



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2023-24 FALL BROCHURE

Covenant is known throughout the Athens community for putting its big heart for mission into action and welcoming all of God's diverse children with open arms. Covenant feeds the hungry every Thursday through the weekly food pantry, offers rich and vibrant worship for those seeking to follow Christ, and builds connections through a variety of groups and volunteer opportunities with local mission partners.

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an all-inclusive family of faith whose mission is to live out Christ's example of serving others, with a focus on worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach in the Athens community and the world.

COVPRESATHENS.ORG

Sunday Worship

All are welcome to worship every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. in the Worship Center.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ALWAYS INCLUDES:

- Beautiful music including a broad repertoire of choir, handbells, and congregational singing
- Rich liturgy including carefully crafted language and prayerful silence
- Powerful preaching that is always attentive to scripture, the needs of the congregation and the challenges of the world
- Intergenerational worship leadership by lay readers and musical offerings by people of all ages
- The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month
- Liturgical seasons are expressed through visual arts as well as music and liturgy
- Services are live streamed every Sunday and available on our YouTube Channel

SEASONAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

Christmas Eve service
Christmas Choral Worship
Ash Wednesday service
Maundy Thursday service
Good Friday service
Easter Sunday service
Pentecost service



CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

All children are welcome in worship all the time! Worship bags are available for children of all ages on the pew outside of the worship center doors. A rocking chair and table are also right outside the worship center doors for parents who prefer to feed or sooth young children. Nursery care is available in the Education Wing during Sunday School and Worship.

PUNCH & COOKIES

(Summer months)
Join the whole congregation for this time of fellowship and refreshment after worship every week during the summer months!

Sunday School

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (K-5) CLASS

This multi-age class, taught by Katy Arora and our volunteer Shepherds, meets each week (August-May), 9:45-10:45, on the main level of the church across from The Journey Class. Each week, this class begins with a lovely music time with Betsy Burmeister and then, using "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum," the children enter into sacred space together, read from their story Bible, pause for a time of wondering, engage their curiosity and imagination with God's story through art and drama, wrestle with their place in God's story through activities and discussion, and bless one another with God's grace. Please join us for this time of Growing in God's Love!

NURSERY (AGES BIRTH TO 5)

Begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes after the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service



ADULT CLASSES

All classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

THE BUILDERS CLASS

Led by Pastor Dana, this class meets in the Library. What are you building? Pastor Dana facilitates this 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 of theological issues.

THE JOURNEY CLASS

This class meets in the classroom across from the children's (K-5) classroom and welcomes all adults who wish to participate in a discussion format led by class members, focusing on group-selected books or other lesson materials. We offer a Zoom connection for those who are unable to participate in person. Currently, this class is reading and discussing Teri Ott's "Necessary Risks."

THE UPPER ROOM CLASS

This class meets in the "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."

Music at Covenant

During the Week



ADULT CHOIR

The Covenant Adult Choir sings regularly at worship services throughout the year, providing a variety of choral and solo music. There is special music during worship several times a year, including Palm Sunday, Easter, and during the Advent season, which culminates in a well-loved Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

COVENANT BAND

The Covenant Band performs at Christmas Choral Worship and is under the direction of Aaron Carter-Enyi. If you play an instrument and want to be a part of an ensemble consider joining this group.

PRAISE BAND

The Praise Band is an intimate (yet fun) group to join if you like more upbeat contemporary praise music and is under the direction of Aaron Carter-Enyi.



HANDBELL CHOIR

We welcome new and experienced ringers, adults and high school students, who can read music. No prior handbell experience required.

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:15 pm in the handbell room. We rehearse during the school year and ring approximately once a month for Sunday worship services and other occasions. We ring Malmark five octaves handbells and 4.5 octaves chimes. For more information and to join us, contact David Boardman, Handbell Choir Director, at David@Boardo.com.

NEW HORIZONS BAND

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Directed by Joyce King, the New Horizons Band is an outreach of the University of Georgia's Hugh Hodgson School of Music. We provide music-making opportunities for adults, generally over the age of 50, including those with no musical experience at all, and those who were active in school music programs, but have been inactive for a long period. For more information, and to register and play in this vital and active band, go to: <https://www.music.uga.edu/newhorizons>

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Library (September to May)

No homework, prep-work, or experience is required.

Everyone, including Pastor Dana, enters the text with fresh eyes and a chance to explore God's Word together. Those who participate find their experience of hearing the sermon the following Sunday enhanced by this deep dive into the scripture passage for the week.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Second Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. in the Library

Covenant's women meet for a time of Bible Study, fellowship and service. We are guided in our study by "PW/Horizons" Bible Study, the PC(USA) Presbyterian Women Curriculum. Childcare is available upon advance request. Bring a friend!

