

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
April 2, 2023

Sunday School for all ages
begins at 9:45am!

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

HOLY WEEK

AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2 - PALM SUNDAY
11 AM PALM PROCESSION AND WORSHIP

**APRIL 5 - COVCONN, HANDBELLS,
BIBLE STUDY, CHOIR**

APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 PM WORSHIP

APRIL 7 - GOOD FRIDAY, 7 PM WORSHIP
(AT FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

APRIL 8 - EASTER EGG HUNT, 11 AM

APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY
BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS AND A BREAKFAST DISH
(CASSEROLE, BREADS, AND SWEET ROLLS) TO SHARE
7:30 AM SUNRISE WORSHIP
8:30 AM EASTER COVERED-DISH BREAKFAST
9:45 SUNDAY SCHOOL
11 AM WORSHIP



**ADULT HELPERS
NEEDED FOR THE
EASTER EGG HUNT!**
We need volunteers
for the Easter Egg
Hunt on **Saturday,**
**April 8 at 10am—12
noon** to help hide
eggs, set up tables

for refreshments, serve refreshments and clean-up
afterward. Please sign up on the sheet on the
bulletin board next to the mailboxes. Or email Amy
at abaer@covpresathens.org. Thank you!

COVENANT'S EASTER COVERED DISH BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars and thumb through your
recipe box! The traditional covered dish
breakfast will return to Covenant this Easter!

On Easter morning of **April 9**, after the Sunrise
Service (7:30am) yet *before* Sunday School
(9:45am) there will be an Easter Covered Dish
Breakfast (8:30am). We will have coffee, juice,
and bagels ready, but we are looking forward to
your breakfast casseroles, breads, sweet rolls,
and such. Please bring enough to feed your
family and a few extra people.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Susan Parish recovering from shoulder surgery Tuesday, March 26 and doing well; Nan Cantrell and family in the passing of her brother, John Fahling March 13th, after a long struggle with cancer; Pastor Dana's mom Joy, returned home and resuming cancer treatment; all those affected by the school shooting in Nashville, Tennessee; our nation.

Bible Readings for —April 3—9

*1 John 4: 7-8, 1 Peter 2:17, Ephesians 4: 25,
2 Corinthians 6: 11-13, Matthew 1:23,
Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 28: 5-7*



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.

Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 12 at 5pm.

We are planning for children's and youth's Sunday School and events and we need your input!

Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

Tuesday, April 14, 2023

at 12:30pm

The Green Flag Band will be there to play their toe tapping music. The Band consists of a dulcimer, a fiddle, and an Irish Harp. Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy the music and fellowship.

Covenant's Breakfast Club

Monday, April 3

at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road at 9:30am

Join us for a time of good food and fellowship!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PW will meet on Thursday, April 13, at 9:30am, in-person and via Zoom, for those unable to meet in-person. Pastor Dana will be leading the lesson, #8, Sabbath and Justice. Sandy Whitney will be providing refreshments. Please join us to discuss this interesting topic. We hope to see you there!

The Zoom invite will be sent on Wednesday, April 12.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:45AM



Children's (K-5) Sunday School Class

Location: (across from the Journey Classroom)

We are now meeting in our new classroom across from the Journey Classroom! This week's lesson will be taught and shepherded by Shari Cobb and Jere Bowden. The children will be reading Luke 23: 1-49 and learning about Good Friday. Ms. Betsy will also be kicking off our Sunday School time with music!

PLEASE NOTE: The Worship Ministry Team has invited all children to process into the Worship Center with palms this Sunday, April 2. Please join us and invite your friends!

Class

Builders

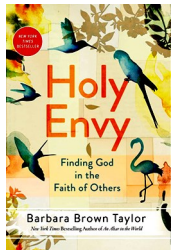
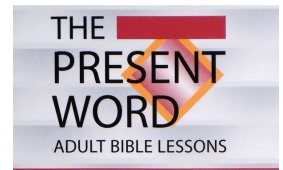
Location: The Library

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.

JUST ONE MORE WEEKS FOR OUR 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



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

Registration Deadline April 21: contact Kailey Gray at OPC (Kailey@opcusa.org) to RSVP & get more info and receive more info!

Montreat Middle School Conference at Maryville College 2023

This summer the Covenant youth are joining with the First Presbyterian Church youth group for the Montreat Middle School Conference at Maryville College

Dates: July 19-23, 2023

Details: Montreat Middle School conference includes keynote, worship, recreation, singing, small group and many other activities with other middle schoolers from around the country.

Ages: Current 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Cost: Cost is \$350/person. Reach out to Donny Whitehead (donnywhitehead@gmail.com) to inquire about potential scholarships. **Register:** Deposit of \$100 due by 3/31 to reserve spot. Final balance due by 5/31. Contact Kim Ness, Director of Youth Ministries at knees@firstpresathens.org.



First Presbyterian Church of Athens has invited the children of Covenant Presbyterian Church to:

WEEK OF WONDER 2023 God's Wonder Full World

First Presbyterian Church of Athens - Children's Ministry
June 5-8, 9am-12:30pm

Dates: Monday, June 5 - Thursday, June 8
Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ages: Children 4 years old - 5th Grade are invited

Registration Info: (VBS) [Registration Form](#)

Cost: WOW Registration Fee is \$40/child

You may pay online at www.firstpresathens.org/giving at (please select "General Fund" under "Select a fund" and type "Week of Wonder 2023" in the memo) or mail a check to the church (First Presbyterian Church of Athens, 185 East Hancock Ave, Athens, Ga 30601). Please be sure to note on your check or online payment that it is for Week of Wonder 2023 Registration.

