

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER December 24, 2023

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

Merry Christmas



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.



Are you looking forward to doing some New Year’s cleaning out? Did you receive a holiday gift you can’t use!

On Friday, January 26 from 7pm to 9pm, the

Fellowship Team will be hosting Bingo. Bring a few items you don’t want but that someone else might treasure and we’ll use these for Bingo prizes. All ages are welcome! (And for those not interested in Bingo, you’re welcome to play board or card games in another part of the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own games or enjoy some of ours.) *Everyone is welcome to bring snacks to eat yourself or to share.*

PRAYER CONCERNS: Pastor Dana and family in the passing of his mother, Joy Price Waters Saturday, Dec 9th.; David Boardman and family in the passing of his wife, Sally; Valerie Stone and family in the passing of her Uncle Russell; 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; Jere Bowden's friend's son (12 years old) slowly recovering from a bacterial infection at Scottish Rite Hospital in Atlanta; Linda Ford's friend Carol, recovering from eye surgery for a macular hole in her left eye; Joan Prittie recovering from emergency surgery for a retinal tear; Colleen Cook's mom, Elaine receiving hospice care at home; Travis Adams (Clayton's father) at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; all those affected by the shooting at the University of Prague; 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

*will resume Thursday,
January 4th.*

*knitter
knitter*

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.

Please NO egg cartons at this time.

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

Dear Covenant family, we are so deeply grateful for the cards, calls, prayers, and love that you have offered our family following the passing of my mother. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

-- Dana and Kira



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS. WILL RESUME JANUARY 7th. 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.

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 will resume January 7th.

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

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 14th.

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 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

**SUNDAY DEC 24
SCHEDULE**

10:45am Nursery

**K-5 Church School will
resume January 7**

**Upper Room & Journey
Church School 9:45am**

**Builders will resume
January 7**

WORSHIP

11:00am & 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster, Sarah Lamb

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/ GREETERS: Chris Wilson, Katy Terry,
Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

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



December 24, 2023
Brian, Valerie & Eli Stone

December 31, 2023
to be determined

**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 24 *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



RECYCLE your plastic bags! Covenant's Food Pantry needs these bags for fresh foods that we receive from the UGarden and others. You can bring them to the church office or leave them in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your help!

Did you know that in the month of November the Covenant Food Distribution volunteers served 1,515 food insecure neighbors? That includes 552 children and 297 senior adults. Thank you Covenant and May We All Have Enough!

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

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



The poinsettias in worship were given in memory and honor of those listed below:

In Memory of:

Jim Bowden, David Bowden & Stacey Bowden

Horace & Claudia Burmeister, and siblings

Joanne, Larry, Sonny and Kerry

Bob Reaves

John Fahling

Marni Hatfield

Mae Wilson, Barbara Wilson-Smith

Stan & Pauline Marshall

Mae Deane Wynes

Rev. Charles & Mary Norville

Archie & Wilma Silver

Bruce & Katherine Longstreet, Paul Spain

Jake Tinga

Charles & Mary Hendershott

Dennis, Daisy & Keith Fowler

Dan Stoneburner

John Wetherington

Margaret & Truman Terry, Beth Nunnally

In Honor of:

Willene O' Neal

Brad & Nancy Courtenay (Kirche's parents)

Our loved ones undergoing cancer treatment

Lily & Fiona (granddaughters)

Given by:

Jere Bowden

Betsy Burmeister

Rich Reaves

Nan Cantrell

Larry Hatfield

Carolyn Hatfield

Paula & Dick Zimdars

Mary Anna Wynes

Kent & Rebecca Silver

Chris Wilson

Pat Tinga

Deb Millwood

Kathryn Fowler

Ellen Stoneburner

Karen, Clayton & Avery Wetherington

Katy Terry

Given by:

Jennifer Frey

Kirche Rogers & Caly DePalma

Joe and June Meyers

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 #25
 Anticipated Pledges — \$204,809.62
 Actual Pledges — \$206,891.39
 Non-Pledged - \$12,691.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!
MOW.....\$5,752.00

December 24, 2023 Covenant by the Week! December 31, 2023

Sunday 9:45am Journey and Upper Room
 11:00am Worship
 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with
 Carols, Communion and Candlelight
 12:30pm 12 Step Group

Sunday 9:45am Journey & Upper Room
 11:00am Worship
 12:30pm 12 Step Group



Monday **OFFICE CLOSED**

Monday **OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday **OFFICE CLOSED For New Years**
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Tuesday **OFFICE CLOSED for Christmas**
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

Wednesday Office Open 10am—4pm
 11:30am New Horizons Band
 No Covenant Connection
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

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

Thursday Office Open 10am—4pm
 1—3pm Covenant Food Distribution
 NO Knitters & Knotters

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

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

Saturday 10:30am 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:

