

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER April 30, 2023

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

April 22



COVENANT'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL!

Date: Saturday evening, the 6th of May 2023,
rain or shine

Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or until dusk)

Who: Everyone! All ages are welcome including visitors.

Bring Your Own Meal: You'll provide your own supper—homemade picnic fare or quick takeout, whatever works for you.

Bring a Dessert to Share: Please bring a dessert to share potluck-style. The dessert table opens at 6:00 PM. If your dessert is homemade and features strawberries (as an ingredient or decoration), you'll automatically be in the running for one of our three Strawberry Festival prize categories—Yummiest Dessert, Prettiest Dessert, and Most Springlike Dessert. Secret judges will be prowling the dessert table to choose the winners. (Please have your dessert on the table by 5:50 PM if you want to be sure it will be part of the judging.)

Other Items to Bring: *Camp chairs and/or picnic blankets, water bottles, outdoor games. Fellowship will Provide: Tables, utensils, paper plates, water and lemonade, corn hole games.*



Dear Covenant friends,
We have received 79 pledges so far but are expecting about 7 additional pledges. We learned at the meeting that not everyone at church received a pledge packet, so will be following up to make sure that everyone has received the budget information and to see if they mailed or delivered a pledge to church, since it appears some packets likely got lost in the mail. If you have not yet pledged, we would encourage you to let me or the office know if you plan to send in a pledge or if you are not able to pledge this year so that we can work on the final budget with the most complete information possible. You can find the proposed budget plus a narrative budget and extra pledge cards in the back of the Worship Center as well. Thanks to those of you who have already turned in your pledges and for everyone who is faithfully supporting Covenant financially as well as in so many other ways! *Pam Knox, Treasurer*

PRAYER CONCERNS: Joe and June Meyers' nephew Brad Ludwig, diagnosed with prostate cancer; Bruce and Karen Menke's son, recovering from surgery on 4/7 in Cambridge, MA; Jeanie Goodwin, friend of Chris Wilson, received good news from tests and is recovering at home; the people of South Sudan; and our nation.

Bible Readings for —May 1—7

Acts 7: 55-60, Psalm 31: 1-5, Psalm 31: 15-16,

Proverbs 4: 10-18, Psalm 119: 9-32, I Peter 2: 2-10,

John 14: 1-14

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.

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

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.

WEEK OF WONDER 2023
God's Wonder Full World

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



Jose and Phillipe of Athens Fence Co. installing the fence around Cov Presby's Memory Garden

Covenant's Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

Tuesday, May 9 at 12:30pm



Join us for a delightful meal of baked salmon prepared by Linda Koehler! YUM! YUM!

Joan Prittie from Project Safe will be speaking to us.

Please bring a covered dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.

HELP NEEDED! We need someone to help set up tables on Tuesday around 10am. Mary Anna and Robyn do an excellent job setting up but cannot handle getting out the tables. Please let Pat Tinga or Mary Anna or Robyn know if you can help. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:45AM



Children's (K-5) Sunday School Class

This week's lesson will be taught and shepherded by Shari Cobb, and Jennifer Frey and Jere Bowden. The children will be reading Luke 18:2-5 and spending time exploring justice and persistence. Ms. Betsy will be kicking off our Sunday

School time with music!

Builders Class

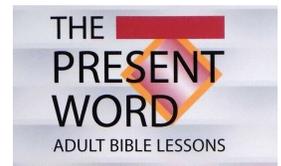
Location: The Library

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!

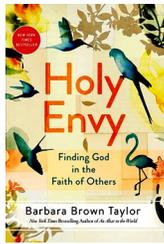
The "Upper Room" Class

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.



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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, May 3 at 5pm

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for our Christian Education Committee Meeting!

We are planning for children's and youth Sunday School and events

and we need your input! We will meet right before Covenant Connection dinner and maybe during dinner as well.



SCHEDULE for Sunday

9:30am – 12 noon Nursery
for ages birth to
kindergarten

9:45am Church School
for

K – 5th grade

Journey Adult Class, &
Upper Room Adult Class

10:30am Fellowship

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Liturgist: Pam Knox

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

Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Liturgist: Jerry Shannon

Ushers/Greeters: Stephanie Cahill, Hank Tweedell, Paige Cummings

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



Nursery
Ministry

April 30, 2023

James & Robyn Malone

May 7, 2023

DeLynda & Ansley Tweedell

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 for Sunday, April 30 is given in honor of Hannah Baird's Birthday!

Covenant's Breakfast Club

Monday, May 01, 2023

**at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge
Road at 8:00am**

Join us for a time of good food
and fellowship!

Wonderful Wednesdays for May 3, 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 Women's Bible Study

Thursday, May 11 at Presbyterian Village

We'll meet at 9:30am for those who want to carpool to PVA. Lesson #9, Sabbath & Community will be led by Ellen and Arnelle. After our lesson and meeting we will have lunch so we can fellowship with our PVA friends in person. If you have made a reservation for lunch but are unable to attend please let me know. This will be our last PW meeting until fall, so we look forward to seeing you there! We will also collect the PW Birthday Offering. Thank you Ellen & Arnelle for leading this lesson. For any questions email Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com

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.



Pastor Dana will be on vacation May 1–6.