If you have any questions, please email Natalie Bishop, Director of Children's Ministry at natalie@firstpresathens.org.

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, APRIL 2

Liturgist: Sandy Whitney

Ushers/Greeters: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Dennis & Carol Calbos

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Liturgist: Paige Campbell

Ushers/Greeters: Jim & Dorothy Newland, Jim & Sandy Whitney

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

April 2, 2023

Lauren Capie,
Ellen Stoneburner

April 9, 2023 Richard & Marcia Page

Ministry Sign up on the bulletin board next to
of the mailboxes to provide flowers for
Flowers 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 April 5, 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

Be on the look out for your 2023-2024 pledge packet that were mailed March 23! If you have not received one please let Karen know
kwetherington@covpresathens.org
or call 706 548-2756



PRESBYTERIAN
STUDENTCENTER

at The University of Georgia

Check out the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes if you are interested in preparing and serving dinners at the PSC at UGA 1250 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens. We will get in touch with you soon to set up a meeting to answer questions and discuss logistics.

Thank you!

Bert Ballard-Myer, *Chair Missions*
Outreach Local/Global

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 #38**

Anticipated Pledges — \$ 289,079.98

Actual Pledges — \$ 288, 660.45

Non-Pledged - \$ 21,139.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

OGHS—\$ 1,350.00

*knitter
knitter*

Thursday, April 6 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.


**Covenant Hosts May 23rd
Presbytery Meeting**

On May 22 and 23 volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks supporting the NEGA Presbytery meeting hosted by Covenant on Tuesday, May 23. Beginning at 9:15am volunteer timeslots will range from 90 minutes to 5 hours. On May 22 a setup crew will be needed for about an hour in the afternoon.

Crew Leaders, with staffing numbers are:

Setup	Susan Parish, 6—12	1 hour
Parking mins	Donny Whitehead, 6	90
Registration mins	Randall Parish, 5	90
Kitchen	Susan Parish, 4	2 hours
Greeters/Ushers	Dick Zimdars, 6	1/5 hours

Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board after Easter.

 **LIBRARY** *Martin Luther* Martin Luther was a key figure in protestant Christianity, but how much do you know about him? This PBS documentary on DVD explores Luther's life and times through footage of the places where Luther walked as well as reenactments exploring his life.

Covenant Food Pantry

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

Please 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#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/)**

Thank you!



Highlights of the Stated Session Meeting held on March 28, 2023

Valerie Stone read Psalm 23 and “The Peace of Wild Things”. When we’re in despair, we can find peace among the wild things of the natural world which don’t worry about what might come next but live in the present.

The Session approved Corky Callaway and Rich Kimmich as members by letter of transfer.

Pam Knox, Treasurer, reported that we are doing well financially having received more pledges and spending less than anticipated. The proposed budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is more than last year’s budget because of rising costs of supplies, utilities and insurance, funding for Montreat and 6% raises for all personnel. The budget will be revised to fit the amount of money pledged.

Session reviewed a document written by the Committee on Ministry of the NEGA Presbytery, “Appendix B Guidelines for Ministers Leaving”. The document gives guidelines for congregations concerning inviting former pastors back for weddings, baptisms and funerals but is less binding than the Interim Pastor Contract for NEGA Presbytery, Section G, a 3-way contract between Covenant Presbyterian, the interim pastor and NEGA Presbytery which reads, "The Session encourages the Transitional/Interim Pastor to deny any requests by, or for, any former pastor to conduct any services of worship, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals in any of the facilities of the congregation." Dana explained that when he was asked invite a former pastor back to perform a wedding, he made the decision to deny that request in accordance with the contract he has signed. If the Pastor denies the request, the Session has no action to take in the matter. Dana shared that these rules are in place to help a congregation with closure regarding former pastors, an important part of the church’s work during this time of transition.

Donny Whitehead, Susan Parish, Randy Parish, and Dick Zimdars served as commissioners to the NEGA Presbytery meeting at Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church on Feb. 25, 2023. Donny, Susan, Randy, and Abby Horvath served as commissioners for the called Presbytery meeting on March 25th. At that meeting, they voted on amendments to the Book of Order. All amendments but one passed. The Session will begin work on possible formation of small groups by first taking inventory of small groups that already exist and then asking what kinds of small groups the congregation would like.

Bert Ballard-Myer reported that two different private schools have contacted Covenant on the possibility of renting space starting in the fall of 2023. Bert asked the Session to look at the schools’ websites and email her all their questions. She will try to get the answers by the next meeting.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Kay Brooks, Marie Ballard-Myer and Donny Whitehead, has identified a slate of 7 candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Session approved calling a Congregational Meeting on April 23, 2023, following worship for the purpose of electing the PNC.

Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held after church on April 30th for all volunteers. Invitations will be sent by Evite. Bert asked for volunteers to help plan the event.

Dana announced that following the request last year from the UGA Presbyterian Student Center for each church in the Presbytery to make a contribution to the Next80 campaign for renovation their building, a member of Covenant donated \$5000 to the campaign.

The nursery is back under the Christian Education MT after being under Worship MT for the last year.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session