

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, January 08, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER January 08, 2023

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



The Heart of Covenant Dinner for church adults on Valentine's Day is coming up the evening of Tuesday, February 14. We're thankful that after several years of the pandemic, we'll be able to hold the event this year! In the past, this event required pre-registration and included a meal created by Covenant cooks, potluck desserts, and get-to-know-each-other games. Would you be willing to help with planning, set-up, cooking, or clean-up? Please contact Valerie Stone (valeriefreystone@gmail.com). Thank you!

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein..." Do you feel appreciation and awe for the beautiful and diverse home that God has given us? Do you have concerns about mankind's impact on this home?

The Green Dream Team needs new leadership and members. The team has worked for the past decade in the areas of worship, building and grounds, education, and outreach to inform and implement changes that reflect our responsibility for environmental stewardship. Many of our members have moved or are finding themselves in the "aging" category. We can no longer serve as leaders, but would be willing to shepherd a new team into existence and remain available to help in any way we can. Over the years we have worked on everything from acquiring dishware/flatware to cut down on waste, helped inform and implement recycling for the church and its members, taught classes in Covenant Connection, encouraged environmental awareness and climate issues for study in the adult church school, put up educational bulletin boards, invited speakers, etc.



If you feel a deep connection to God's creation and feel that stewardship of the earth and its biodiversity of life is important to our religious faith and you would be willing to take a leadership role in this, we invite you to let Jere Bowden or Barbara Burnett know of your interest.

After 10+ years as a certified earth care congregation within the PCUSA, the yearly recertification is very straightforward and simple. Many stewardship practices are already in place at Covenant on a permanent basis. You may choose to meet on any schedule and prioritize your own visions for how to move forward. There are many websites both within the Presbyterian Church as well as other denominations from which to glean lots of good ideas.

Websites recommended by the PCUSA for earth care congregations:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregation/

www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/

www.blessedtommorrow.org/about-blessed-tomorrow

www.creationjustice.org

**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 8

Liturgist: Warren Combs

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

Sunday, January 15

Liturgist: Pam Knox

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

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 8, 2022
Clayton & Grace Adams

January 15, 2023
Valerie, Brian & Eli Stone

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

*Dear Covenant,
Kira and I are so thankful for the love offering you gave us as well as all the Christmas cards and delicious goodies. Your love and generosity have warmed our hearts this Christmas season. We are grateful for our Covenant family. Blessings on this new year!*

*Joyfully,
Dana & Kira*



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!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Dell Whitehead is recovering from surgery for a fractured elbow; Bob Reinert is at home following a stay in rehab; Ed Ralph (former member) with a broken hip; Marcia Verbrugge is recovering well and doing rehab at home; Ellie McMinn continues to recover at home following back surgery; Brian Striggow's mother, Margaret, who is 91, with ongoing health concerns; Steve Rathbun and family in the passing of his mother, Maria.

Bible Readings for —January 9—15

*Isaiah 49: 1-7, Psalm 140: 1-11,
I Corinthians 1: 1-9, John 1: 29-42*

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

*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.)

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.*

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 #27**

Anticipated Pledges — \$200,132.30

Actual Pledges — \$207,239.04

Non-Pledged — \$16,579.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

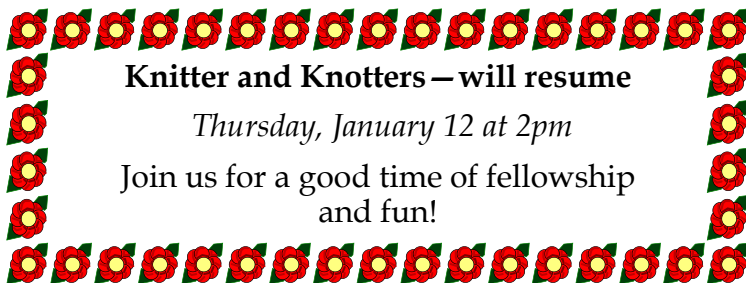
MOW—\$11,072.00, JOY Gift—\$675.00



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. 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.

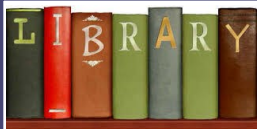


Knitter and Knotters – will resume

Thursday, January 12 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

Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America.

Author Michelle Kennedy describes the circumstances that led her to live for many months in her car with her three small children. She also describes the challenges they faced during that time and the difficulties in changing their situation. This eye-opening story can be found at Bay E, Shelf 1. –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, January 12

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:

Thursday, January 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!

For the month of December Covenant served 1,745 food insecure persons, which include 480 children, and 261 Senior Adults.

Thank you Covenant and...

May We All Have Enough!



La Table'

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

(more info will follow)

Presbyterian Women Bible Study will

meet Thursday, January 12 at

9:30am. Sandy Whitney will be leading

our lesson on chapter 5,

Sabbath & Servitude. We will meet in per-

son and via ZOOM. Look for the Zoom

link Wednesday morning in your email.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Olomouc, December 2022

Dear friends,

Many greetings to you all from myself, the pastor Jan Lukáš and my family from ECCB Olomouc.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and Christmas time. Let me send you many wishes and greetings, the fullness of joy, hope and goodwill....

We are looking forward for the Partnership Conference. I am sure we will have many things to say after the long Covid period. Another matter we have to face is the war in Ukraine caused by the Russian aggression. More than 300,000 Ukrainians found asylum in our country. Several families, including mine, invited Ukrainian refugees in their homes. And many other people and organizations help until now, including you. Thanks for your generous financial gift!

People and nations living in freedom and democracy can hardly imagine what it means to be a refugee. But as far as we know, the Bible is full of refugees, full of people on the way and in motion. Since Abraham until the Holy family, those who trust in God, have to be on the way, instead of living safely home. The same experience concerns also the early church. Often was this the only way how to save their lives.

Jesus Christ, the Saviour and refugee, shows us all, where and how to help. How to become neighbour. He is near to all poor, as well as the to the rich. To be honest, we all are poor before him....

But apostle Paul writes: *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9*

Dear friends, we stay together at Christmas time, as well as during the year 2023. God bless you all.

Yours truly,

Jan Lukáš, Olomouc