

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER

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



Daylight Savings Time begins March 12. Set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed. Sunday School begins at 9:45am!


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. Zoom will be available for those who cannot attend in person at this link:
[MISSION STUDY MEETING](#)




Covenant's Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
Tuesday, March 14 at 12:30pm
We will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Dr. David Sweaney who will entertain us with some Irish stories. Yummy corned beef will be provided by Ann Anderson and Mary Anna Wynes. Bring your favorite dish to share and bring a friend.

Beginning March 12
Sunday School for all ages
will begin at 9:45am!

Game Night at Covenant! Friday, March 17 at 7pm
Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours. *Everyone is welcome to bring snacks to eat yourself or to share.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: ALL CLASSES 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 Susan & Randy Parish, Jere Bowden and Shari Cobb. 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 22: 36-40 and spending time learning about Jesus' priority to love above all else. Please join us and invite your little friends!

Builders Class

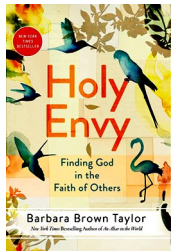
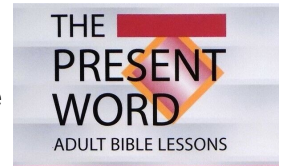
Location: The Library

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

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. **Adult Volunteer Helpers are needed.**

Please email Amy at abaer@covpresathens.org, if you are available to help!

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

9:45am – Sunday School

for K-5th,

Journey Adult Church

School Class,

Upper Room Adult

Church School Class

10:30am Fellowship

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Liturgist: Warren Combs

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

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Liturgist: Luanne Rigsby

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

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



March 12, 2023

Richard & Marcia Page

March 19, 2023 Tim Foutz, Pam Knox

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*

Wonderful Wednesdays for March 15, 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



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

East Friendship Baptist Church Women's Prayer Breakfast at 480 Arch Street Saturday, March 18 at 9:30am

If you would like to attend or for more information please contact Jere Bowden, Bert Ballard-Myer or Gloria Pylant

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jerry Shannon and family in the passing of his mom, Chris Shannon, on March 4 in California; the family of Jimmy Avants, a former member of Covenant, who passed away March 5 at the age of 86; 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; 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; our nation.

Bible Readings for —March 13-19

**Matthew 18:3, Psalm 98:4, Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10,
2 Corinthians 9:7, 2 Samuel 6: 14,
2 Corinthians 5: 17, 1 John 1:8**

4th 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 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.blessedtommorrow.org/about-blessed-tommorrow

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 #36**

Anticipated Pledges — \$266,843.07

Actual Pledges — \$274,093.52

Non-Pledged - \$20,044.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

OGHS—\$400.00

Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, March 16 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

What is God Like?

This children's book by the late Rachel Held Evans is one that can be rewarding for young and old readers alike. The artwork is colorful and cheerful all while helping question the nature of God. (Bay I, Shelf 2) – Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

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).

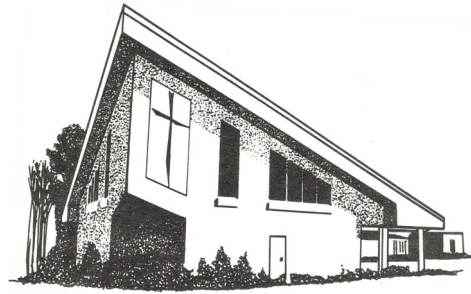
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>



If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

For the month of February Covenant served 1,165 food insecure neighbors. That includes 356 children and 208 senior adults. *Thank you Covenant and May we all have enough!*

Building & Grounds Updates



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.

STOVE WEEK! What is stove week you ask? Our big commercial stove had to be moved to repair a small gas leak the week of March 6 (UGA Campus Kitchen was on spring break). While the stove was out for repair the thought was to well.....and the list got pretty long.

Many thanks to Alex Clark, Hank Tweedell, and Brian Striggow for figuring out how to move the stove and get it to the parking lot to pressure wash, and spray paint. And again to Hank for cleaning the very dirty floor behind the appliances. Another giant thanks to the super duper kitchen crew, Hilda Clark, Carolyn Hatfield, Ellen Stoneburner, and Paula Zimdars, that painstakingly cleaned the stove inside and out.

So take a detour to the kitchen and have a look while it is at optimum spiffy.