

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, January 01, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
January 01, 2023

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



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 or text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give, or make check out to Covenant with JOY OFFERING in the memo portion of the check.

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.**

A Big Thank You!

We want to offer a big thank-you to all who participated in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services! What beautiful and meaningful services!! It was wonderful to see so many families and returning members and visitors on Christmas Eve! What a joyful celebration!

And a special thank-you to Betsy Burmeister for coordinating our musicians and for playing piano for these two services. The music is an integral part of worship and so special at this season!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Gratefully, the Worship Ministry Team

**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, January 1

Liturgist: Jim Anderson

Ushers/Greeters: Stephanie Cahill, Paige Cummings and TBD

Sunday, January 8

Liturgist: Sandy Whitney

Ushers/Greeters: Bob Brewster, Sarah Lamb, Carol & Dennis Calbos

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



January 1, 2022
bring you child to
church day!

January 8, 2022 Clayton & Grace Adams

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 if you are interested or just want more information.

Thanks!

For the Holidays the church office will be closed Tuesday, January 3.



PRAYER CONCERNS: Dell Whitehead recovering from surgery for broken elbow; Brian Striggow's mother, Margaret ,who is 91, with ongoing health concerns; Marcia Verbrugge in rehab at home; Bob Reinert at Elbert Memorial Rehab; Ellie McMinn recovering from back surgery at home; Steve Rathbun and family in the passing of his mother, Maria.

Bible Readings for —January 2—8

Isaiah 49: 1-7, Psalm 29

Acts 10: 34-43, Matthew 3: 13-17

Baptism of the Lord

*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.*

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*

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.

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 #26**

Anticipated Pledges — \$192,720.00

Actual Pledges — \$205,437.11

Non-Pledged — \$16,517.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

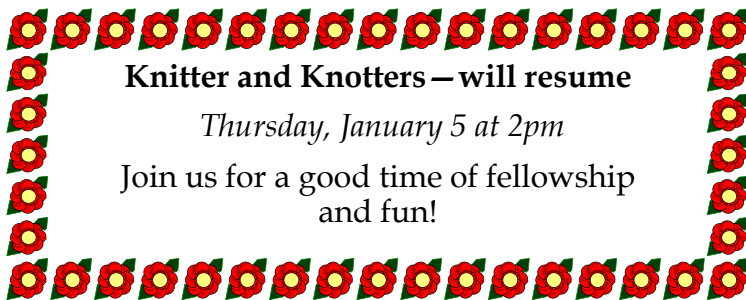
MOW—\$10,202.00



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.



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: *A Year with C. S. Lewis*

A Year with C. S. Lewis: Daily Readings from His Classic Works edited by Patricia Klein (Bay F, Shelf 6) is a great way to enjoy inspiration each day. This book cannot be checked out for an entire year, but our two-month check-out period is long enough for you to see if the book will be helpful as a daily guide. -

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.





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 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.

Dear Covenant Family,

Thank you for your thoughtful gifts!

Your office staff,

Judy & Karen

Thank you ❤️



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'.