COVENANT CONNECTION

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. (September to May)

Join us for dinner and fellowship! Bible Study with Pastor Dana is at 6:30 in the Library and various choirs practice after dinner as well.

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS

Every Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Library

Join us for a great time of fellowship and ministry as we gather to make blankets, hats, scarves, pillows, etc. for those in need. Everyone is invited and beginners are welcome.

THE RETIREES

Every Second Tuesday (September to May)

Retirees of all ages and stages enjoy active fellowship and renewing friendships with this older adult group. We meet for a covered dish luncheon, an engaging program and lots of fun and conversation.

COVENANT'S BREAKFAST CLUB

1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 a.m.

Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Parkway

Join us for good "worms" for early birds and good conversation! Bring a friend!

Serving at Covenant

Serving together is a vital part of Covenant's community. Particularly, our church focuses on hunger, homelessness, and LGBTQIA+ advocacy. By hosting our own church programs as well as partnering with a number of local and national organizations, we work to fulfill our call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

For more information, please reach out to Amy Baer, Coordinator of Outreach, at abaer@covpresathens.org.

COVENANT FOOD PANTRY

Every week, Covenant operates a drive-through food pantry funded by the church, run by volunteers, and free and open to anyone in need of food. This pantry serves more than 1,000 people per month including an average of 325 children and 200 seniors.

How you can get involved:

The food pantry has two weekly volunteer shifts year-round:
9:30-11:30 am: Unloading, packing and preparing food bags
12:30-2:30 pm: Distribution of food at drive-through pantry
Sign up to serve on the signup sheet in the main hallway or by emailing Amy Baer.

ATHENS FREE CLINIC AT COVENANT

In partnership with UGA and the Medical Partnership, Covenant hosts the Athens Free Clinic, a free health clinic with a team of medical students advised by a doctor. The doctor is able to write prescriptions (except for controlled substances), test for diabetes, hypertension, and HIV, provide gender-affirming care and do referrals to specialists who will treat participants on a cost-reduced basis (either sliding scale or the fee will be waived).

How you can get involved:

Email Amy Baer to sign up to greet clients on clinic days.



Serving at Covenant

LGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY

It is Covenant's mission to welcome all God's people, and send a clear signal to all persons identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender that they will find welcome and acceptance at Covenant. We are a regular sponsor and participant in events with Athens Pride & Queer Collective including the Athens Pride Parade and PrideFest.

How you can get involved:

Contact Mission & Outreach Chair, Bert Ballard-Myer, for more information.

COLLABORATION WITH UGA'S CAMPUS KITCHEN AND UGARDEN

Covenant is excited to host the UGA Campus Kitchen program in our commercial kitchen 3 days a week year-round. This program is staffed by UGA student volunteers and provides more than 600 meals per week to people in need throughout the Athens area. UGarden also brings fresh vegetables from their farm to supplement our food pantry bags each week.

How you can get involved:

Campus Kitchen frequently needs volunteers to cook and deliver meals while the students are away on semester breaks. Contact Amy Baer for more information if you would like to volunteer.

COLLECTIONS FOR CEDAR SHOALS FAMILIES

Covenant collects various basic items for the school's Care Center, an emergency food pantry and clothes closet, for students in need and their families.

How you can get involved:

Email Amy Baer to help with collections and deliveries.

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS

Covenant members meet every Thursday at 2 p.m. for fellowship and fun while making blankets for people recovering from illness and for clients of Highland Hills, Family Promise and Project Safe.

How you can get involved:

Contact Linda Koehler for more information and to join us.

COVENANT'S "FIRST FRUITS" GLEANING GARDEN

Covenant has a small garden bed behind the building tended by church members. The fruits of this garden will be used to supplement our food pantry bags and given to people in need.

How you can get involved:

Contact Brian Herndon for more information.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Covenant has a small free food pantry on the West side of the building. Feel free to leave small items like canned goods and shelf-safe items.

Serving our Community

If you are interested in learning more or joining us in any of these programs, please reach out to Amy Baer, Coordinator of Outreach, at abaer@covpresathens.org.

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is the leading national nonprofit addressing family homelessness, providing homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, workforce development, education, financial capability, health and wellness, and so much more.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant members serve at the shelter for four weeks a year, cooking meals, and monitoring the shelter in the evening and overnight hours.

PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT CENTER (UGA)

The Presbyterian Student Center has been an active ministry at the University of Georgia since 1940. The PSC seeks to be a community of belonging for all college students equipping and empowering them through hospitality, worship, study, advocacy and service.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant members serve and enjoy dinner together with the students of the PSC on the First Tuesday of each month and seek to partner with the PSC for year-round community events.

