

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
May 28, 2023

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

SUMMER WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday **June 4**
Worship will begin at **10:00 a. m.**
until Rally Day in the fall.



PENTECOST SUNDAY—Join us **May 28 at 11:00am** as we celebrate the birth of the Church over 2000 years ago! Enjoy the decorations and a wonderful reception after worship to celebrate the birth of the church.

Remember to wear **RED**- and be sure to get a flame nametag for this special day.

Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

Tuesday, June 13 at 12:30pm

Everyone is invited to the Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon on Tuesday, June 13 at 12:30pm in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.



*VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR FELLOW COVENANT YOUTH
AT OUR WEEKLY FOOD PANTRY!*

EVERY THURSDAY

June 1 - July 27 • 1 - 3 p.m.

COME AT NOON FOR LUNCH TOGETHER NEARBY
RSVP TO AMY BAER - ABAER@COVPRESATHENS.ORG



It is summer break for our UGA volunteers so we need your help more than ever, Covenant friends! Click the link below to sign up for a shift or use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes.

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

The church office will be closed Tuesday, May 30 for Memorial Day!



PRAYER CONCERNS: Bill Barstow's daughter, Linda in the hospital in Atlanta receiving treatment for leukemia, will likely be there for the next month; Raymond Adams, (father in law of Hank & DeLynda Tweedell's niece Kim) in hospice care; Clarice Davis (DeLynda's stepmother) with pneumonia; Carrie Tweedell having wisdom teeth out on May 26; Kathryn Fowler's lifelong friend, Leila McDaniel recovering from surgery for a broken hip, in Skilled Rehab Center, Charleston; Joe and June Meyers' nephew Brad Ludwig, diagnosed with prostate cancer; Tom Mote's father, Charles, recovering from surgery on May 15 following a stroke; Bruce and Karen Menke's son, Matt, at home; the 2023 Graduates; the people of South Sudan and Travis Williams' mission trip there; and our nation.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 1: 1-2:4a, Psalm 8:2, Acts 2: 1-47,

John 14: 16-18, 26

Exodus 34:22, 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Matthew 28: 16-20

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.

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@gmail.com. Or you are welcome to share your thoughts via a note in my mailbox, text, quick chat, etc.)

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF ELDERS BEGINS! Each year Covenant elects its officers to serve a 3 year term on the Session. The involvement of the congregation is important during the entire process. Donny Whitehead is the Nominating Committee Chair with Julie Bower as the second Elder approved by the Session. Now the congregation recommends members of the church to serve on the Nominating Committee. The 2 elders will then select one member to nominate to the congregation to be elected to serve with them on the Nominating Committee. You will find a nominating forms on the table in the gathering room or you can contact Donny at donnywhitehead@gmail.com or Julie at bower.julie@gmail.com. Please submit names by June 11.

Highlights of the May 23, 2023 Stated Session Meeting

For the devotional, Donny Whitehead read Philippians 3:13-14 and asked, "What is the difference between a job and a calling?" As leaders of the church, we are here not just to do a job but because we are called to work together to proclaim the love and saving power of God in this particular time and place. Donny opened the meeting with prayer.

Pam Knox, church treasurer, reported that we have received more pledges and non-pledged income than expected, and spending has been less than anticipated because of unfilled positions. Finance Ministry Team is planning to invest some of the extra money in a CD to earn higher interest. Pam presented the 2023-2024 proposed budget of \$450,507. One change from the original budget is a recommendation from Finance MT to place \$12,000 from the 2022-2023 surplus into Capital Reserve. The budget includes 6% salary increases for all personnel as requested by the Personnel Committee, and all ministry teams received the budgets they requested. The Session approved the 2023-2024 budget as presented.

Session elected Donny Whitehead and Julie Bower to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee for the 2026 class of elders. Donny and Julie will gather nominees for the 3rd member of the committee from the congregation, and that member will be elected at a congregational meeting.

