

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
December 31, 2023

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

HAPPY
New Year



Meals on Wheels
We deliver smiles™

Meals on Wheels Offering -

to be received in the month of December 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.



ORDINATIONS & INSTALLATIONS

of our church officers

Sunday, January 7 at 11:00am

The Session's Class of 2026 include Dennis Calbos, Brian Herndon, Bob Brewster, and Rebecca Silver. Many thanks to them for their willingness to serve.

Appreciation is extended to Clayton Adams, Jennifer Frey, Linda Koehler and Donny Whitehead, who have completed their term on the Session.



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

On **Saturday, January 20**
from 6pm 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; Martha Wolf and family (friends of Joe & June Meyers) on the passing of her husband Paul on 12/24; Ted Coons, nephew of Joe & June Meyers, diagnosed with terminal brain cancer and prostate cancer; The Guerin family (friends of Joe and June Meyers) on the passing of Fae Guerin on December 28; 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; 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
Thursday, January 4th at
2pm

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.
Please NO egg cartons at this time.
Please consider asking for paper bags with your groceries and a few more for the food bank.

January Birthdays!

2 Pam Knox	10 Brian Parido	18 Valerie Stone	23 Linda Koehler
3 Abby Ryder	Nathan Brooks	19 Karl Ritzler	26 Caly DePalma
4 Eli Whitehead	11 Jan Wolf	21 Jim Anderson	27 Sharon Hix
5 Cherly Devaney	13 Margaret Frey	Louise Schimmel	Al Huber
6 Wyatt Herndon	17 Joan Baird	James Foutz	Charles Huber
		Lily Herndon	29 Rebecca Silver



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 gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The "JOURNEY" Class beginning at 9:45am

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 and Via Zoom
December 31, the "Journey" adult church school class will discuss our *Food & More Bags* Project. Then January 7 we will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30am for a presentation from Valerie Stone about her trip to Olomouc, Czech Republic. And beginning January 14, 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 bless one another with God's grace. Please join us for this time of Growing in God's Love!

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 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/ GREETERS: Chris Wilson, Katy Terry, D & T Tweedell

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Bill Barstow, Catharine Tyson, Stephanie Cahill,
Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

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 31, 2023
to be determined

January 7, 2024 Lily McKay,
DeLynda Tweedell, Ansley Land

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 31 Poinsettias in memory/honor

Jan 07

Jan 14

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!

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 #26
 Anticipated Pledges — \$213,002.00
 Actual Pledges — \$217,461.39
 Non-Pledged - \$ 12,691.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!
MOW.....\$10,920.00

December 31, 2023 Covenant by the Week! January 07, 2023

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

Monday **OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday **OFFICE CLOSED For New Years**
 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
 9:30am Journey Class will meet in the FH for presentation from Valerie Stone about her trip to Olomouc, Czech Republic

11:00am Worship
 12:30pm 12 Step Group

Monday **OFFICE CLOSED**
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

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
 1—3pm Covenant Food Distribution
 2pm Knitters & Knotters

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

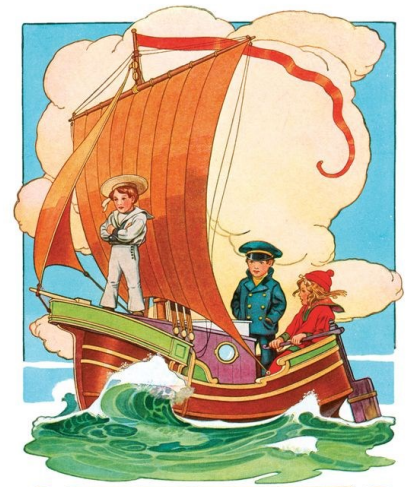
Saturday 10:30am 12 Step Group

La Table 2024

New Year's Resolution idea.....

Learn more about what is new at Family Promise, support its mission, and see what's new in the world of creative table decorators at this year's La Table luncheon or Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Sign up online or through the church office.

Save The Date



Sail into the
New Year

Classic Legacy



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. *We will receive this offering through the month of January, 2024.*

50% of your gifts assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. 50% of your gifts make it possible for student to learn and grow in faith in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Please give generously...*for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*

Ways to Give: *donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy or text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give, or make check out to Covenant with JOY OFFERING in the memo portion of the check.*

Click here for more stories about how the Christmas Joy Offering has been a blessing to so many:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/stories/>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 5:30PM

Mission Outreach

Ministry Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30pm



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