

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, July 30, 2023 at 10am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER July 30, 2023

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

Today we welcome **Sue Jacobson** as guest preacher. Sue is a retired minister member of the Presbytery. She served for 15 years as the Director of Children and Family Ministries at Oconee Presbyterian Church where she continues to worship with her husband, Marshall.

Update from Pastor Dana, Kira and Leona Eloise Waters – Dear Covenant Family, The author of Proverbs writes: “People plan their path, but the Lord secures their steps” (16:9). These words of wisdom perfectly describe the adventure that Kira and I have been on since we first learned that we were expecting. I am writing to let you know that Kira and I welcomed out baby girl into the world on Thursday, 7/27 at 9:10pm via C-section. Mom & daughter are doing well. She is already living into her Waters family heritage by arriving early! (her due date was originally August 14. Kira and I welcome your prayers for our family in these days ahead. We kindly ask for no calls or visits for the first couple weeks. We’ve got a lot of family coming in from Alabama, South Carolina, and Germany who will be providing wonderful care for us. I will be away on family leave from July 26 thru August 28 to take care of our little one. We are deeply grateful for the Session’s blessing to take this time for our family. We are also thankful for this congregation’s love and support throughout our journey so far! Rest assured that Covenant will be well covered while I am away. Guest preachers will be filling in starting this Sunday, July 30. There will also be a pastor on-call each week who is available for pastoral care emergencies, such as hospital visits. If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact Karen in the church office or reach out to our congregational care team. I look forward to seeing all of you when I return on August 28. May God’s blessings be with you!
Joyfully, *Dana*



The new school year is fast approaching and many Cedar Shoals High School students are in need. Mrs. Angela Gay, Cedar Shoals Social Worker, has told us that they need about 80 backpacks in their Care Center to start the year. From now through August 13 (Covenant Rally Day), we will be collecting backpacks for them! There are two simple ways to help:

1. Follow this link to purchase a backpack from the church "Backpack Drive for Cedar Shoals" Wishlist and the items will be shipped directly to the church office. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref_=wl_share
2. Go to your local store, purchase a backpack (preferably with padding for a laptop inside) and bring it to church and leave it on our Backpack Drive table in the hallway outside the Worship Center.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER form can be found on page 8 as well as on the table in the gathering room.

Highlights of the July 25, 2023 Stated Session Meeting

Jennifer Frey presented a devotional on the healing power of forgiveness from a Guideposts article, "A Love that Forgives", written by Carolyn Maull McKinstry. When she was a child, Ms. McKinstry was a member of the Birmingham church that was bombed on Sept. 16, 1963. Jennifer opened the meeting with prayer.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, read two thank you notes she had received from Northeast Georgia Bells wrote in appreciation of Covenant providing them a place to practice and from Rev. Hilary Shuford for Covenant hosting the May NEGA Presbytery meeting.

In light of Baby Waters' early arrival, Dana shared the revised schedule for his 4-week paternity leave. It will begin Wednesday July 26, 2023, and run through Monday, August 28, 2023. There are guest preachers scheduled to preach each Sunday and pastors on call for emergencies such as hospital visits or funerals.

Dana asked the Session to review the Financial Report for June. Finance Ministry Team will have a more complete report after their August meeting.

In an effort to be able to provide an accurate church membership roll to the Pastor Nominating Committee, several months ago letters were sent to 18 households, identified by the Session, asking if they would like to remain on Covenant's membership rolls or be removed. Based on the response (or lack of response) to this letter, to phone calls and to lack of participation and pledges, the Session approved a motion to remove 23 persons from the membership rolls.

New membership total $230 - 23 = 207$.

Elders Linda Koehler and Clayton Adams, as well as former elder, Katy Terry, and one other to be determined will serve as commissioners to the NEGA Presbytery meeting to be held via Zoom on Saturday, August 26, 2023.

In place of its monthly stated meeting, in August, the Session will have its yearly social. Worship Ministry Team is trying to regroup a communion team of about 12 people to prepare and clean up communion in order to return to serving communion in our traditional way. There will be a training session once the group is established.

We will return to having the **Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. on Rally Day which is August 13th**. Church School for children will resume that day and there will be an overview of adult Church School classes, as well as other offerings for Christian Education.

Mission Ministry Team reminded every one of the back pack drive for Cedar Shoals High School students.

Valerie, Eli and Joan Prittie will make a presentation on their trip to Olomouc in the near future.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session

PRAYER CONCERNS: Clayton Adams' parents, Travis & Kathy in a serious accident Sunday. Update from 7/26: they both are able to be out of ICU and Travis has started physical therapy and he is not paralyzed. Kathy is also doing well sitting up and able to swallow. The family requests no visitors or phone calls at this time. Cards can be mailed to their home address: 491 Riverbend Road, Blairsville, Georgia 30512; Kira, Leona Eloise and Pastor Dana; Heide & Juergen Wiegel as Juergen deals with Alzheimers; Dan Stoneburner diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer that has spread to the brain; Diane Frost, DeLynda's aunt, who had a stroke June 19 and is still in therapy to regain use of right hand; Carrie Tweedell diagnosed with a stress fracture of the third metatarsal of her left foot; Linda Koehler recovering well from knee replacement surgery; Bill Barstow's daughter, Linda at home feeling some better; Bruce and Karen Menke's son, Matt, at home; and our nation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS Genesis 32: 22-31, Psalm 17: 1-7, 15, Isaiah 55: 1-5, Psalm 145: 8-9, Psalm 145: 14-21, Romans 9: 1-5, Matthew 14: 13-21

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.

