

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 26, 2023

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

VISITOR LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 12

*following the morning worship service
in the fellowship hall*

All visitors are welcome to join us for a light lunch and a time of getting to know each other.

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.



Mission Study Task Force

invites you to review the church study conducted between

August and December 2022. This mission study has been approved by the Presbytery and will be used to shape our approach to finding our new full-time Pastor. We hope you will join us on **Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 4-5pm**. There will be a short presentation of the information followed by an open forum for Q&A.

The ECCB-PCUSA partnership that helped foster our relationship between Covenant and our sister church in Olomouc (Czech Republic) is offering a virtual conference entitled The Church and the Environment. All are encouraged to attend, especially if you are interested in ecology/climate issues or our church's partnership with Olomouc. It will be held on **Sunday, March 5 at 2 PM EST**. Registration is **not** required; at the appointed time you may simply join the link at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>. An in-person conference will be held from July 9-13 at our sister church in Olomouc. This is a great time for partners in institutions and churches to learn from each other and enjoy fellowship in the Czech Republic. More information about both conferences including registration information for the in-person gathering in July can be found at czechpres.net. Or contact Valerie Stone at valeriefreystone@gmail.com.



SUNDAY SCHOOL: ALL CLASSES 9:30-10:30 A.M.

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 Kay Brooks, Paul Brooks, Jere Bowden and Shari Cobb. Starting this Sunday, Betsy Burmeister has graciously agreed to have music time with the children at the top of the Sunday School hour each week! Thank you so much, Betsy! This week, the children will be reading Matthew 6:25-34 and spending time learning about Jesus' words: "Don't Worry." Please join us and invite your little friends!

"The Builders" Class

Location: The Library

What are you building? Pastor Dana is 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!

The "Upper Room" Class

Location: "Upper Room" Classroom at the top of the ramp and Via Zoom

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.

The "Journey" Class

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 and Via Zoom

Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers will facilitate discussion. The Journey class is currently reading and discussing the book Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you would like to participate via Zoom please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com.

Lenten Collection Drive for Cedar Shoals 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 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

An easy way to help out UGA Campus Kitchen!

Sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Kroger Card to Campus Kitchen, all you do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shoppers Card. Kroger donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending. Here is the link to get started - <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

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!

Tell us where 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.

Covenant Food Pantry

Thursdays, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

The student volunteers are back but we still need you! Click the Signup Genius link below to find a time that works for you. As always, if you have trouble using this link, feel free to contact me and I will sign you up (Amy Baer at abaer@covpresathens.org).

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



Come see **Wyatt Herndon** in *Deathtrap* at Arts! Oglethorpe at the Historic Crawford School, Crawford. Tickets: [\\$18 Online and at the door \(if available\)](#)

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Liturgist: Warren Combs

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

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Liturgist: Jerry Shannon

Usher/Greeters: Randy & Susan Parish, Robyn Malone

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



Nursery
Ministry

February 26, 2023
Stephanie Cahill,
Dell Whitehead

March 5, 2023

Adam & Rebecca Rea

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*

The floral arrangement in worship today is given by Jere Bowden, in loving memory of David Bowden on the 10th anniversary of his passing.



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, returned home and resuming cancer treatment; 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; 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.

Memorial Service for Bob Reinert will be at Finchum's Phoenix in Whitehall Forest in Watkinsville on Sunday, March 12, at 2:30 pm. That is a place that was near to Bob's heart for many years. You can find his obituary at this link: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/robert-reinert-obituary?id=46776902>

Bible Readings for —February 27– March 5

**Psalm 23:1, Romans 8: 38-39, I John 4: 18,
Hebrews 13:2, Isaiah 41:10, Proverbs 1:7a,
Isaiah 43:1**

2nd 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.*

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 it's 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

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!

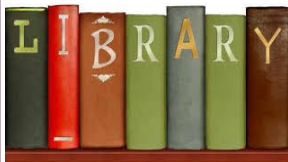
BCVF—\$320.00



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, March 2 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!



Library Corner

Mister God, This is Anna: A True Story

This is one of those classic books that has been around a while yet resurfaces periodically for new generations. Written by Sydney Hopkins (1919-1999) under the pseudonym "Fynn," the book explores ideas about God through the eyes of an underprivileged child in London around World War II. Although Anna is quite young, her innocence is refreshing and her understandings may be just what a weary world needs to hear. (Bay F, Shelf 4) — Church Librarian Valerie Stone

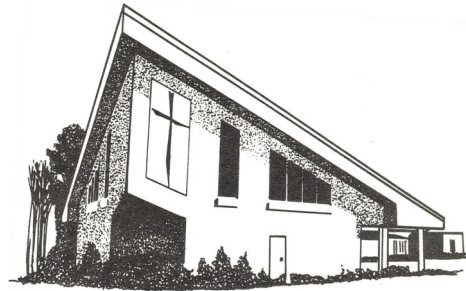


**March
BIRTHDAYS**

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 Paige Cummings | 24 Preston Devaney |
| 8 Richard Page | 25 Karen Whelchel-Redwine |
| 9 Junan Crisler | 26 Andrew Mote |
| | McKenzie Redish |
| 2 John Knox | |
| 3 Jack Pannecoucke | 30 Phil Koehler |
| 5 Sam Brewster | |
| Josh Ballard-Myer | |
| 10 Kent Wolfe | |
| 16 James Malone | |
| 17 Ron Simpson | |
| 19 Thomas Bowden | |
| 6 Betsy Pless | 23 Donny Whitehead |
| Kathy Boyle-Gast | Owen Barnett |



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.