

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER December 17, 2023

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



### *Covenant's Christmas Choral Worship*

*Sunday, December 17 at 1045am*

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.



### **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.



*Final week to purchase a beautiful live Poinsettia in honor or memory of some-*

*one 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.*



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Pastor Dana and Family in the passing of his mother, Joy Price Waters. Saturday, Dec 9th. Follow this link for her obituary: [Joy Waters](#); Carolyn Hatfield and family in the passing of her brother, Billy, Friday, Dec. 8; Bill Barstow and family in the passing of his daughter, Linda McCormick Dec. 10th; Joan Prittie recovering from emergency surgery for a retinal tear; Colleen Cook's mom, Elaine receiving hospice care at home; Brad Courtenay recovering from spine surgery 12/5; 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](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*  
*will resume Thursday,*  
*January 4th.*

*knitter*  
*knorter*

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!**



to Jim McMinn who will be 85 on Monday, December 18th!

**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 [gill-billvolume1@yahoo.com](mailto:gill-billvolume1@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 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!



This week, we will welcome the composer of one of the Christmas Carols we are singing for the Choral Worship. His name is David and he was the best man at Aaron and Quintina's wedding in 2013.

*A brief biography:* Born in Akure, western Nigeria in 1963, Olúdáísí David Àiná is a musicologist, composer, arranger, organist, conductor and an actor. He studied music at the Lagos State College of Education, the Obáfemi Awólowo University, Ilé-Ife as well as the University of Lagos, Akòkà, majoring in piano accompaniment, conducting, theory and composition.

Àiná is one of the most celebrated Nigerian composers of his generation with many compositions that are performed all over the world, some of which include the famous Yorùbá Christmas song, --E Jé Ká jo yò,(see the translation on page 8)

Ìdáhùn rẹ là ñ retí and the Lagos State University Anthem **We Are LASU, And We Are Great**. He has seven school and university anthems to his credit. His unity song, *"Una Hear Me So"*, which was written at the instance of the British Council, Nigeria in 1997, and which premiere was conducted by Dr. Roy Wales of the British Choral Institute. David Àiná is married with four children and three grandchildren.



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

K–5 Church School at  
9:45am

Adult Church School  
9:45am

WORSHIP  
11:00am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Bill Barstow, Catharine Tyson

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

### 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 17, 2023

Lily McKay, Annemarie &  
Delaney Braswell

December 24, 2023

Brian, Valerie & Eli 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.

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

Dec 31  
1st Sunday after Christmas

### Wonderful Wednesdays

Will resume January 10

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

(online readers) 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



**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#/>



Earlier this year, Covenant began hosting the Athens Free Clinic at the church once a month. We learned this week that this program has been named the recipient of the 2023 "Star of Community

Achievement award" from the Association of American Medical Colleges. Way to go, Covenant! You are serving your neighbors well by making this health clinic available on the East Side of Athens!

Read more about it here:

<https://medicalpartnership.usg.edu/athens-free-clinic.../>

If you know anyone who is uninsured, please give them this link to make an appointment at one of our upcoming 2024 clinic days:

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

## 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.

**The Athens Free Clinic at Covenant 2024!** Please sign up below if you are able to volunteer for a shift!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>



**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](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](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 #24**  
 Anticipated Pledges — \$196,617.23  
 Actual Pledges — \$196,908.00  
 Non-Pledged - \$9,625.00  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*  
**MOW.....\$5,282.00**

**December 17, 2023                      Covenant by the Week!                      December 24, 2023**

Sunday            9:45am Church School for all Ages  
**11:00am Christmas Choral Worship**  
*Cookie Reception following*  
 12:30pm 12 Step Group

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  
 NO Knitters & Knotters

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

Saturday           10:30am 12 Step Group

Sunday            9:45am Church School for all Ages  
**11:00am Worship**  
**5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with**  
**Carols, Communion and Candlelight**  
 12:30pm 12 Step Group