Knitters & Knotters

Thursday, August 3rd 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.

*knitter
knotted*



COMMUNION TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Worship Ministry Team needs your help. We would like to assemble a Communion Team to provide Communion as we did prior to the pandemic. This would include preparation of Communion elements and clean-up afterwards. We need four persons to assist each month (two for prep and two for clean-up). There will be a training session scheduled in September. If we gather enough folks to assist, this will be a quarterly rotation. Please consider participating in the vital ministry! Then we can use real cups and eat real bread! For any questions, please contact Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com. Thank you!

FOLKS - THE B&G MT NEEDS YOUR HELP.

It's been two months since hedge shrubbery around the campus buildings has been pruned. This growth is mostly nandina, spirea, holly, and gardenia. Thanks to Catherine Tyson's generosity we have a battery powered pruning shears and blower to lighten the workload. This job takes about an hour.

Please see Rich Reaves, 706-248-2819, if you're available to volunteer to complete this task. Thank You!



SCHEDULE for Sunday
 9:30am – 12 noon Nursery
 for ages birth to
 kindergarten
 8:30am Church School
 for
 The Journey Adult Class,
 &
 11:10am Upper Room
 Adult Class
 Worship 10:00am

SUNDAY, JULY 30

PIANIST: Aaron Carton-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Stephanie Cahill, DeLynda & Hank Tweedell,
 Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill **GUEST PREACHER:** Sue Jacobson

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHER/GREETERS: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb,
 Carol & Dennis Calbos

LITRUGIST: Warren Combs **GUEST PREACHER:** Hilary Shuford

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**

July 30, 2023
 Brian, Valerie & Eli Stone
 August 6, 2023
 Richard & Marcia Page

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. *The flowers in worship last Sunday were given by Paula & Dick Zimdars in honor of Paula's birthday July 14.*

Covenant's Breakfast Club
Monday, August 7, 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)

July 30 Luanne Rigbsby
August 6

LIBRARY CORNER
Natural Spirituality: Recovering the Wisdom Tradition in Christianity Joyce Rockwood Hudson founded the Natural Spirituality Program at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens and later wrote this book about the experiences that led her in this spiritual direction. The book also explores the spiritual individuation journey as well as concepts such as the Sophia wisdom tradition, masculine/feminine integration, and the spiritual use of nighttime dreams. Found at Bay D, Shelf 1. — Church Librarian Valerie Stone. (Note: Hudson's work has blossomed into several groups around Athens. If you are interested in attending, contact Valerie.)

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 #4
 Anticipated Pledges — \$32,769.54
 Actual Pledges — \$25,148.33
 Non-Pledged - \$159.00
 Jubilee Partners— *Coffee Worth Pavilion*
 \$3,000.00

Pledge envelopes have arrived and are in your mailbox.

Covenant by the Week!

July 30, 2023

Sunday 8:30am Journey Class
 10:00am Worship
 11:10am Upper Room Class
 12:30pm 12 Step Group
 Campus Kitchen

Monday— 11am New Horizons Band
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Tuesday Office Hours 10am—4pm
 7:00pm 12 Step Group
 Karen on Vacation 1 day

Wednesday Office Open 10am—4pm
 11:30am New Horizons Band
 5:30pm CE Meeting
 6:30pm Mission/Outreach Meeting

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm
 Campus Kitchen
 1pm - 2pm Cov Food Pantry
 2pm Knitters & Knotters
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Friday Office Open 10am—4pm
 8:00pm 12 Step Group

Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group

August 6, 2023

Sunday 8:30am Journey Class
 10:00am Worship
 11:10am Upper Room Class
 12:30pm 12 Step Group
 Campus Kitchen

Monday— 11am New Horizons Band
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Tuesday Office Hours 10am—4pm
 6:30pm Finance Meeting via Zoom
 7:00pm 12 Step Group
 7:00pm Stamp Club in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Office Open 10am—4pm
 11:30am New Horizons Band

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm
 Campus Kitchen
 1pm - 2pm Cov Food Pantry
 2pm Knitters & Knotters
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Friday Office Open 10am—4pm
 8:00pm 12 Step Group

Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group

Up Coming Events

August 13 RALLY DAY
 August 20-27 FAMILY PROMISE



Athens Free Clinic

We are once again partnering with UGA and the Medical Partnership to host a free clinic here at Covenant on several Mondays through the fall. We will advertise these Clinic appointments to our food pantry clients and other community partners but feel free to send this link to anyone you know who is in need of medical care and is medically indigent:

