

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 05, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 05, 2023

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



Covenant Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon Tuesday, February 14 at 12:30pm

All are invited to join us for a great time of food and fellowship. Amy Baer will speak to us about her new position at Covenant as Mission Outreach & CE Coordinator. Bring your special dish to share and bring a friend. Beverages are provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

Children's (K-5) Sunday School Class

Location: Room 214 (Next to the Journey Classroom)
This week's lesson will be taught and shepherded by DeLynda Tweedell, Ansley Tweedell and Jere Bowden. This week, the children will be reading Matthew 5:1-12 and learning all about "A Blessing Map!" Please join us and invite your little friends!

"The Builders" Sunday School Class

starts this Sunday, Feb. 5
Location: The Library
What are you building? Pastor Dana will be facilitating a new Sunday School class designed for people of all ages who see themselves as building something. Whether you are in the process of building a marriage, a family, a career, a legacy, or something else, you are invited to join us for a weekly faith-based discussion in the Library!

Youth Ministry Update: Partnership with OPC Youth Group Meeting this Sunday, Feb. 5 6-8 p.m.
Location: Fellowship Hall
The Oconee Presbyterian Church building was heavily damaged during the recent cold temperatures. While their building is being repaired, their youth group, led by OPC's Director of Children and Youth Kailey Gray, has asked if they can meet at Covenant for some of their Sunday night gatherings. The OPC Youth Group will be meeting here this coming Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m. and any and all Covenant Youth have been invited to join them! There will be dinner followed by a Bible Study. If you are interested in joining them this Sunday evening or in the future, please let Amy Baer (abaer@covpresathens.org or 706-380-8482) know!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN
Bible Study

Thursday,
February
9th at
9:30am

All women are invited to join us either in person or via Zoom. Betsy Burmeister will lead us in lesson 6 *Sabbath and Hospitality*. Jere Bowden and Barbara Burnett will provide refreshments. The Zoom invitation will be sent out on Wednesday before the meeting.

What kind of bee can't
make up its mind?

A maybe!

Don't be a maybe.
Sign up for La Table,
either in the office or
online at [www.familypromiseathens.org/
events](http://www.familypromiseathens.org/events). Enjoy a lovely lunch in the company
of your Covenant friends and learn more
about Family Promise on Tuesday, February
28 at Athens Country Club.



Highlights of the January 28, 2023, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at end of the Session's retreat at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Lianne Rigsby presented a devotional based on John 13:34-35 and shared practical tips for elders which she had learned from Rev. Jim Bowden many years ago. Luanne shared "Small Steps of Love" by Henri Nouwen and opened the meeting with prayer.

Luanne Rigsby presented the Clerk's report which was accepted into the minutes. The report included:

- A letter of transfer request for Kathy Boardman to Madison Presbyterian Church

- Removal of Bob Smith, who recently passed away, from membership rolls

- Request for approval of baptism of Charles Naveen Arora

Approval of Covenant's 2022 church statistical report, which includes an updated membership total of 230

- Letter from Jim Newland awarding a grant from The Central Covenant Endowment Fund of \$10,286.77 to be used at Session's discretion

- Thank you letter from Family Promise

The Session approved a motion that the grant from the Central Covenant Endowment Fund (\$10,286.77) be set aside for the Pastor Nominating Committee to be used for travel expenses for pastoral candidates.

The Financial Summary for December, 2022, indicated that everything looks to be on track financially. Ministry team chairs were reminded to let Finance Ministry Team know whether to keep the restricted accounts under their teams or terminate them. MT chairs were also reminded that Pam Knox, Treasurer, would like the total dollar amount requested for their proposed budgets for next fiscal year by February.

Session approved Susan Parish, Randy Parish, Donny Whitehead and Dick Zimdars as be Covenant's commissioners to the February 25th Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting at Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA. With the exception of Dick Zimdars, the same commissioners will be asked to serve as commissioners for the March 25th called Presbytery meeting on ZOOM. Kathryn Fowler will to serve as alternate for the Feb 25th meeting. Covenant will be hosting the May 23rd meeting of the NEGA Presbytery Meeting.

Session elected Pam Knox to serve as Church Treasurer and Luanne Rigsby as stated Clerk of the Session for 2023.

Session approved a motion that Covenant partner with Athens Free Clinic which provides services for those who don't have health care. They will be using our space one Monday a month in February, March and April on a trial basis. Volunteers from Covenant will be needed for patient check-in.

Session approved serving of communion on the first Sunday of every month and also on Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve in 2023.

