

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER October 08, 2023

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

**Due to the increase** in Covid cases at Covenant and the surrounding area the session strongly encourages folks to wear masks to worship until further notice. We hope that the current case positivity rate will subside very soon.

### Travis Williams will join us on Sunday, October 15 at 9:30am in the fellowship hall

Greetings from Durham!

In mid-August, I returned from a three-month-long stay in Yei, a small, rural town in South Sudan, Africa. From May to August, I taught at Bishop Allison Theological College, a struggling seminary hoping to train Christian leaders to serve the Sudanese people. During my time in Yei, I taught, preached, and explored methods and strategies for community development that, I hope, will influence the school's trajectory and mission—my time at Covenant proved incredibly helpful, providing me with a wealth of experiences to pull from while teaching and serving this small, rural town.

In the same way that God has blessed Athens with Covenant, I hope to share how God is blessing the people of South Sudan, even in the face of tremendous instability and violence. Please join me on Sunday, October 15th, to discuss the massive need for Christian missions and ministry in South Sudan and East Africa. I pray we have a room overflowing with questions, comments, and lively conversation!

Travis Williams, Director, Children's Minister Trinity United Methodist



Sunday, October 8 during worship we will welcome 4 folks into membership.

See Session Highlights page 7

### RETIREE'S COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 at  
12:30pm

It is a covered dish luncheon and Kelsey Ripley from *Books for Keeps* will speak to us about that program to get books into the hands of children. Come and join us for this time of food and fellowship.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Covenant PW will meet on Thursday, October 12th, at 9:30am in the Covenant Library and via Zoom, for those unable to attend in person. We will be discussing Lesson #2, led by Sandy Whitney. Refreshments will be provided by Betsy Burmeister. We had a wonderful first meeting last month! Please consider leading a lesson for us this year, as we are sharing the responsibility for leadership. We hope to see you all again soon!- Jennifer and Betsy. For questions, email Jennifer Frey at [jenoofrey@gmail.com](mailto:jenoofrey@gmail.com).

Click or enter the link below in your browser to access COVENANT'S FALL BROCHURE 2023-2024  
<https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Covenant-Fall-Brochure-2023-24-1.pdf>

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Jennifer Frey's cousin, Jason, in a car accident and in the hospital in North Carolina. He needs surgery for broken bones; Jennifer's cousin's husband, Ray is hospitalized following a stroke in Virginia; Jim Verbrugge recovering at home following a hospitalization for colitis; DeLynda Tweedell's father, Larry, recovering from pneumonia and stepmother Clarice as his caregiver; Brad Courtney recovering from a serious fall; Heide & Juergen Wiegel as Juergen deals with Alzheimer's; Bill Barstow's daughter, Linda's stem cell transplant went smoothly Sept. 29. Now the donor cells need to take hold; Travis Adams (Clayton's father) currently at Northridge rehab in Commerce; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky; and our nation.

Clayton Adams has helped his mom and dad Travis and Kathy, create this Go Fund Me link to assist them in raising the funds for new accommodations as they prepare to bring him home in a wheelchair. The family thanks you all for the love and care you have already offered, and for the ongoing love and support you continue to give. You can read more and donate at this link:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-travis-and-kathy-adams...>

*Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto: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, October 12 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*

**The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in desperate need**

**of**

**BROWN PAPER BAGS.**

**And egg cartons**

**Please consider asking for paper bags with your groceries and a few more for the food bank. Thank you!**

**LIBRARY CORNER**



Church Library -- We need help finding a library item, please. This spring a small printed photo album disappeared from the library. It contains photos and descriptions of Covenant's 2019 English Camp at the Olomouc Church. It is a thin, moss-green hardback book that is 11.5 inches wide and 8.5 inches tall. If you know where it is, please contact Valerie Stone (678-360-6983) or send it on home to the library. Thank you!

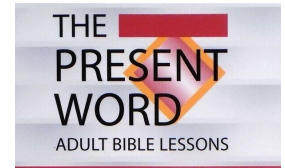


## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

**The BUILDERS CLASS. Meeting at 9:45am beginning September 10** 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 "UPPER ROOM" Class beginning at 9:45am

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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com).



### The "JOURNEY" Class beginning at 9:45am

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 and Via Zoom  
The "Journey" adult church school class resumes this Sunday, August 20. We will begin a new study book, "Necessary Risks", by Teri Ott.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS for K-5.

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!



If you would like to provide a meal for Georgianna & Don Sumner.

Please click on this link:

<https://takethemameal.com/IIBV3490>

The are very thankful for all the meals that you all have provided. Their move is scheduled for October 19.

