striggow's mother, Margaret, who is 91, with ongoing health concerns; Marcia Verbrugge had a stroke on Monday evening and was airlifted to Piedmont Atlanta. She is showing good signs of improvement so far. She will likely be moving to a rehab facility in Athens in the coming days; Bob Reinert has been at Emory St. Joseph Hospital in Atlanta for fluid build-up. He will be moving to rehab this week; Ellie McMinn came home last Friday from the hospital following a successful lumbar spinal surgery at St. Mary's on December 12; Steve Rathbun's mother Maria passed away on Saturday. She had been under hospice care in Athens.

**Bible Readings for —December 26—January 1**

Isaiah 63: 7-9, Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147: 12-20,  
Psalm 148, Hebrews 2: 10-18, Ephesians 1: 3-14,  
John 1: (1-9) 10-18

*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.*

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE...**



Make great gifts ! They don't take up much space and they don't need dusting on a shelf 😊

Red bags of coffee are \$7.50 each

Chocolate bars are \$3.00 each

**The Keymaster Speaks:** If you have a Fellowship Hall key to the church, it will now open the front door. Keyholders are also eligible for an access card, access key fob, or PIN Number access to the electronic front door lock. See Asher for these. *Brian Striggow, B&G*

**GREETINGS FROM OLOMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC!** Dear friends, Warm greetings from Advent Olomouc covered with snow! I would like to thank you on behalf of our congregation for the very generous gift we received from you yesterday. It means a lot to us. We try to help alleviate the suffering of Ukrainians, either as refugees in the Czech Republic or through the coordinated help of NGOs that help directly in Ukraine. We keep praying for the horrible situation in Ukraine and for our new Ukrainian friends. Some of them decided to visit their families for upcoming Christmas time, but the situation in Ukraine is still very unstable, we fear for them. We are wishing you a blessed Christmas and hope to meet some of you in person here in Olomouc at the Partnership Conference next July! *Jana*

**GAME NIGHT**

**Game Night in January -- Doing some New Year's cleaning out?** Got a Christmas gift you can't use? On Friday, January 20 from 7pm to 9pm, Covenant's Game Night crew will be hosting Bingo. Bring a few items you don't want but that someone else might treasure and we'll use these for Bingo prizes. (And for those not interested in Bingo, you're welcome to play board or card games in another part of the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours.)

*Everyone is welcome to bring snacks to eat yourself or to share.*

Game nights are planned monthly for every third Friday evening from 7pm to 9pm.

If you'd like to get the upcoming dates on your calendar, here they are for 2023! January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, and November 17. (December is so busy that we skip Game Night that month.)

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 #25**

Anticipated Pledges — \$185,307.69

Actual Pledges — \$193,800.64

Non-Pledged — \$16,389.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

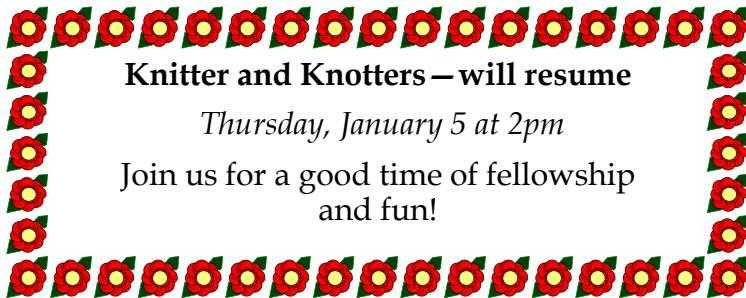
*MOW—\$5,500.00*



**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 [gill-billvolume1@yahoo.com](mailto:gill-billvolume1@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](mailto:phale50@hotmail.com). Class meet in person in the Journey Class Room.

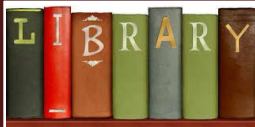


**Knitter and Knotters – will resume**

*Thursday, January 5 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:** *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* If you're looking for a devotional book for the upcoming year, consider this book by Kate Bowler. Bowler was a divinity-school professor and young mother when she suddenly found herself facing a Stage IV cancer diagnosis. In the years since, her health has stabilized and her popular podcast *Everything Happens* explores how "life becomes both hard and beautiful when we abandon certainty." This devotional book offers "reflections on how we can make sense of life not as a pursuit of endless progress." Although this book cannot be checked out for an entire year, our two-month check-out period is long enough for you to see if the book will be helpful as a daily guide. It can be found at Bay H, Shelf 4. -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. **Food Pantry is Thursdays, 1pm—3pm.***

**Next food distribution is on Thursday, December 29.**

**URGENT NEED FOR FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS!** We urgently need your help keeping our food pantry distribution going for the next few weeks! Our fearless leader Bert Ballard-Myer and our UGA student volunteers will all be unable to be at the pantry for the next few weeks. Please consider signing up in the next day or two so that we will know if we need to close the pantry for these dates:

**January 5 & 12**

Click the Signup Genius link below OR feel free to email Amy at [abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org) and we will sign up for you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>

We need volunteers for the following two shifts and tasks for each date: 10am—noon: unpacking food boxes, setting up tables for assembly of the bags, filling food bags (activities that could be done seated; opening grocery bags for assembly, flattening boxes)

1pm—3pm: wheeling carts out to the driveway, handing out and gathering sign-in sheets from guests in their cars, loading bags into vehicles, cleanup boxes and carts. Thank you!

**THANK YOU FROM FAMILY PROMISE-ATHENS!** We have been blown away by the generosity of our community. We received enough gift cards and gifts to provide assistance for over 20 families! Particularly, thank you to Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Union Christian Church, UPS, Athens Academy students, the Dorfman Family, and Cofer's who largely supported this effort.

# JANUARY

## *Birthdays*

2 Pam Knox

4 Bob Reinert

Eli Whitehead

5 Cheryl Devaney

6 Wyatt Herndon

10 Brian Parido

Nathan Brooks

10 Jan Wolfe

Ross Johnson

13 Margaret Frey

17 Joan Baird

Jonathan Green

19 Karl Ritzler

21 Jim Anderson

Louise Schimmel

James Foutz

Lily Herndon

23 Linda Koehler

25 Jessica Wolfe

27 Sharon Hix

Al Huber

Charlie Huber

29 Shannon Goodrick

Rebecca Silver





*The poinsettias in the worship center were given in memory and honor of those listed below:*

**In Memory of:**

Beth Nunnally, &

Margaret & Truman Terry

Horace & Claudia Burmeister

Stan & Doris Reaves

Marie & George Zimdars

Pauline & Stanley Marshall

Frances & David Glaspey

Jim Bowden, Stacy Bowden, &

David Bowden

Mary Ruth Ballard, &

Wanda Wilcox, Helen Springs

Jake Tinga

John Wetherington

**In Honor of:**

All the wonderful Covenant  
Volunteers

**Given by:**

Katy Terry

Betsy Burmeister

Rich Reaves

Dick Zimdars

Paula Zimdars

Judy Capie

Jere Bowden

Marie & Bert Ballard-Myer

Pat Tinga

Karen Wetherington

**Given by:**

Covenant

**There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:** There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus happy." Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.