

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER January 15, 2023

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

### Covenant Hosts Family Promise Families—

Covenant will be the hosting congregation for Family Promise families the week of **Jan 29-Feb 5**. One family of six just moved into their own home, leaving two families in the program at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. A new family should soon join them there. We will need volunteers for evening and overnight hosting, and to provide supper meals. You can find open slots and sign up at the website below.

**Note:** *Some volunteers have had a problem signing up on their phones...it is easier on a computer. If you have a problem, please let Randy or Susan Parish know.*

Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022#/>

This will be the first of four 2023 hosting weeks for Covenant. Our weeks will be:

1 - Jan 29-Feb 5, 2 - May 28-Jun 4, 3 - Aug 20-Aug 27, 4 - Oct 22-Oct 29.

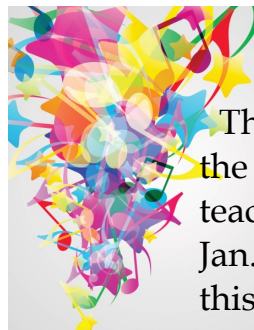


Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Following supper, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please join us as we discern God's mission for our church for 2023!



### Children's Sunday School (K-5) Update

This class will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall with Miss Betsy teaching "Worship & Arts" through Jan. 29. **Beginning** on Sunday, Feb. 5, this class will meet in Room 214.

*(next to the Journey Classroom)*

### Covenant's Breakfast Club

*IS BACK AFTER A 2 YEAR HIATUS*

Please join us at Cracker Barrel on Monday, January 16 at 8am. We will have a good time of fellowship and food. We will also discuss when future meetings will be held.

All are welcome!



*Put this bee in  
your bonnet!*



**La Table**, the major fundraiser for Family Promise, will be **Tuesday, February 28**. Please mark your calendars and plan to enjoy a lovely luncheon with your Covenant friends and friends from throughout the community.

You can sign up through the church office or go online to [www.familypromiseathens.org/events](http://www.familypromiseathens.org/events).



Please BEE sure to join us.

**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 15

Liturgist: Pam Knox

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

Sunday, January 22

Liturgist: Jim Newland

Ushers/Greeters: Susan & Randy 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

Fifth Monday Week—Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



**Nursery  
Ministry**

January 15, 2023

Valerie, Brian & Eli Stone

January 22, 2023

Luanne Rigsby, Wyatt Herndon

A Friendly Reminder for the New Year: Fellowship is from 10:30am-11:00am. We would like to begin the Worship Service promptly at 11:00am. Please enter the Worship Center in a spirit of prayer and worship. There will be time after the service for further fellowship. Thank you! Respectfully, the Worship Ministry Team

*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/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregation/)

[www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/eco-journey/), [www.blessedtomorrow.org/about-blessed-tomorrow](http://www.blessedtomorrow.org/about-blessed-tomorrow)

[www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** the family & friends of Ed Ralph, who passed away Friday, Jan 13 in Florida; Joe Meyers having hernia procedure Monday, Jan 16 at Piedmont; Dell Whitehead is recovering well from surgery for a fractured elbow; Bob Reinert is at home following a stay in rehab; 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, as she transitions to assisted living; Steve Rathbun and family in the passing of his mother, Maria.

**Bible Readings for —January 15 –22**

*Isaiah 9: 1-4, Psalm 27: 1, 4-9*

*I Corinthians 1: 10-28, Matthew 4: 12-23*

*3rd 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

**Wonderful Wednesdays for January 18, 2023**

**COVCONN 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

**7:15pm** Adult Choir

**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.)



Congregational Care

**Congregational Care Ministry Team Meeting**

**Sunday, January 29 following worship.**

We will meet in the conference room/library.

**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](https://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](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 #28**

Anticipated Pledges — \$207,544.62

Actual Pledges — \$211,954.04

Non-Pledged — \$17,621.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

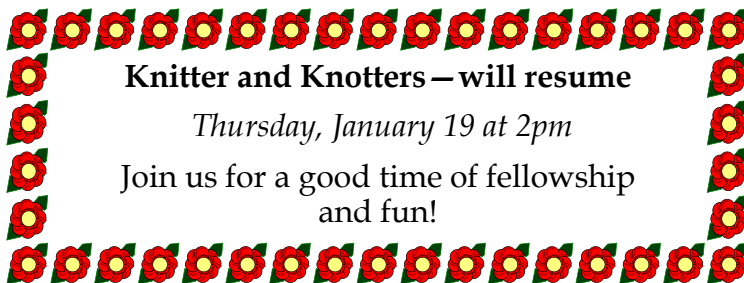
*JOY Gift—\$715.00*



**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 19 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—**

***Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City***—Sociology professor Matthew Desmond won the Pulitzer Prize for this book that explores homelessness within the inner-city neighborhoods of Milwaukee. For a time, he in lived in a dilapidated trailer park, getting to know the residents there and throughout the city. He takes the reader on interesting and sometimes heartbreaking ventures such as riding with an eviction crew, accompanying a slum lord on maintenance and rent-collection rounds, and going with people to eviction court. Although the writing style is easy and compelling, sometimes the subject matter is difficult. Still, this is a book that helped me understand a great deal and that I'm very glad I read. I won't soon forget it. (Bay E, Shelf 1) —  
Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*





## 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 19**

Thank You for keeping the Food Pantry going through Dec. and Jan.!

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered for our weekly food pantry!

During these weeks when our student volunteers have been away, you have stepped up and kept this vital ministry going for our community. The student volunteers are back but we still need you! Here is the Signup Genius link for you and, as always, if you have trouble using this link, feel free to email or call me to sign up (Amy Baer, Coordinator of Outreach, cell 706-380-8482 or email

[abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org)).

Sign Up Here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>

We need volunteers for the following two shifts:

**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!**

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!



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



**The Heart of Covenant Dinner** is coming up next month near Valentine's Day. (The exact date will be decided soon, so keep your eye out for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.) We're thankful that after several years of the pandemic, we'll be able to hold the event this year! In the past, this fun gathering for adults included a meal, 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](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com)). Thank you!