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 #43**

Anticipated Pledges — \$318,544.94

Actual Pledges — \$ 333,302.75

Non-Pledged - \$ 23,801.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

OGHS—\$ 2,450.00

*knitter
knitter*

Thursday, May 4 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 *Leaving the Fold: Testimonies of Former Fundamentalists* This book explores fundamentalism through the experiences of various people. Editor Edward Babinski organizes it into sections by people who later became progressive Christians, who changed religions, who now describe themselves as agnostics, and those who are now atheists. Found at Bay D, Shelf 1.
Valerie Stone, Church Librarian

Highlights of Session Meeting - April 25, 2023

For the devotional, Carolyn Hatfield shared her “me file” of musings of things in life about which she is sometimes conflicted or confused. These include such questions as: What is good or bad? How to best help others? Can we give enough? Why it is hard to grow in wisdom and faith? Carolyn opened the meeting with prayer.

The Session approved the letter of transfer of Steve Rathbun to Eatonton Presbyterian Church. Steve recently moved to Lake Oconee.

Clayton Adams and Kathryn Fowler, Finance Ministry Team co-chairs, reported that the pledge drive is going well. They will follow up with emails and phone calls as they are expecting a few more pledges to come in. For the current fiscal year, Finance anticipates an excess of approximately \$62,000. This is because of generous giving and lower expenses due to unfilled positions.

Kathryn Fowler and Bert Ballard-Myer will serve as two of Covenant’s four commissioners to the May 23rd Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting which will be held at Covenant. Two inactive elders will serve as the other commissioners.

Session approved changing worship time 10 a.m. beginning on June 4, 2023, and resuming at 11:00 a.m. on Rally Day in the fall.

There was much discussion about the potential opportunity of renting space in our building to the Joy Village School in the fall. Bert Ballard-Myer and Kathryn Fowler volunteered to follow up on additional questions from the Session concerning tax implications, non-profit status, liability, insurance, utilities and contracts. Another question is how renting space to the school fits into Covenant’s mission. Abby Horvath will summarize the information we have so far for easier evaluation. A resource to contact is Young Harris Methodist which has housed Double Helix, a non-profit school, in their building for two years.

Covenant’s policy on unhoused residents will be reviewed at the May Session meeting.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session



- 1 Ann Anderson
 - Hannah Baird
 - Arnelle Combs
 - Karen Wetherington
- 2 Elsie Bothwell
 - Linda VanSickle
- 3 Alexander Clark
 - Wesley Whitehead
- 6 Evan Knox
- 12 Abby Horvath
 - Marcia Verbrugge
- 13 Catharine Tyson
- 14 Louie Boyd
 - Teresa Mauldin
 - Rich Kimmich

- 15 David Boardman
 - Brandon Doughty
- 19 Annie Meyers
 - Ansley Tweedell
- 22 Kent Silver
- 23 Tim Simpson
 - Corky Callaway
- 24 Dick Zimdars
 - Ntumwa Kisaalita
- 25 Carol Calbos
 - Emily Ballard-Myer
- 26 Tim Bemisderfer
 - Luke Shannon
- 27 Joan Prittie
- 28 Emily Bower
 - Spencer Baird
 - Eric Zimdars
- 31 Ssempa Kisaalita



BRaS (Building Relationships & Support) and Covenant's Coffee House

The Fellowship Team would like to hear from you.... Covenant has mostly bounced back from restrictions during the initial phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, but there are two events still waiting to be brought back.

1. Would folks like to see the return of BRAS (Building Relationships and Support)? This group for women consisted of one or two evening get-to-know-you gatherings a year hosted by a church member in their home.
2. The second event is the Covenant Coffee House. Modeled on the Coffee House events at our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic, this evening gathering during the summer gave all ages a chance to share their talents and shine with such offerings as playing music, singing, recitations, magic routines, skits, original poetry readings, etc.

We'd like to get a feel for if folks would like to see these events again. Please contact Fellowship Team Chair Valerie Stone to share your thoughts. (My email address is [valeriefreystone at gmail](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com). Or you are welcome to share your thoughts via a note in my mailbox, text, quick chat, etc.)

WANTED

A new or looking new undamaged 9 x 12 rug, preferably oriental style for the Narthex to replace the rug that is currently there. Colors in the Narthex are maroon, yellow and the floor is green/grey, so most colors are worth considering. If you have a rug that you are willing to donate or if you know of someone that has please contact Carolyn Hatfield at 706-255-9021 or Betsy Burmeister at 706-248-2816. Thank you!

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT!

Dear Congregation,

As you can see from our plantings out front, spring has sprung beautifully. Everything looks so nice and it's due in large part to the many volunteers who planted the new azaleas, hydrangeas, camellias, and pansies. Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication to Covenant.

There is a lovely new fence installed around our Memorial Garden. It has two gates that lock. If you wish to enter, Karen has a key and I have a key. It is a sacred space and we want to treat it that way. We enclosed one of the outside stairways in order to stop the camping that takes place on the stair landing. We hope it works! We will have a dedication (or a rededication) of the Memorial Garden in the fall. Additional bricks will be installed with the names of those whose cremains are buried there.

Come take a look in the gathering room and hallway. New laminate plank flooring has been installed. It looks beautiful. Come walk on it. It has some "give" yet is high-quality and durable.

Nosing (edging) has been installed on the staircases going down to the Youth and Work rooms. The stairs are much safer now to traverse. The installer suggested that nosing (edging) be installed for a fraction of the cost of replacement cost and it looks great. The WoRM staircase has not been completed yet but will be next week.

Thank you for all everyone does to keep Covenant lovely and welcoming.

Carolyn Hatfield, Chair Building & Grounds