PROJECT SAFE

Project Safe works to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, ongoing supportive services, systems change advocacy, and prevention and education.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant supports Project Safe with blankets from our Knitters & Knotters group and individual volunteers in their thrift store.

ATHENS WELLNESS CLINIC

The Athens Wellness Clinic has a 33 year history of providing health and dental care at no cost to our uninsured neighbors.

Covenant's Participation

Throughout the year, interns from the Athens Wellness Clinic do blood pressure screenings at our food pantry. The church and individual members donate and volunteer with the clinic.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels delivers nutritious meals to home-bound people unable to prepare their own food. This service is essential in order for many of our neighbors to remain independent.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant members deliver meals weekly year-round.

Serving our Community



ATHENS PRIDE + QUEER COLLECTIVE

Athens Pride + Queer Collective is dedicated to the advancement of equity, affirmation, diversity, and wellness of queer populations in the greater Athens area by working with historically marginalized communities through outreach, social connection, education, and events.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant is an annual sponsor and participant in PrideFest in the Fall and the Athens Pride Parade in June.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Our Daily Bread serves meals Monday through Friday providing more than 75,000 nutritious meals per year with gracious hospitality to our neighbors in need.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant members serve lunch every 5th Wednesday.

ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank provides emergency food for families or individuals who live in Athens-Clarke County.

Covenant's Participation

Covenant collects needed items for the food bank year-round and members volunteer onsite.

Serving our World

If you are interested in learning more or joining us in any of these efforts, please reach out to Amy Baer, Coordinator of Outreach, at abaer@covpresathens.org.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SISTER-CHURCH IN OLOMOUC

In partnership with our sister-church in Olomouc, Czech Republic, both churches have sent groups to visit and attend meetings together. For several years, Covenant members operated a one-week English-learning camp for the Olomouc church. Covenant has also supported the Olomouc church in their work with refugees from Ukraine.

COVENANT NETWORK OF PRESBYTERIANS

Covenant is an affirming congregation of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Through this affirmation we join other congregations in seeking an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society.

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Covenant supports theological education and the upbuilding of new church leaders by donating annually to our nearby PC(USA) seminary.

MATTHEW 25 MOVEMENT

Joining with more than a thousand other PC(USA) churches, we have pledged to be a "Matthew 25 Church." This means we seek to be about God's reconciling work, serving Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies – rural and urban, small and large, young and not-so-young. Covenant has joined the Matthew 25 Movement to be instrumental in bringing about positive changes like affordable housing, community gardens, equitable educational and employment opportunities, healing from addiction and mental illness and enacting policy change. To learn more about the Matthew 25 Movement, go to: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

MONTREAT "CHURCH PATRON" SPONSOR

Covenant is a "Church Patron" Sponsor of the Montreat Conference Center.

PC(USA) PROGRAMS COVENANT SUPPORTS

Covenant participates annually in special offerings for denominational mission efforts.

Gathering

While worship is the heart of all that we do at Covenant, it is our relationships with God and one another that helps to keep that heart beating. Throughout the year, we:

- Gather around the table for food and fellowship as part of Covenant Connection.
- Host game nights, picnics on the church lawn, the Strawberry Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Pentecost Reception, the World Communion Sunday Reception, the Covenant Progressive Dinner each December and the Heart of Covenant Dinner
- Provide care for our members during illness, death, and birth
- Share fellowship, learning and service together with the Presbyterian Women
- Bless our neighbors with hand-knitted blankets from the Knitters and Knotters group
- Meets monthly to learn, eat and to stay connected with our older adult group "The Retirees"
- Share fellowship every Sunday after worship in the summer months for "Punch & Cookies"

Leadership

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Chair: Carolyn Hatfield
neverstopsearching@yahoo.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(includes Care & Nurture of Young Children)
Co-Chairs: Donny Whitehead, Katy Arora
donnywhitehead@gmail.com
katymc4@gmail.com

MISSION OUTREACH

Chair: Bert Ballard-Myer
mysammie1@yahoo.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Co-Chairs: Linda Koehler, Ansley Tweedell
lkoehler150@att.net
aetweedell@hotmail.com

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Chair: Valerie Stone
valeriefreystone@gmail.com

FINANCE

Co-Chairs: Clayton Adams, Kathryn Fowler
claytonadams10485@gmail.com
kathryndfowler@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Frey, Dick Zimdars
jenofrey@gmail.com
zpear@bellsouth.net

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chair: Abby Horvath
ahorvath30@gmail.com