Monday

Tuesday            **OFFICE CLOSED**  
 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  
 NO Knitters & Knotters

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

Saturday           10:30am 12 Step Group



## Adopt-A-Campus-Kitchen-Meal" for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

As you may know, UGA's Campus Kitchen has volunteers who come to Covenant a few days every week during the semester to prepare meals for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. I had a conversation with Andie, Campus Kitchen Director, last week about their need for volunteers to cover these meals during the Holiday Break while UGA students are away. When the students are away, the recipients of these meals at the Homeless Day Center and Bigger Vision often must just go without. In order to help, what she would need is a group from Covenant to "Adopt A Meal." I am reaching out to see if any of you would be interested in this opportunity over the next few weeks. Here is how it would work:


**Adopt-A-Campus-Kitchen-Meal for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness**

**Who:** 5 volunteers needed to shop for ingredients, prepare and pack meals; a few volunteers to deliver meals after preparation


**When:** Thursday mornings through Jan. 11 (Dec. 21, Dec. 28, Jan. 4 or Jan. 11)

**Where:** Covenant Kitchen

**What:** Covenant Mission & Outreach Team or Covenant Members would purchase ingredients, cook a meal for 60 people (Andie can provide recipes), package the meal in to-go containers (supplied by Andie) and deliver them to two locations in Athens (ie. 30 to the Homeless Day Center and 30 to Bigger Vision). Please message Amy at [abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org) if you are interested in this opportunity. If we are able to form a volunteer group we will make it happen!



*Set Sail*  
for  
**La Table 2024!**  
Tuesday, February 6  
at 1055 Barber Event Space  
(new location)



“We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.: Thomas S. Monson  
Continue the season of giving by donating to Family Promise getting a ticket to La Table 2024. You may want to get a last-minute Christmas gift for a friend or family member and get them a ticket, too! You can leave your donation of \$65 with the church office, please remember to write “LaTable” in the memo portion.



### Pastor Nominating Committee Update #3

12/17/23

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is delighted to report that the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), the document that describes Covenant and its needs and will be viewed by potential pastor candidates, was reviewed and approved by the NEGA Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) at their meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The MDP will now be posted on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site and be available by mid-January for viewing by potential candidates. As always, we appreciate your patience and prayers as we work through the process of finding Covenant's next pastor.

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 Covenant* 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

#### E Jé Ká Jo Yò, *by David Aina* *with translation*

---E jé ká jo yò, ka f'ijó si o,  
A bí Olù-gbà-là kan fún wa.  
Èyin onígbàgbó e hó eyò,  
A bí Jèsù Olùgbàlà.  
A wá kí o, Oba mímó,  
Awá júbà fún O Oba ògo.  
Èyin onígbàgbó e hó eyò,  
A bí Jèsù Olùgbàlà.  
Ìjoba yíó wà ní èjiká Rè,  
Òun ni O ba àwon oba.  
Ò un yíó jo ba tí tí ayé o,  
Alá dé àláfà.  
Àwon amòye méta ìgbà nì;  
Wón rí ìrà wò kan dí dán  
Ìràwò yí ni wón tò léhìn  
Láti júbà fún Oba titun, wón wípé:  
A wá kí o, Oba mímó,  
Awá júbà fún O Oba ògo.  
Èyin onígbàgbó e hó eyò,  
A bí Jèsù Olùgbàlà.

Let us all rejoice and dance together,  
Christ our Saviour is born for us.  
All you Christians give a shout and rejoice,  
He is born for us, Our Savior  
We come to greet You, O Holy King  
We come to adore You, O Glorious king  
All you Christians give a shout and rejoice,  
He is born for us, Our Savior  
The government shall be upon his shoulders,  
Yes, He is the king of all the kings.  
He shall reign as king shall everlasting  
He is called the Prince of Peace.  
The Three Wisemen  
sighted a shining star a far  
They found their way following that star  
To pay homage to the newborn King, and they said:  
We come to greet You, O Holy King  
We come to adore You, O Glorious king