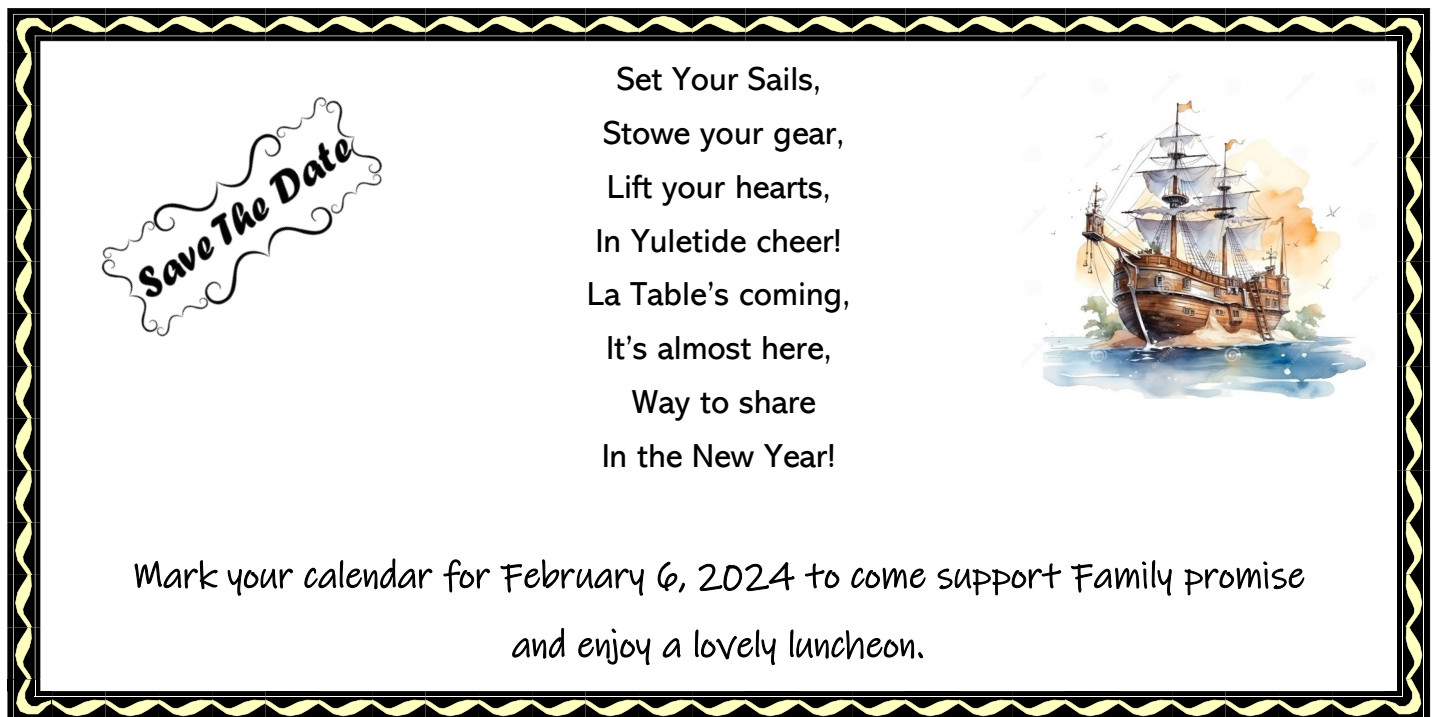
Adopt-A-Campus-Kitchen-Meal for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

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. 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 if you are interested in this opportunity. If we are able to form a volunteer group we will make it happen!



Set Your Sails,
Stowe your gear,
Lift your hearts,
In Yuletide cheer!
La Table's coming,
It's almost here,
Way to share
In the New Year!

Mark your calendar for February 6, 2024 to come support Family promise
and enjoy a lovely luncheon.

Hello wonderful community partners of Campus Kitchen,

Every semester at Campus Kitchen, a dedicated group of UGA students embarks on a journey to do their part to help make Athens a place where everyone has access to nutritious food. What strikes me every semester is all of you who come together to make this happen behind the scenes. Each of you has had a hand in getting nutritious food out into our community -- from delicious fresh produce and prepared meals, to kitchen space -- all of you have helped to feed hundreds of our Athens neighbors, and **I want to thank each of you.**

This semester, your contributions helped to provide: 5,370 prepared meals & 1,050 grocery bags to families in the Athens area who are experiencing food insecurity and/or homelessness.

What's more than the numbers is the real impact this is having on our Athens' neighbor's lives. Here is a short part of a message that we received from one of our clients this fall:

"Last week all I had to eat was what you brought me, especially the okra, I absolutely loved it. It's one of my favorites. Do you know where y'all get it from? It's the freshest and most delicious quality I've ever had since being unable to shop for myself nothing else compares. Especially when I'm not well, weak and unable to cook and have no appetite. Just one more note, I only receive \$44 a month in food stamps, I'm so happy and grateful right now, I don't think I can get all out I want to express. I could go on and on."

So a sincere thank you from all of us at Campus Kitchen and the Office of Service-Learning for helping to ensure fresh, nutritious food for Athens' residents.

Take care,

Andie Bisceglia

Campus Kitchen Coordinator

Office of Service Learning

University of Georgia

Some photos from December 10th "Animal Carol" with Covenant's children