At the November 1, 2022, called meeting, the Session approved changes in Covenant's Overnight Guest Policy with the plan of assessing the changes in three months. The trial period was extended until May to allow for completion of all changes to be implemented and for assessment of how they were working. Though the changes have improved the situation, we still have homeless sleeping around the building at night who have to be vacated in the morning. Several elders expressed concern for the safety of people camping on our grounds as well as for church members who come to the building alone. Another concern is the church's liability should something bad happen to someone or to our building as long as we are sanctioning the presence of unsupervised people camping on our grounds. Session approved a motion that Covenant no longer allow individuals to sleep on our campus without prior Session approval and that electricity to all outside electrical outlets be turned off 24h/day. The port-a-potty, sink and little food pantry will be maintained as is for the time being. Building and Grounds will replace the current signage with the updated policy. Athens-Clarke Police Department will be notified of our new policy. Bert Ballard-Myer, Kathryn Fowler, Valerie Stone and Donny Whitehead volunteered to serve as a "brainstorming group" to explore other ways, such as redirecting our resources and efforts toward existing local charities and government advocacy, to help the homeless in our community. By consensus, Session agreed to deny the request from Joy Village School to rent space on our property. By renting to another organization, which the church does not own or manage, Covenant could lose its property tax-exempt status in Athens-Clarke County.

Bert Ballard-Myer and Kathryn Fowler reported on the May 23rd NEGA Presbytery meeting held at Covenant. The Session applauded Building and Grounds MT for their exceptional job in getting the facility looking its best for the meeting. Dana thanked everyone who helped make the meeting a success. Amy Baer was welcomed into the NEGA Presbytery as was Steven Barnes, pastor of Oconee Presbyterian Church. Will Norman, pastor at UGA Presbyterian Student Center encouraged us to help connect high school graduates with campus ministries.

Our pianist, Connor Austell, is moving to South Carolina. His last day will be at the end of June.

Covenant will be providing a meal for about 30 students at the Presbyterian Student Center the first Tuesday of every month starting Fall Semester.

A group from Covenant will be marching in the Pride Parade on June 3rd at 2:00 p.m. We will have a resource table at the parade from 3-6.

We will begin our summer schedule of worship at 10:00 a.m. beginning June 4th.

Dana will be taking study leave the week of June 5th. Rev. Ron Gilreath will be filling in for him on Sunday, June 11th.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session

SUNDAY SCHOOL: ALL CLASSES BEGIN AT 9:45AM



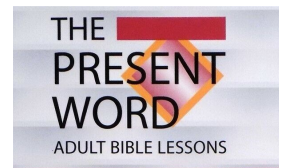
Children's (K-5) Sunday School Class This Sunday is our last Sunday School class before summer break! This week's lesson will be taught and shepherded by Dell Whitehead, Donny Whitehead, Shari Cobb and Jere Bowden. The children will be reading Acts 16:11-15 and spending time learning how to grow in the practice of welcoming others. Ms. Betsy will also 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!

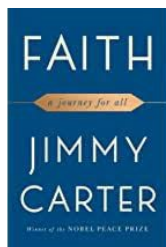
The "Upper Room" Class

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

The "Journey" adult church school class will meet during the Summer on Sunday mornings in Rm. 216 at 8:30 beginning on June 4 and continuing until Rally Day. Our book for discussion will be *Faith: A Journey for All* by Jimmy Carter. As a kick-off on 6/4, Don Moseley of Jubilee Partners will join us and share about his experiences and long friendship with Jimmy and Rosalyn.



Caring Hands Offering

Care, Share, Serve – Presbyterian Homes of Georgia continues to serve our senior residents and their families. PHGA cares for some of the most vulnerable among us by providing excellent care, even if resident(s) have outlived their financial means. "In 74 years of ministry, not one resident has ever been asked to leave Presbyterian Homes' care because they have outlived their financial resources." With your help this year, that promise will continue. A gift to the Caring Hands Fund is life-changing for God's seniors at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. Your gift may serve a meal or pay for a dental visit, provide hearing aids or foot care, or may fund a ride to a doctor's appointment. Please help by making a life-changing difference! Visit www.PHGAinc.org to learn more about this vital ministry and please prayerfully consider a gift to support God's seniors in our care through the Caring Hands Fund. You're welcome to donate on the website by clicking the DONATE button directly at <https://www.PHGAinc.org/CaringHands> or thru Covenant with Caring Hands in the memo portion of the check.