Valerie Stone reported on the association with our partner congregation of the ECCB in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Valerie has been sending a monthly newsletter to them to keep in contact. Covenant raised about \$5000.00 to send to the Olomouc congregation to aid in helping refugees from Ukraine. The church in Olomouc is hosting a conference for partner congregations the first week of in July. Hopefully Covenant will be sending a representative.

Bert Ballard-Myer reported on activities of the Mission Outreach Ministry Team, which include the Food Pantry, partnership with Athens Free Clinic, and the Campus Kitchen/ UGarden using our kitchen to feed more than 600 people per week. There will be a volunteer appreciation event in April.

The Fellowship Ministry Team reported that the Christmas Progressive Dinner and a punch and cookie reception after the Christmas choral worship service were well received and attended. Future activities include monthly game nights every third Friday evening and the annual Heart of Covenant Dinner, planned for February 11, 2023.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session

2023 Mission & Outreach Updates and New Opportunities

UPDATES TO CURRENT OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Covenant Food Pantry

Our weekly food pantry continues to serve more than 100 families every Thursday. We have about 30 church volunteers and many UGA student volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, you can sign up online at the following link or email Amy

(abaer@covpresathens.org) and she can sign you up!

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

Collaboration with Campus Kitchen

This is truly an incredible outreach of Covenant! Currently, Campus Kitchen volunteers are using our church kitchen to cook meals on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings and they are serving and delivering meals to more than 600 people every single week.

Upcoming Needs:

1. Campus Kitchen is low on cooking volunteers in the Summer months.

Covenant Members could "Adopt-A-Week to Cook" (Sun., Mon. and Tuesday

evening) one week during the Summer. 5 volunteers needed for basic food preparation

tasks 2. Campus Kitchen needs food delivery drivers year-round but particularly in the

Summer months. If you would like to volunteer, email Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) for more info.

NEW OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Athens Free Clinic at Covenant

The Athens Free Clinic is coming to Covenant on the following dates:

Feb. 13, March 20 and April 3 (2-4 p.m.) This is a totally free health clinic staffed by a Doctor and Medical Students from UGA. We are so excited that Covenant can now provide space for a needed health care resource for families in need right here on the East Side of Athens. This free clinic will be able to provide for urgent care needs, basic screenings, referrals to specialists, lab orders, prescriptions, and gender-affirming care (a vital extension of our hope to reach out to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors). We are testing the use of Calendly for scheduling appointments (see the link here:

<https://calendly.com/covenantclinic/free-clinic-appointment>) and we will get flyers distributed to the community as soon as possible. Our greatest need right now is for 2 volunteers for each of the above dates to be at our check-in table to hand out forms to clients coming in for their appointments.

Please email Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) to sign up for one of these volunteer spots:

Feb. 13: 2 volunteers needed

March 20: 2 volunteers needed

April 3: 2 volunteers needed

Outreach to Families of Cedar Shoals High School

We will be holding a "Care Center Drive" for the high school this coming Spring. Our hope is to collect food items for their in-school food pantry, hygiene items and underwear/socks for their clothes closet. We will need volunteers to load and deliver these items once the church has collected all of our donations.

Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) to sign up to make this delivery to the school.

LGBTQIA+ Outreach

Here at Covenant, we are gathering ideas and interested volunteers to work on reaching out to our LGBTQIA+ neighbors. As a Committee, we know that Covenant is already both a welcoming and affirming church home for all people and especially those who have been marginalized and silenced.

We are hoping to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ neighbors through donations, volunteerism, advocacy and public events. A few ideas we have had so far are to have a Covenant Table at Athens Pride 2023, to march in Athens Pride Parade as a church group, to formally collaborate with the Athens Pride and Queer Collective and the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement, and to participate in the "Rainbow Resource Fair" at UGA Pride Center. If you are interested in being a part of this vision, please reach out to Bert Ballard-Myer. We hope to have a visioning gathering soon and to begin this vital outreach.

Outreach for Our Neighbors Living on the Street

We will be assembling "Essentials Kits" for our neighbors living on the street later this year (ie. soap, washcloth, simple can opener, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, comb, deodorant). Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) if you would like to be a part of this upcoming collection.

Covenant "First Fruits" Gleaning Garden

Are you a gardener who might love to begin a backyard gleaning program here at the church? UGArden has offered to provide the church with vegetable starts if we have a group of members who would like to grow vegetables in our church backyard garden bed. This garden's purpose would be for gleaning to add to our food bags at the food pantry, donate to Campus Kitchen or otherwise gleaned for other programs serving our food insecure neighbors. Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy (abaer@covpresathens.org) if you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity!

