

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE COVENANTER
January 07, 2024

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



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.

VISITOR LUNCHEON

**Sunday, January 14
following worship**

***A LUNCH FOR
VISITORS AND***

***WELCOME TO NEW
MEMBERS OF OUR***

***CHURCH TO MAKE NEW
CONNECTIONS, ASK***

***QUESTIONS, AND TO MEET
EACH OTHER.***

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Colleen Cook and family in the passing of her mother, Elaine; Martha Wolf and family (friends of Joe & June Meyers) on the passing of her husband Paul on 12/24; Juergen Wiegel in Piedmont hospital for pulmonary hypertension; bone marrow biopsy 1/5; 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; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; and our nation.



Sally Boardman's Celebration
of Life Service
Sunday, January 14 at 3:00pm
Madison Presbyterian Church
382 South Main Street, Madison, Georgia
A reception will follow after the service.



Monday, January 8 at 1:00pm
graveside service for
Elaine Cook at
Honey Creek Woodlands
Cemetery, 2625 GA-212,
Conyers, Georgia 30094

Please bring a camp chair and gather at the Stone House from 12:00pm on. There will be a guided procession to the graveside. If you are able, please bring origami peace cranes to decorate the casket.

How to fold a peace crane video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1l7SjRzOG88>

How to fold a peace crane picture tutorial: <https://www.instructables.com/Origami-Peace-Crane/>

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.

*Knitter
Knitter*

Knitters & Knotters
Thursday, January 11th
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.

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.
Thank you!

Mission Outreach
Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 5:30PM

PW Meeting on January 11, 2024

Covenant PW will meet on Thursday, January 11, at 9:30am, in the Covenant Library. Gloria P. will be leading our lesson and Linda K. will be providing refreshments. Please read Lesson #5 before the meeting and be ready to participate in our discussion. Thank you in advance to Gloria and Linda! Hope to see you there! Happy New Year everyone!!

PW Save-the-Date: March 16, 2024

Annual NE GA PW Meeting in Augusta

Covenant PW Members, please save the date of Saturday, March 16, for the Annual NE GA PW Meeting to be held in Augusta, GA at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta. It will be hosted by the PW in the Augusta cluster. Let's plan to send a group from our PW to gather with our PW sisters at this annual meeting for fellowship, food, learning, and worship! It is always a good experience! Please put this date on your calendars and let me know if you have any questions. Thank you, Jennifer (jenofrey@gmail.com).

Happy New Year and Welcome to Covenant!

The Worship Ministry Team would like to invite everyone to wear Name tags for the month of January for Worship at Covenant. This little gesture has been shown to increase folks' comfort and encourage interaction at church. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church at Covenant. This is one proven way to promote the feeling of "welcome." We will be providing the Name tags (stick-on type) to everyone as you enter the Narthex on your way to worship on Sunday, beginning on January 7th. The Worship Ministry Team decided to try this idea, written about in the Presbyterian Outlook journal, for the first month of the year. We will see how it goes and we will welcome your feedback on it toward the end of the month. The use of Name tags is something we do at all the Presbytery events and I think that it is extremely helpful!

Thank you for your participation!- Jennifer Frey, Worship Ministry Team

All Hands on Deck

Your-re needed to make this year's La Table a success. Help families stay together in a safe location while being fed and prepared to live independently. Learn what else Family Promise is doing to help our community. Join your Covenant friends and make new friends at the new venue, 1055 Barter Street on Tuesday, Feb. 6. You may register online at <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/latable> or through the church office.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS. WILL RESUME SUNDAY, 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 (except January at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall)

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 and Via Zoom

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 resumes Sunday, 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
Church School for all ages

at 9:45am
K-5 Church School
Upper Room Class
The Builders Class

Journey Church School
will meet in the FH at
9:30am

WORSHIP

11:00am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Jim & Sandy Whitney

LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Dick Zimdars 5th Sunday



Nursery
Ministry

January 7, 2024

DeLynda Tweedell,

Ansley Land

January 14, 2024

Joan & Hannah Baird, Ellen Stoneburner &
Lily McKay

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

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!

Highlights of the December 5, 2023, Stated Session Meeting

Kathryn Fowler presented a devotional based on Advent Book – On the Way to Bethlehem (put together with Czech Rep church friends) emphasizing “let your gentleness be apparent to all” and opened the meeting with prayer.

The Session gave approval for non-Session members to speak during the meeting.

Dana shared that he will have a hybrid work from home schedule in the next week or 2 as he helps his family as his mother approaches the end of her life in hospice. He gives thanks for our continued support.

Finance Ministry Team (FMT) reported that all is going well with our finances. Since the FDIC limit is \$250,000 per entity, FMT moved some money into CDs at 4.5% (one 5-month and one 12-month) and other money into Bank of America to stay under the limit. FMT is looking for a replacement treasurer to shadow Pam Knox this year. FMT is looking into external audits.

The incoming class of Elders, Bob Brewster, Brian Herndon, Dennis Calbos, and Rebecca Silver, were successfully examined. New Elders will be installed on Jan. 7, 2024.

Session approved Covenant’s Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), as presented by the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Session approved a motion from Worship Ministry Team that guest musicians be allowed to receive donations at the Afropop Epiphany concert.

Two 30-year-old HVAC units failed at the same time and another could use repairs. Session approved a motion from Building and Grounds Ministry Team to allocate \$22k from last year's surplus & zero out this year's budget line for HVAC (around \$8000). Water heater replacement in kitchen is \$3100 and coming from pre-existing funds in B&G's budget.

Announcements

Arin Lozefski has put in her 2 weeks’ notice, so it will just be Asher Hill working the sound and video system now - he could use some volunteer help for holiday events etc.

We will be doing the food pantry 12/21 and 12/28 - students will be home for holidays so we need help with distribution on those days 12:30-2:30. Sign-up sheet is in Covenanter and posted on Sign-up genius if you type in kwetherington@covpresathens.com (all events are under that)

Eli Stone will eventually need a liaison for his eagle scout award.

Submitted by *Luanne Rigsby*, Clerk of Session

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 #27

Anticipated Pledges — \$221,194.26

Actual Pledges — \$222,953.22

Non-Pledged - \$ 13,691.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

MOW.....\$11,231.00

January 07, 2023

Covenant by the Week!

January 14, 2023

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 /Elder Ordination & Installation

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

9:30am Presbyterian Women Bible Study

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 9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

Visitor Luncheon following Worship

12:30pm 12 Step Group

Monday

OFFICE CLOSED

5pm - 10pm Bells of NEGA in Worship Center

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 Christian Education Ministry Team Meeting

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

7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting—Journey Room

Friday

Office Open 10am—4pm

8:00pm 12 Step Group

Saturday

10:30am 12 Step Group

6pm—9:00pm Bingo Game Night in Fellowship Hall