### Ministry Team Meetings at Covenant!

#### Congregational Care Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday, October 8 following worship

#### Mission and Outreach Ministry Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 25 at 5:30pm

**Sunday Schedule  
for October 8**

**9:30am Nursery**

**Church School for  
All Ages at 9:45am**

**WORSHIP**

**11:00am**

**Following worship  
Visitor Luncheon**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**PIANIST:** Aaron Carter-Enyi

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Alan Edwards, Judy Capie,  
Susan & Randy Parish

**LITURGIST:** Warren Combs and Eli Stone

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

**PIANIST:** Aaron Carter-Enyi

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Chris Wilson, Katy Terry, DeLynda & Hank T.

**LITURGIST:** Jim Newland

**OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING**

<i>Chris Wilson</i>	<i>1st Sunday</i>	<i>Judy Capie</i>	<i>2nd Sunday</i>
<i>Pam Knox</i>	<i>3rd Sunday</i>	<i>Tim Foutz</i>	<i>4th Sunday</i>
<i>Dick Zimdars</i>	<i>5th Sunday</i>		



**Nursery  
Ministry**

October 8, 2023  
Don Bower, Pam Knox  
October 15, 2023  
Sandy Whitney,

**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 Stone-*

**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 .

October 8 Tom & Jeremy Mote in loving memory of Nancy Omdahl

October 15

October 22

October 29

**Wonderful Wednesdays October 11**

**5:30pm** Covenant Connection—join us for a delicious dinner prepared by our own *Chef Patrick* (\$3.00 donation per meal) and wonderful popcorn by Hank T.

**6:15pm** Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Dana

**6:00pm** Handbell Rehearsal  
makeminesupine@hotmail.com

**7:15pm** Adult Choir Rehearsal  
acarter-enyi@covpresathens.org

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](mailto: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](http://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 #14**

Anticipated Pledges — \$114,593.38

Actual Pledges — \$109,271.60

Non-Pledged - \$975.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

**October 08, 2023**

**Covenant by the Week!**

**October 15, 2023**

Sunday 9:45am Church School for all ages  
**11:00am Worship**  
**Congregational Care Meeting after Worship**  
 12:30pm 12 Step Group  
**Elder Training 4:30pm—6:30pm**  
 Campus Kitchen

Monday 11am New Horizons Band  
 1:30pm Athens Free Clinic  
 6:30pm Scouts Pac Meeting  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Tuesday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 12:30pm Retiree’s Covered Dish Luncheon  
 6:30pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom  
 7:00pm Stamp Club Meeting in FH  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Wednesday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 11:30am New Horizons Band  
**5:30pm Covenant Connection,**  
**6:15pm Adult Bible Study**  
**6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal, 7:15pm Adult Choir**  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 Campus Kitchen  
 9:30am PW Bible Study in Library  
 1 pm - 3pm 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

Sunday 9:30am Travis Williams speaking  
**11:00am Worship**  
 12:30pm 12 Step Group  
**Elder Training 4:30pm—6:30pm**  
 Campus Kitchen  
 October 15—21 Karen on Vacation

Monday 11am New Horizons Band  
 1:30pm Athens Free Clinic  
 6:30pm Scouts Pac Meeting  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group  
 7:00pm Bells of NEGA

Tuesday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Wednesday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 11:30am New Horizons Band  
**5:30pm Covenant Connection,**  
**6:15pm Adult Bible Study**  
**6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal, 7:15pm Adult Choir**  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm  
 Campus Kitchen  
 11:30am Food Pantry Volunteer Meeting  
 1 pm - 3pm Cov Food Pantry  
 2pm Knitters & Knotters  
 7pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting  
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Friday Office Open 10am—4pm  
**7:00pm Game Nite**  
 8:00pm 12 Step Group

Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group

**Up Coming:** Oct 22—29 Family Promise



## October Collection

for the students of Cedar Shoals High School! This month, we are collecting 3 hygiene items for students in need at Cedar Shoals High School: Deodorant (boys and girls), Toothpaste and Bar Soap. There are two ways to help! Thank you so much in advance for your generosity and support of our neighbors! **Purchase items from our Amazon Wish-list:** Click the link below and when given a shipping option you will see "Karen Wetherington" Gift Registry Address and that is the correct address. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref=wl_share)

[ref =wl\\_share](#) Your donations will be shipped to the church and

volunteers will deliver them to the school. **Purchase the following items and leave them on the collection table in the hallway across from the church mailboxes:** Deodorant (boys and girls), Toothpaste and Bar Soap

## Covenant Food Pantry

Every Thursday

*Please note: shifts have been slightly adjusted*

SHIFT 1: Unloading and

Bagging the Food  
(9:30am – 11:30am)

SHIFT 2: Food Distribution

12: 30pm – 3pm

You can click on the pic or sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>



**Join your Covenant friends every**  
**First Tuesday of the month**  
**servicing and enjoying dinner with the**  
**students of the Presbyterian Student Center**

Dates: Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Feb. 6, April 2, May 7

Time: 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: 4

Location: Meet at the Presbyterian Student Center  
at 1250 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30605

How to volunteer: Please sign up on the sheet in the hallway at church  
or email Bert Ballard-Myer at [mysammie1@yahoo.com](mailto:mysammie1@yahoo.com).