Covenant Ambassadors

If you are a regular volunteer with a local agency or community group, please email Amy and let her know which one(s) you serve (ie. Project Safe, Our Daily Bread, Family Promise, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, Athens Nurses Clinic, Ark, Advantage, etc.). We are working on an updated list of our Covenant members who volunteer throughout the community so that we can be better at sharing community needs with the church throughout the year.

**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



February 5, 2023

Brian Herndon,
Ellen Stoneburner

February 12, 2023

Don Bower, Susan Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Liturgist: Pam Knox

Ushers/Greeters: Chris Wilson, Katy Terry, Bill Barstow, Catharine Tyson

Pianist: Conner Austell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Liturgist: Jerry Shannon

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

Pianist: Pam Knox

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 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

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

Would you like to be a Usher, Liturgist or Greeter? Just let Judy know at jcapie@covpresahtens.org or call 706-548-2756 and she will put you on the rotation. Thanks!

**Ministry
of
Flowers**

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to provide flowers for worship services. You can arrange them yourself or order from a florist. If you would like to commemorate an event please let the church office know so we can publish it in the newsletter and/or bulletin. Thank you, *Worship Ministry Team*



In gratitude for Covenant's gracious and generous sponsorship, Bells of Northeast Georgia, an advanced community handbell choir, cordially invites you to its inaugural concert at Covenant. Comprised of ringers from Athens and surrounding areas, the choir's program includes a variety of sacred and secular music. Come celebrate with us! Saturday, **March 25, 4:00 p.m.**, in the Worship Center. *David Boardman*, Director

PRAYER CONCERNS: Patrick McMaster's mother's memorial service will be Saturday, February 25, at 1 pm at Monticello Presbyterian Church; Donald Whitehead (Donny and Dell's son) lost his father-in-law Carlis on January 29; Ron VanSickle having knee surgery Monday Feb 6 at St. Mary's; Asher Hill is now on the kidney transplant list. If you would like to find out more information about being a donor please contact Asher; our nation.

Bible Readings for —February 06—12

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, Psalm 119: 1-8,

I Corinthians 3: 1-9, I Corinthians 2: 13-16,

Matthew 5: 21-37

*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.*

Wonderful Wednesdays for Feb. 8, 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

Save the Date

Game Night in February

Friday, February 17 7pm to 9pm,

Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours.)

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



Heart of Covenant ... A Getting-to-Know-You Dinner!

Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 6pm to 9pm

Suggested Donation: \$12 per person

JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THIS ANNUAL ADULT EVENT WHICH INCLUDES A THREE-COURSE DINNER AND A VARIETY OF GAMES TO HELP US ALL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. BRING A SPOUSE OR FRIEND OR COME AS A SINGLE. YOU WILL ROTATE TO DIFFERENT TABLES, GETTING A CHANCE TO ENJOY NEW TABLEMATES FOR EACH COURSE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ROTATE THROUGH EACH COURSE WITH YOUR SPOUSE OR FRIEND, BUT SURE TO LET US KNOW WHEN YOU SIGN UP. ALSO, LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED CHILDCARE FOR THE EVENING OR HELP WITH A RIDE. QUESTIONS? CONTACT VALERIE STONE AT VALERICFREYSTONE@GMAIL.COM.

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 #31
Anticipated Pledges — \$229,781.54
Actual Pledges — \$237,902.32
Non-Pledged - \$18,818.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!
JOY Gift— \$1,475.00



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 will facilitate discussion. The journey class will read and discuss the book *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor starting this Sunday 1/22. If you would like to participate via ZOOM please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com. Class meet in person in the Journey Class Room.

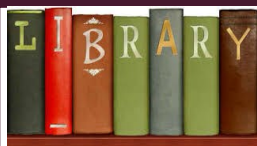


Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, February 9 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

Material World: A Global Family Portrait

For this book, sixteen seasoned photographers visited thirty nations. For a week, they lived with a family deemed to be “statistically average” for their area. At the end of their visit, the photographer took a picture of the family in front of their dwelling with the majority of their belongings stacked around them. The book allows the reader to compare living conditions in various countries and the results are eye opening. (Bay E, Shelf 5). – 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, February 02

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).

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 January Covenant served 1,016 food insecure persons, which include 293 children, and 631 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 *Covanter* is **Thursday by 12noon**. Thank you for your help. *Karen*

A GREAT
BIG
THANK
YOU!

A huge thank you to Betsy Burmeister for her thoughtful teaching and leadership of our Children's (K-5) Sunday School class since last summer. *What a blessing you are to us all Betsy!*



Covenant's Breakfast Club
will meet 1st & 3rd
Monday's at 8am at
Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road

Next meeting will be on Monday, February 6th at 8am. We will have a good time of fellowship and food. All are welcome!