SCHEDULE for Sunday
 9:30am – 12 noon Nursery
 for ages birth to
 kindergarten
 9:45am Church School
 for
 K – 5th grade (final 5/28)
 The Journey Adult Class, &
 Upper Room Adult Class
 will continue through the
 summer
 11:00am Worship
beginning June 4
Worship 10:00am

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Liturgist: Warren Combs
Ushers/Greeters: Randy & Susan Parish, Judy Capie
Pianist: Connor Austell

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Liturgist: Stephanie Cahill
Ushers/Greeters: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Judy Capie, Alan Edwards
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
 May 28, 2023
 Tim Foutz, Dell Whitehead
 June 4, 2023
 Ellen Stoneburner, Brian Herndon

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 Sunday, May 28 is given by Rich Reaves & Betsy Burmeister

Covenant's Breakfast Club
Monday, June 5, 2023
at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road at 8:00am
 Join us for a time of good food and fellowship!


PUNCH AND COOKIES begins June 4 after worship whenever someone signs up to share. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the mail boxes. Thank you in advance to all who sign up! And yes purchased cookies are just fine! It is all about fellowship. (please no red punch)
 June 4 Betsy Burmeister & Rich Reaves
 June 11 Ellen Stoneburner
 June 18 Linda Koehler

LIBRARY CORNER
Restless Fires: Young John Muir's Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf in 1867-1868 Recovering from an injury that almost cost him his sight, fledgling naturalist and future "Father of the National Parks" John Muir (1838-1914) walked through Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida to observe both nature and man. This book by James Hunt explores Muir's trek. "In Muir's view, nature provides humans a moral touchstone when they recognize their small part in the 'divine harmony.' Muir wrote that when he simply went out for a walk in nature, he was really 'going in.' This book explores what Muir meant." Found at Bay G, Shelf 4. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone

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 #47

Anticipated Pledges — \$348,176.46

Actual Pledges — \$372,257.23

Non-Pledged - \$ 24,483.19

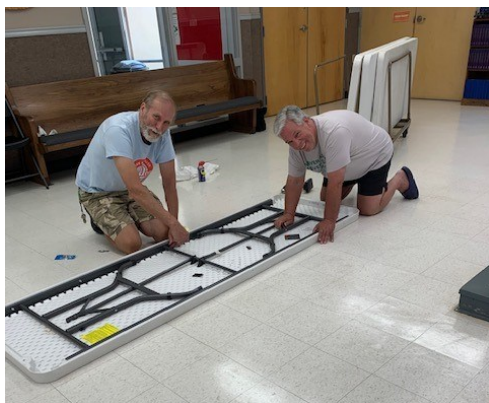
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Caring Hands/Presbyterian Homes \$550

*Knitter
Knitter* **Thursday, June 1 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.



To Jim and Ellie McMinn who celebrated their 62th wedding anniversary on May 27th!



Happy looking volunteers repairing essential equipment for the Thursday afternoon food distribution.

NEEDED: TWO GROUND STEWARDS.

THESE GROUND STEWARDS WOULD FILL IN AS SUBSTITUTES FOR A GROUND STEWARD WHO IS SICK OR AWAY AND CAN NOT FULFILL THE WEEK'S PICK-UP DUTY.

Duties include picking up trash, emptying trash containers and refilling with a clean bag and items left behind by homeless visitors and others. All trash is placed inside the dumpster. Grabbers, trash pickers and trash bgs are provided. A wheelbarrow is also available for your use. You supply your own gloves. If interested please contact Carolyn Hatfield or any of the Ground Stewards listed in the Covenant. This is a much-needed volunteer position.

Thank you, *Carolyn Hatfield*, Chair of Building & Grounds

Covenant is again serving as HOST Congregation for our Family Promise families at the Milledge Avenue Baptist Church site during the week of May 28 – June 4. We need volunteers for evening meal preparation, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. Please visit the Family Promise sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022> to volunteer or contact Phil Hale for info and assistance at phale50@hotmail.com or 706-614-0812. Thanks for your help with this much-needed local ministry.

