

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER December 10, 2023

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



Purchase a beautiful live Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special! They are used in the Worship Center throughout the Christmas Season. The Sign up sheet is on the desk as you come in the double glass doors. Make your check payable to Covenant and put poinsettia in the memo portion of your check. \$10 each.



Sounds of the Holidays
Sunday, December 10 at 2pm
at Covenant in the Worship Center
featuring
"The New Horizons Band"
Donations to support the Athens Wellness Clinic
(formerly Athens Nurses Clinic)



Meals on Wheels

We deliver smilesSM

Meals on Wheels Offering -

to be received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service to sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$2,000.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 6 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously. You will find an envelope on the desk as you come in the double glass doors. Please mark in the memo portion of your check MOW. Consider making a special gift in honor or memory of a loved one.



Covenant's Christmas Choral Worship

Sunday, December 17 at 11:00am

Join us for a morning of carols and festive music. This is our tradition of Christmas Choral Worship and there will be offerings from our handbell choir and adult choir as well as solos and instrumental pieces. There will be a cookies and punch reception after service hosted by Fellowship.

Advent @ Covenant

**SUNDAY, DEC. 10 AT 2PM NEW HORIZONS BAND
CONCERT- SOUNDS OF THE HOLIDAYS**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 17, 11 AM - CHRISTMAS CHORAL WORSHIP
FOLLOWED BY COOKIE RECEPTION HOSTED BY
FELLOWSHIP**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 11 AM - WORSHIP
5:30 PM- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH CAROLS,
COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT**

PRAYER CONCERNS: Carolyn Hatfield's brother, Billy in hospice care in South Carolina; Brad Courtenay recovering from spine surgery 12/5; Greg Huberty and family in the passing of his mother, Sandra S. Huberty, Friday, Nov. 17; Bert's sister, Jan recovering at home with diverticulitis; Pastor Dana's mother, Joy, receiving hospice care at home; Amy Baer's mom with complications and decreased vision following eye surgery; Missy Green's son Jason with mental health issues, and nephew Philip recently deployed with the army to Egypt; Dell Whitehead recovering at home from knee replacement surgery on Thursday, Nov. 2; Heide & Juergen Wiegel as Juergen deals with Alzheimer's; Bill Barstow's daughter, Linda McCormick, receiving hospice care at Emory; Travis Adams (Clayton's father) at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; 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. Construction has begun at Travis and Kathy's house. The doors are being widened, a new outdoor ramp, and a new shower and toilet is being installed. The entire family wants to thank each and everyone of you for your donations and spreading the word. Please continue to share the page to friends and family. 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. or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to Pastor Dana.

Knitters & Knotters
Thursday, Dec 14 at 2pm

knitter
knotters

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.

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!

Presbyterian Women Bible Study will meet on Dec 14, at 9:45am at the home of Betsy Burmeister and Rich Reaves. We will discuss Lesson #4, led by Pam Butts and Deb Millwood. Refreshments will be provided by Jere Bowden and Barbara Burnett. Betsy will provide the beverages. Please bring your Study books and your Bibles to our meeting. For those who would like to carpool to the meeting, please meet at Covenant at 9:30am on Thursday, Dec 14, and we can ride together. See you there!



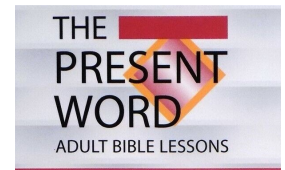


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS. Meeting at 9:45am 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.



The "JOURNEY" Class beginning at 9:45am

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 and Via Zoom
The "Journey" adult church school class discuss the movie, *"The Best of Enemies"* on Dec. 10. And beginning in January 2024 we will discuss, *"What's So Funny About God— a theological look at humor"*, by Steve Wilkens.

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

The Advent Devotional, *Apocalyptic Advent Embracing Hope in the Second Coming of Christ*, by Presbyterian Outlook editor Teri McDowell Ott are available on the desk as you come in the double glass doors in regular and large print as well as online at this link: [Advent Devotional](#)

Also available:

Each year the Church Partnership Network linking churches in the United States and the Czech Republic creates an Advent devotional. The daily messages from December 3 until Christmas Day, offered in both English and Czech, include passages written by friends from Olomouc, Covenant folks, and people who have visited our church. The devotional includes Bible verses, prayers, and photos from the two countries. We hope you will enjoy *On the Way to Bethlehem* available at www.czechpres.net.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

K-5 Church School at
9:45am

Adult Church School
9:45am

WORSHIP
11:00am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Susan & Randy Parish, Robyn Malone

LITURGIST: Warren Combs

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Sandy & Jim Whitney, Alan Edwards, Judy Capie

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

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

5th Monday Week—Ellen Stoneburner & June Meyers



Nursery
Ministry

December 10, 2023
Lily McKay, Wyatt Herndon,
Marie Ballard-Myer

December 17, 2023 Lily McKay,
Annemarie & Delaney Braswell

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.

Dec 3 thru Dec 25 *Poinsettias given in honor and/or memory*

Dec 31
1st Sunday after Christmas

Wonderful Wednesdays
December 13 at 5:30pm (final for the year)
Covenant Connection—join us for a delicious dinner prepared by our own Chef Patrick (\$3.00 donation per meal) and wonderful buttery 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

Calling Covenant bakers! The Fellowship Team is hosting a cookie reception after the Choral Worship Service on Sunday, December 17. We are looking for bakers to contribute cookies or finger foods. Items can be dropped off in the church kitchen that morning or they can be frozen for advance delivery. Please contact Valerie Stone to let her know you'll contribute, to arrange for delivery of frozen items, or with any questions you may have. Thank you! We look forward to this fun event.
valeriefreystone at [gmail.com](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com) or (678) 360-6983 cell/text.