<https://calendly.com/covenantclinic/free-clinic-appointment>

To sign up to volunteer to make appointment reminder calls and/or to help with check-in on Clinic

Days, please sign up here: <https://signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AAZZAZO-athens>

Christian Education Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 2 at 5:30pm

Please join us for our CE Fall planning meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 5:30pm – 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall

Mission/Outreach Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 2 at 6:30pm

Please join us for our Mission/Outreach Committee planning meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the Fellowship hall



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

We would like to invite you to join us for Bible Study and Fellowship each month on the second Thursday morning at 9:30am in the Conference Room/Library at Covenant. Our Horizon's PW Bible Study this year will be "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". The Bible Study books have arrived and may be purchased now! Please see Karen W in the church office for a book. They are \$11.00 each. **Our first meeting will be September 14th.** We look forward to seeing you soon.

Jennifer Frey & Betsy Burmeister

"PW Gives" Day is a day to celebrate and support all that Presbyterian Women makes possible. July 31 was selected to commemorate the July 1988 formation of today's Presbyterian Women, from the merger of its two predecessor organizations. Thirty-five years later (and innumerable ministries supported), Presbyterian Women continues to address the world's needs and build loving community.

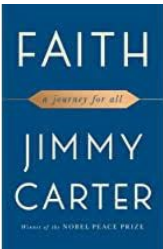
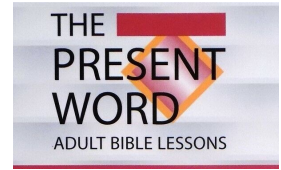
Your gift to Presbyterian Women makes possible a wide variety of PW ministries at all levels of the church. [Read about what gifts to PW's annual fund make possible.](#) July 31 will be celebrated as PW Gives Day—a day to celebrate the many ways that Presbyterian Women give to witness to the promise of God's realm. Here's what you can do to support "PW Gives" Day—today or any day through July 31!

[Give now.](#) Select PW Gives Day and your gift amount. Select a gift of \$10 or more. Type PWGDay23 in the comments box, as well as your church presbytery (or synod) information. Mail your gift to Presbyterian Women Inc., PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652. Please note "PWGDay23" in the memo line of your check.



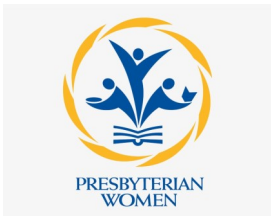
The "Upper Room" Class beginning at 11:10am

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 beginning at 8:30am

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.



Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women's August Workshops

August 19, 2023

Commerce Presbyterian Church

Introduction to PW Bible Study Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke Acts. Facilitator Judy Grieve. All attendees will be introduced to the Horizons Bible Study for 2023-2024. In the Bible Study Olive Mahabir "... invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters of everyday people."

The introduction to the Bible Study will be live-streamed. Please click this link to access the PW Newsletter that includes other workshops and registration form;

https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/June_July2023-NE-GA-PW-newsletter-1.pdf PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 10, 2023.



Birthdays!

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Kay Millar | 19 Thomas Sperr | 26 Tina Shelnett |
| 6 Paige Campbell | 22 Rich Reaves | 28 Claude Burnett |
| Hank Tweedell | Vera Simpson | 29 Kirk Cureton |
| 14 Jim Verbrugge | Georgianna Sumner | 31 Carol Huber |
| 15 Katie Bemisderfer | 23 Gloria Pylant | |
| 16 Susan Shealy | Jeremy Mote | |
| Carolyn Steuer | 24 Barbara Burnett | |
| Kathi Van Wicklen | 25 Bob Placek | |
| 19 Karen Foutz | | |



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER

The Nominating Committee is charged to nominate four persons for the office of elder to serve on the Session for a three year term. Please make known to the committee persons you want to be considered. You are encouraged to seek permission from those persons whom you suggest to the committee. In this way everyone is more deeply involved in the election process.

According to the Book of Order, "Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world." Persons recommended for this Office will serve on the Session which usually meets every month. Session members also provide leadership for the ministry teams of the church.

Please list below the names you wish the Nominating Committee to consider for the office of Elder of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Please give prayerful thought as you consider persons for this important office. Remember; seek their consent before entering the names below.

Elders Presently Serving on Session

Classes: 2023 - Linda Koehler, Clayton Adams, Donny Whitehead, Jennifer Frey

2024 - Katy McGill Arora, Abby Horvath, Bert Ballard-Myer, Valerie Stone

2025 - Kathryn Fowler, Carolyn Hatfield, Ansley Tweedell, Dick Zimdars

I suggest the following person(s) to the Nominating Committee to be considered for elder** to serve on the Session, Class of 2026:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

** I have permission to submit the above name(s) for consideration for elder. Please submit your recommendations to Donny Whitehead donnywhitehead@gmail.com or Julie Bower bower.julie@gmail.com or Jere Bowden rangerjere@yahoo.com or place in the drop box on the table in the gathering room by August 13th. Thank you!

