

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 19, 2023

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



We welcome Connor Austell to Covenant as our piano accompanist .

Connor received his musical education at the University of Michigan and at Grand Valley State University under the tutelage of Arthur Greene, Sookkyung Cho, and Giuseppe Lupis. He studied chamber music with Katherine Collier, Helen Marlais, and Pablo Mahave-Veglia, and has participated in masterclasses with world-class artists such as Jonathan Biss and Martin Katz. Connor is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia, Athens, where he studies piano with David Fung and teaches courses in music theory.

Bowden Church Vocations Fund

*A special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 2023*

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 60 years.

Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATION FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received this month. Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together! Many thanks!



Wednesday, February 22

at 6:30pm

The season of Lent begins this year, Wednesday, February 22. Join us in the evening for our Ash Wednesday Worship beginning at 6:30pm, which includes song, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes. Our Covenant Connection activities will begin at 5pm so that participants may worship with us. *May it be a meaningful way to start the season of renewal and new beginnings in the Spirit of Christ.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

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 Susan & Randy Parish, Jere Bowden and Shari Cobb. The children will be reading Luke 11: 1-4 and learning all about "The Lord's Prayer".

Builders Class

What are you building? Pastor Dana is facilitating a new 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!



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. If you would like to participate via ZOOM please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com. Class meets in person in the Journey Class Room.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE PNC Be a part of shaping Covenant's future!

We are seeking nominations through March 12th for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC will consist of 7 members representing Covenant's diverse membership who will work together for a year or so to find Covenant's next pastor. Nominate yourself or another member of Covenant using the paper form at Church or by e-mailing Kay (kbrooks1471@charter.net), Marie (little62@yahoo.com), or Donny (donnywhitehead@gmail.com). If you nominate another person, please ask for their permission first.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:



City of Refuge Athens After School Tutoring and Mentoring Program seeks volunteers! In addition to other outreach programs, we run an after school program for Clarke County elementary students striving to show people in crisis that they are valued, loved, and have resources for transformational change. We strive for a 1:1 ratio of children to adult volunteers so that each child receives the most possible support. We are eager to serve more children and have space and resources to do so (and the school has a waiting list!), but we need more volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a mentor or tutor please contact the program director, Lawson Bauch, at lawson@cityofrefugeathens.org or by phone at 706-224-3119.

**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 19, 2023

James & Robyn Malone

February 26, 2023

Stephanie Cahill, Dell Whitehead

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Liturgist: Luanne Rigsby

Usher/Greeters: The Newlands, Carol Calbos, Dennis Calbos

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Liturgist: Warren Combs

Usher/Greeters: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Jim & Sandy Whitney

Pianist: Connor Austell

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

The Lenten Devotional The *Presbyterian Outlook* is offering an inspiring daily devotions for Lent written by editor Teri McDowell Ott. In *Examen: Inward work for outward living*, Ott explores the ancient spiritual practice of *examen* that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. With a different theme for each week of Lent, readers are invited to explore the connection between internal contemplation and outward action. Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. You will find a copy on the table in the narthex in regular and large print. If you would like an email copy please email me at kwetherington@covpresathens.org and I will send it to you.

**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: the family & friends of Bob Reinert who passed away Thursday, February 16; Pastor Dana's mom Joy, in the hospital in Augusta; Larry & Carolyn Hatfield's niece Stephanie has begun chemo for an aggressive type of breast cancer; prayers also for her husband Craig and their three young children; Arnelle Combs recovering from knee surgery February 13; 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 recovering from knee surgery; 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; all those effected by the 7.8 earthquake near the Syrian/Turkey border

Bible Readings for —February 20—26

Genesis 2: 15-17, Genesis 3: 1-7, Psalm 32,

Romans 5: 12-19, Matthew 4: 1-11

1st Sunday of Lent

*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. 23, 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



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people. PDA is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas. PDA will remain active throughout the recovery process, accompanying our partners as they determine long-term program

needs and providing financial support for building and resilience. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people effected by this catastrophic earthquake?

GIVE: Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to [DR999999-ST earthquake](#). Gifts can be made [online by clicking here](#), by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "[DR999999-ST Earthquake](#)" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Or you can make your check out to Covenant with earthquake in the memo portion of the check.

Thank you for your generous giving!

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 #33**

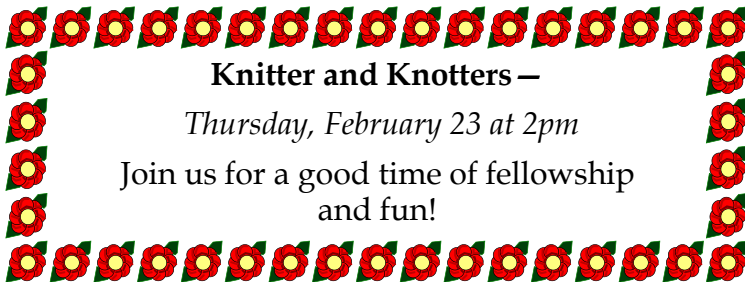
Anticipated Pledges — \$244,606.15

Actual Pledges — \$251,439.25

Non-Pledged - \$19,112.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

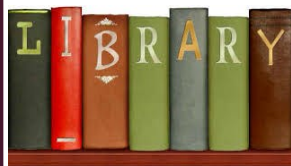
BCVF—\$320.00



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, February 23 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship
and fun!