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

THE
**COVENANT
FOOD
PANTRY**
NEEDS YOUR HELP



EXTRA Volunteers needed for Dec 21 and 28 as the UGA Student Volunteers will be on vacation. Thank You!

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 serving and enjoying dinner with the students of the Presbyterian Student Center

Dates for 2024

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.

Or you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

Project Safe Needs List

DECEMBER 2023

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- **Face Wash**
- Dish Soap Refills
- Travel Size Mouth Wash
- AAA Batteries
- Nail Care Products & Polish
- Make-Up
- Multi-Purpose Cleaner
- Disinfecting Wipes
- House Shoes/Slippers (All Sizes)

** starred items represent greatest need

To donate, please bag or box your items and bring them to the Thrift Store during business hours (Monday- Saturday 11am-5pm) and indicate that they are items for the shelter. Please, do not leave donations if the store is closed as they may get stolen or weather-damaged.



December Collection for the Students of Cedar Shoals High School—This month, we are collecting 3 items for students in need at Cedar Shoals High School: Microwave Popcorn, Granola Bars and Breakfast Bars

There are two ways to help! 1. Purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist:

Click the link below and when given a shipping option you will see "Karen Wetherington" Gift Registry Address and that is the correct address. Your donations will be shipped to the church and we will deliver them to the school. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref=wl_share

2. Purchase the above items and leave them on the collection table in the hallway in front of the church office.

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 #23

Anticipated Pledges — \$188,424.85

Actual Pledges — \$186,174.46

Non-Pledged - \$9,416.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

December 10, 2023

Covenant by the Week!

Sunday 9:45am Church School for all Ages
11:00am Worship
Adult Choir Rehearsal following worship
 12:30pm 12 Step Group
 2pm New Horizons Band Concert—
Sounds of the Holidays
 Campus Kitchen

Monday Free Clinic 2pm—4pm
 6:30pm Scouts Pac Meeting
 7:00pm 12 Step Group
 7:00pm Bells of NEGA

Tuesday Office Open 10am—4pm
 7:00pm Stamp Club 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
 1—3pm Covenant Food Distribution
 2pm Knitters & Knotters

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

Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group

December 17, 2023

Sunday 9:45am Church School for all Ages
11:00am Christmas Choral Worship
 12:30pm 12 Step Group
 Campus Kitchen

Monday 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
No Covenant Connection
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm
 1—3pm Covenant Food Distribution
 2pm Knitters & Knotters

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

Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group



Sunday, Dec. 24—11:00am Worship Service
 5:30pm Christmas Eve
 Candle Light Worship



Huge Thanks from your Mission & Outreach Team

We just want to extend enormous thanks to all of you who helped to make the Holiday Benevolence Market 2023 such a truly lovely community gathering.

Families came with their children to learn about direct and meaningful giving. Non-profit staff members got to meet with each other and collaborate to better serve our community. Members of our whole faith community came to support. And, we had 30 Non-Profit Organizations present to share their stories of advocacy and service to our most vulnerable neighbors.

Covenant Friends, the Holiday Benevolence Market was not just a one-day event. We implore you to think of this event as the incarnation of something new...a renewal for our community and for our neighbors most in need. Coming together in this way is exactly how we can stand in the gap for our neighbors who suffer. In direct and meaningful ways this event brought us together to actively listen, to help when we can, and to commit to retelling the inspiring stories we have heard so that they are not forgotten.

Please remember that the Holiday Benevolence Market 2023 continues online through the end of Dec. Please share this link with anyone who missed Sunday's gathering and would like to join in supporting our local non-profit organizations: <https://forms.gle/c6ax3pzqDpaUsfzp9>

Save The Date

*Set Sail
for
La Table 2024!
Tuesday, February 6*

at 1055 Barber Event Space (new location)



How can you give two Christmas gifts at the same time? Donate to Family Promise and give the ticket to a family member or a friend. La Table is the major fund raiser for Family Promise. You can sign up online or by leaving your \$65 donation in the church office with Karen or Judy. Online go to: <https://www.givegab.com/campaigns/family-promise-athens> and write Covenant in the description field.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update #2

12/10/23

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is pleased to report that it has finished the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), the document that describes Covenant and its needs and will be viewed by potential pastor candidates. The document was reviewed and approved by Covenant's Session at its meeting on December 5th and has been submitted to the NEGA Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) for review and approval at their next meeting on December 14th.

We appreciate your patience and prayers as we continue to the next steps. Once the MDP has been approved by the Committee on Ministry, it will be posted on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site and be available by mid-January for viewing by potential candidates.

Remember, due to the sensitive nature of the information and its potential effect on candidates, considerations of the Pastor Nominating Committee are confidential and PNC members can only discuss details of the meetings within the committee. We will keep you informed, to the extent possible, via updates in *The Covenanter* and announcements to the congregation.

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Karen Foutz (co-chair), Kathryn Fowler, Wyatt Herndon, Rose Kisaalita, Bill Rigsby, Linda Rogers (co-chair), Brian Stone

ANIMAL CAROL

With translation

--Ayi geje hu eze a muru ohuu
Onye n'onye Nwannem ge dumu je?

Je hu Eze nwa

Efi nwanem ge dumu je

Je hu Eze nwa

Efi be ke neli k'i si l'e be

Biko bee k'ayi nu

Kele Eze oma

(moo)

Kele Eze oma

(moo)

(repeats for sheep, cats and birds)

We are going to see the newborn child

Which of my brothers will go with me?

To see the child-king

Cow, my brother/sister will go with me

To see the child-king

Oh cow! Would you cry (moo) like you do?

Please, cry (moo) let us hear

Hail the child king

(moo)

Hail the child king

(moo)

