

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

THE COVENANTER
 March 05, 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 an-
 other person, please ask for their permission first.

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 Environ-
 ment. 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 en-
 joy fellowship in the Czech Republic. More information about both con-
 ferences including registration information for the in-person gathering
 in July can be found at czechpres.net. Or contact Valerie Stone at
valeriefreystone@gmail.com.



**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.



**Covenant's Retirees
 Covered Dish Luncheon**

**Tuesday, March 14
 at 12:30pm**

**We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with
 yummy corned beef by Ann Anderson and
 Mary Anna Wynes. Bring your favorite dish
 to share and bring a friend. Beverages will
 be provided. See you there!**

Beginning March 12

**Sunday School for all ages
 will begin at 9:45am!**

Highlights of the February 28, 2023, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on February 28, 2023. Bert Ballard-Myer's devotional asked, "Where is God calling us to be?" Our goal is to help others in our community and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Bert opened the meeting with prayer.

The Clerk's report included the removal of Bob Reinert, who recently passed away, from membership rolls and the addition of Charles Naveen Arora as a baptized member. Total membership is 229 active members.

The financial summary for January, 2023 indicated that everything looks to be on track. Ministry teams were reminded to submit their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and to let Finance MT know the determination of restricted accounts under their teams.

Dana Waters affirmed and encouraged the Session in the work of "Holy Experimenting" or trying new things for a period of time to see how they work. He noted that we are in the "push back" stage of that process and discussed ways to best handle that phase. They include directing questions to the proper ministry team, finding strength in doing this together, being supportive of each other, deciding if the issue is a mountain or a molehill, avoiding triangles, having trust in the ministry teams to make decisions and to execute the big picture vision of the Session, making responsibilities clear and educating the congregation on the "why" of decisions made.

The NEGA Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, will be held at Covenant. Randy and Susan Parish, Donny Whitehead and Dick Zimdars, commissioners to the recent meeting in Augusta, will be asked to take leadership for hosting the meeting. Bert Ballard-Myer, Linda Koehler, Carolyn Hatfield and Kathryn Fowler also offered to help.

In November, Session made changes in policies concerning homeless persons staying on our campus overnight and planned to reevaluate how the changes were working in 3 months. Since some projects have not been completed or fully evaluated, the Session approved a motion from B&G MT to continue the trial period until the end of May.

Session approved a motion from CE that **beginning March 12, 2023, church school will start at 9:45 a.m. and end at 10:45 a.m.** (This is a change from 9:30 - 10:30)

A volunteer recognition event will be April 30th after church.

Bert Ballard-Myer thanked the Session for approving use of space by the Athens Free Clinic. The first free clinic was a big success.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session

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

(beginning March 12 Sunday school will begin at 9:45am)



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, and Jere Bowden. 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 Luke 19: 29-40 and spending time learning about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Please join us and invite your little friends!



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

COVENANT YOUTH “Pack-n-Play” Party

Saturday, March 18, 4pm—8pm

We will be filling eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, Having pizza and bowling together!

COST: FREE

Drop off at Covenant and **Pick-up** at Showtime Bowling Center, 555 Macon Highway.

This event is for rising 6th grades—12th grades.

Questions: Contact Donny Whitehead (donnywhitehead@gmail.com)

or Katy Arora (katymc4@gmail.com)



Montreat Youth Conference 2023

This summer the Covenant youth are joining with the Oconee Presbyterian Church youth group for Week 1 of Montreat Youth Conference 2023

Dates: June 4th - 10th, 2023

Ages: Completed 8th grade - Graduating Seniors

Cost: \$450/per youth; reach out to Donny Whitehead

(donnywhitehead@gmail.com) to inquire about potential scholarships

Register: Registration Deadline April 21, Email Kailey Gray at OPC (kailey@opcusa.org) to RSVP and receive more registration information!

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, MARCH 5

Liturgist: Jerry Shannon

Usher/Greeters: Randy & Susan Parish, Robyn Malone

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Liturgist: Warren Combs

Ushers/Greeters: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Alan Edwards, Judy Capie

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



Nursery
Ministry

March 5, 2023

Adam & Rebecca Rea

March 12, 2023 Richard & Marcia Page

Ministry Sign up on the bulletin board next to the
of
Flowers mailboxes to provide flowers for worship
services. You can arrange them yourself
or order from a florist. If you would like to commemo-
rate 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 lovely arrangement in worship is given by
Susan & Randy Parish.*



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: Jerry Shannon's mom, Chris Shannon, in critical condition with COPD; Joe and June Meyers' nephews Ted and Mike, both are undergoing treatment for Stage IV prostate cancer; Heide, Juergen & Marcus with covid; Louis Wild, husband of DeLynda's friend, not doing well after surgery and his wife, Pam weary and scared; 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; 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 —March 6—12

**2 Corinthians 7: 11, Psalm 13: 2, Matthew 5: 9,
Psalm 139: 7-10, Psalm 34: 18, Matthew 5: 4,
Isaiah 55: 12**

3rd 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 #35**

Anticipated Pledges — \$259,430.76

Actual Pledges — \$266,627.45

Non-Pledged - \$19,745.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

BCVF—\$2,610.00

Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, March 9 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun while making blankets for people recovering from illness and for clients of Highland Hills, Family Promise and Project Safe.



Library Corner

***One Foot in Eden* by J. Philip Newell**

For those interested in Celtic Christianity, J. Philip Newell is a minister of the Church of Scotland and served as warden for the nondenominational Iona Community inspired by a very old Abbey on a remote Scottish island. Newell has written many books and one that found its way to our library is *One Foot in Eden: A Celtic View of the Stages of Life*. In this short work, he explores seven phases of life and what can be learned from them (Bay C, Shelf 4). Church Librarian Valerie Stone (We're looking for more books by J. Philip Newell and other Celtic Christian writers. Please contact me if you have questions about donations.)

Game Night

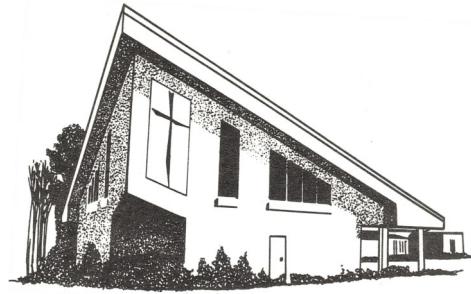
Friday, March 17

7pm to 9pm



Game Night Friday, March 17 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.

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.