LIBRARY CORNER

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

This book by Isabel Wilkerson won the Pulitzer Prize. Although the voice and pace of the book make it easy to read, it is full of stories that you'll never forget about the unspoken race-based caste system that has shaped — and continues to shape — our nation. This book is a game-changer. (Bay E, Shelf 1) - Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

Covenant's Lenten Collection Drive for Cedar Shoals High School Families in Need:

Many students and families from Cedar Shoals High School are struggling to meet their basic needs at this time.

The school has a "Care Center" that is usually stocked with easy-to-prepare food items and the hygiene products most needed by their students. Right now their Care Center is very low on these supplies so we are going to hold a collection for them during the upcoming Lenten season.

Please see the list of needed items below and bring your donations starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, to the table set up across from the mailboxes.

Food items needed: Ramen Noodles, Microwavable Meals (Mac & Cheese cups, soup cups, etc.) Granola Bars, Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter, Saltine Crackers, & Peanut Butter Crackers

Personal Care Items needed: Deodorant for males and females, tampons, shampoo and conditioner for all hair types (including black hair care products) hand sanitizer, bar soap



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 23

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!

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.blessedtomorrow.org/about-blessed-tomorrow

www.creationjustice.org

Update: First "Athens Free Clinic" Day at Covenant

Our first free clinic day was this last Monday, Feb. 13 and it went beautifully! It was a great service for our neighbors who came for free health care and a great success for our partner doctor and medical students! Thank you to all of you who came to volunteer for this first clinic (Kay Brooks, Gloria Pylant, Kay Millar, Sarah Lamb and Jennifer Frey). We are fully staffed for our upcoming clinic dates, but please message Amy to sign up to be a backup or for future clinic dates.

Join the 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 message Bert Ballard-Myer or Amy if you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity! So far, we have one volunteer gardener but we need several more if we want to launch this garden!

Where do you volunteer?

If you are a regular volunteer with a local agency or community group, please message 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.



Game Night

Friday, February 17
7pm to 9pm

Game Night is this coming Friday in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours. You're also welcome to bring snacks to eat yourself or to share. Game nights are on the third Friday evening of every month from 7pm to 9pm. If you'd like to get the upcoming 2023 dates on your calendar, they are 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.)

5th Czech-American ECCB-PC (USA) online Conference on Church Environment

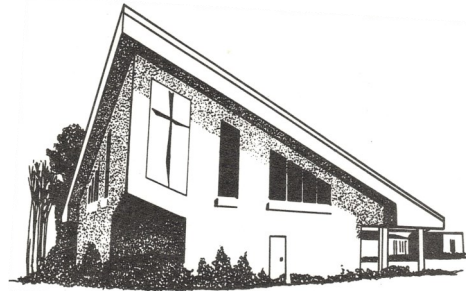
Sunday, March 5 at 2pm EST/ 8pm CET

Introduction by Valerie Stone, Dr. William P Brown, Dr. Jan Zamecnik, Rev. Bruce Gillette and Ilona Muzatková. Followed by a discussion in breakout rooms. Moderated by Dr. Petr Slama (slama@eff.cuni.cz).

NO Pre-registration, just join at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>.



Building & Grounds Updates



Building and Grounds Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday, March 7 at 9:30am in the Library/Conference Room. An agenda will be sent out March 3. Let Carolyn know if you need to zoom this meeting.



Covenant Church Work Day Coming Soon!

Saturday, March 26, 8:30am—2pm.

Coffee, donuts and lunch sandwiches will be offered.

We will:

1. Plant flowering plants—ONLY azaleas, ONLY camellias, and ONLY hydrangeas.
2. We will spread mulch
3. Annuals needed for the urns and potted plants that sit in the courtyard.
4. The church sign area and the front corner need color—plants that are low maintenance and can stand the summer sun. I choose red/orange begonias because they bloom all summer and keep their color. Other suggestions? Let Carolyn know.

Jeffery Lynch who has worked part-time for us, will be with us on March 26 to help with the plantings. Jeffery will prepare the holes or most of them on Friday, March 25. There are a couple of post hole diggers so if you would like come help Jeffery. A truck load of mulch will be delivered Friday, March 25.

There will be a power washer (or 2) and a leaf blower (or 2) that someone can use.

Pray for sunshine and warmth. Bring a lawn chair, your work gloves, and a small trowel for digging the small stuff.