**Expanding Fellowship** -- If you've been at Covenant a while, you've likely made some friends you enjoy. This autumn the Fellowship Team would like to challenge you to think about widening our circles. Is there someone who comes alone to church and might like someone to sit with? Is there someone you can invite over for coffee or to come along on a stroll? If you regularly get together with other Covenant folks for a meal or outing, are there others who might enjoy an invite? Sometimes we gravitate to others our age or who have kids/grandkids in the same stage of life as ours, but maybe there are new friendships we haven't stopped to consider. Widening our circles brightens the lives of others...and our own lives too.



October Game Night! New church member Caly DePalma has kindly offered to guide eight people (or two-person teams) through mahjong. This is an easy, no-stress way to simply learn more about this game or get up to speed on how to play. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the mailboxes. Contact Valerie Stone for questions or if you must cancel last minute. (678-360-6983) Please note that this will be our last regular Game Night. Although popular in 2022, attendance dropped off sharply this year. The Fellowship Team may offer special Game Nights from time to time, but it will no longer be a monthly event. Many thanks to all who supported it!

### Highlights of the September 26, 2023 Stated Session Meeting

Linda Koehler opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional comparing life to quilts and quilting. Both are wholes made up of varying good and bad pieces and require forgiveness for imperfections. We all make mistakes, but God forgives us repeatedly and asks us to participate in forgiveness.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, reported that our membership totals 206 following Dan Stoneburner's passing.

A motion by Kathryn Fowler, Finance Ministry Team, to allocate \$12,000 from \$68,558.43 in surplus funds from the 2022-2023 budget to the Long Term Maintenance Fund, thereby restoring the amount that had been cut from Capital Reserves in the original budget, was passed.

Dana spoke with Session about making plans for elders rotating off at the end of the year. A motion to lower the quorum from 7 to 4 for meetings specifically called to receive new members passed. Linda Koehler gave a report on the NEGA Presbytery Zoom meeting held on August 26, 2023.

Kathryn Fowler reported that the Pastor Nominating Committee is meeting weekly. They are in the midst of writing the summaries on who we are, our history and growth as a church, where we want to be going and what we are looking for in our next pastor based on the Holy Cow (CAT) Survey and work already done by the Mission Study Task Force. They hope to provide a final draft of the document to the Session for approval by November 21<sup>st</sup>. Next it will go to the NEGA Presbytery Committee on Ministry for its vote of approval. Then it will go online. The PNC will begin to receive applicants and start the review process.

Bert Ballard-Myer reported that Mission Outreach Ministry Team and Amy Baer have been busy with the following projects:

**Legal Aid Pop-up Clinic** - Covenant will be providing space and volunteers to help with a pop-up clinic held by The Athens Access to Legal Justice organization. They will offer free legal advice to those in need similar to the medical pop-up clinic.

**Holiday Benevolence Market** - Covenant will be hosting this "market" which was first begun by First Presbyterian Church. Different local aid organizations, i.e., Habitat for Humanity, The Ark, Project Safe, etc., will have booths where attendees can donate money. Covenant will provide space, tables and chairs, and volunteers.

**AmeriCorps Food Fellows Partnership** - AmeriCorps volunteers, who are focused on food insecurity, will be volunteering in our food pantry.

Valerie Stone gave the Session an interesting and inspiring report on the Church Partnership Conference that Eli, Joan Prittie and she attended in Olomouc last July.

Abby Horvath shared that Personnel and Dana will be checking in with staff in the coming weeks.

Submitted by *Luanne Rigsby*, Clerk of the Session

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

As you may have noticed, we have had more families with young children attending Worship and Sunday School over the last few months! This is a truly wonderful thing! As a result, the Session has decided to hire a new part-time Nursery Childcare Worker to begin this Fall to work alongside at least one volunteer every Sunday.

We are just beginning the search process for our new staff person and, in the interim, we are asking for your help with two immediate needs:

**First, we need volunteers to staff the Nursery so that we can keep it open during the Sunday School hour. Please consider volunteering in the Church Nursery for any of the following dates/shifts:**

Oct. 8 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 1 needed  
Oct. 15 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 1 needed  
Oct. 15 (10:45-12:15 p.m.): 1 needed  
Oct. 22 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 2 needed  
Oct. 29 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 2 needed  
Nov. 5 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 1 needed  
Nov. 12 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 2 needed  
Nov. 19 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 2 needed  
Nov. 26 (9:30-10:45 a.m.): 2 needed

**Please email Amy Baer at [abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org) to sign up.**



**Secondly, please help us**

**get the word out about our**

**new**

**part-time Nursery Childcare Worker position!**

Feel free to forward this job listing link to all who you think would be interested in this position with our church:

<https://www.covpresathens.org/contact-us/employment/>