

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER January 14, 2024

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

PLEASE NOTE: no one on staff will ever ask you for money, gift cards, or other requests for assistance by text or email. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office directly.

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/>

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.***



Save the Date!

**Heart of Covenant
Dinner**

Saturday, February 10

Join us for Covenant's well-loved annual Heart of Covenant Dinner. This event includes a three-course meal where attendees rotate to different tables for a chance to get to know new tablemates. Bring your spouse or friend...or rotate as a single. A sign-up sheet will be posted in late January.

B I N G O! Game Night

Saturday, January 20th
at 6:00pm

For more information see page 6

PRAYER CONCERNS: David Boardman and family in the passing of his wife, Sally; 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; 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; Juergen Wiegel 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.

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 18 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. 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!

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

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

Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting
Tuesday, January 16 at 7:00pm

Interested in getting more involved at Covenant and getting to know more people? The Fellow Ministry Team is looking for additional folks to help with church events. There will be a meeting in the church library at 7pm on Tuesday, January 16 to work on plans for the upcoming Heart of Covenant Dinner (February 10) as well as a general plan for 2024 events. Please join us to see what the Fellowship Team is all about!

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. You can sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes. 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



Sail On!

***La Table is coming in a month,
so now is the time to get on board.***

Please join us for the major fund raiser for Family Promise, La Table. While enjoying a lovely luncheon in beautiful surroundings you can learn what Family Promise is adding to its services and how it is continuing to help families to stay together in a safe environment. You may sign up in the church office or online at: <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/latable>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS. 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
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 .

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!



Building and Grounds Ministry Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 16 at 4pm

Join us as we discuss the many projects that B&G has done and will do to keep this church property (inside and out) in good shape for all of us and generations to come.

Did you know that most of the B&G Ministry Team is over the age of 65? So with that in mind we are calling all younger folks who can offer a strong back, arms and heart to help keep this ministry team going strong. See ya there! Carolyn Hatfield, Chair

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:30am Nursery
Church School for all ages
at 9:45am
K–5 Church School
Upper Room Class
The Builders Class
Journey Church School
WORSHIP
11:00am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Alan Edwards, Judy Capie, Bill Barstow, Catharine Tyson

LITURGIST: Ansley Land

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 14, 2024

Joan & Hannah Baird,
Ellen Stoneburner &
Lily McKay

January 21, 2024 Luanne Rigsby, Susan Parish
& 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. *Please remember to pick up your poinsettia in the narthex.*

Jan 21

Jan 28

Wonderful Wednesdays

Will resume January 17

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 December the Covenant Food Distribution volunteers served 1,517 food insecure neighbors? That includes 454 children and 240 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)

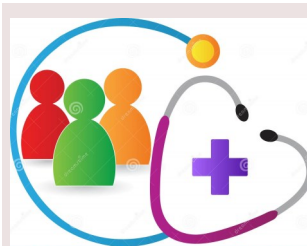
SHIFT 2: Food Distribution
12:30pm – 3pm



EXTRA Volunteers needed for Jan. 4 and 11"

You can click on the pic or sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/>

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



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#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/)

Thank you to the folks who have already signed up to provide dinners for the students of the **Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin**. There are still opportunities available for April 2, and May 7, 5:30pm – 8:00pm. Four volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes or email Bert at mysammie1@yahoo.com for more info.



January Donations Needed: Cedar Shoals Care Center

Thank you to everyone who donated for the Cedar Shoals Care Center in December! You donated 96 bags of popcorn and 340 granola and breakfast bars for the children of Cedar Shoals who are food insecure. Thank you!

For January, the Cedar Shoals Care Center is most in need of **deodorant for boys and girls, toothpaste and toothbrushes**.

Here is the Amazon Wishlist link if you would like to donate and the items will be delivered directly to Karen at the church office: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref=wl_share

B I N G O! Game Night! 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.*

LIBRARY CORNER: *Made for Goodness and Why This Makes All the Difference* by Desmond Tutu & Mpho Tutu

"Over the years the same questions get asked of Desmond Tutu, the archbishop, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and veteran of the moral movement that ended apartheid in South Africa: 'How can you be so hopeful after witnessing so much evil?' 'Why are you so sure goodness will triumph in the end?' This book is his answer." The book can be found at Bay H, Shelf 2. Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

The Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership's Athens Free Clinic has been named the recipient of the 2023 Star of Community Achievement award from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The award is a nationally recognized honor presented to a campus that has improved the health status of its community or achieved its social mission through collaboration with its community. The clinic's mission is to bring primary care to the underserved and underinsured population of Athens-Clarke County. The clinic is staffed by Medical Partnership students, faculty and staff, and travels to various sites and neighborhoods within Athens-Clarke County to bring health care directly to patients who may lack access to transportation.

Athens Free Clinic sites currently include Acceptance Recovery Center, Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Bigger Vision Community Shelter, Cedar Shoals High School, Clarke Central High School, Clarke Middle Health Center, **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, Department of Public Health, Foothills Charter High School, Nuci's Space, Pinewoods Community, and Potter's House.

Since March 2018, the Athens Free Clinic has provided over \$538,000 of care to more than 2,200 patients. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the clinic also conducted 3,500 COVID tests and administered 4,000 COVID vaccines.

The Athens Free Clinic was recognized for the award at the AAMC Annual Meeting in Seattle on Nov. 3. The clinic's work will be presented at the AAMC's Regional Medical Campuses Conference in Washington, D.C., in June 2022

Family Promise Athens 2024 VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Come learn about the new opportunities to volunteer with Family Promise in 2024.

Family Promise is changing up our shelter model and volunteer opportunities to enhance the experience for guests and volunteers.

Multiple Training Date Options

- Monday, January 22nd at 9 am - 10 AM
- Tuesday, January 23rd at 12 PM - 1 PM
- Thursday, January 25th at 6 PM - 7 PM

Volunteers only need to attend one training

Free Parking at the church

Registration is not required, just show up!

Location: FPA Day Center, inside of the First Baptist Church (355 Pulaski Street)

Agenda:

- Learn about the new shelter model
- Tour the Day Center
- Review the new shelter shift options



DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

January 15—21

Jonah 3: 1-5, Jeremiah 1: 17;
Psalm 62: 5-12, I Corinthians 7: 29-31,
Mark 1: 14-20, Matthew 4: 18-22,
Luke 5: 2-11

PLEASE NOTE: no one on staff will ever ask you for money, gift cards, or other requests for assistance by text or email. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office directly.

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 #28

Anticipated Pledges — \$229,386.64

Actual Pledges — 227,892.13

Non-Pledged - \$ 13,861.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Joy Offering...\$120.00

January 14, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

January 21, 2024

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

10:00am Retirees Ministry Team Meeting

4:00pm B&G Ministry Team Meeting

7:00pm Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting

7:00 pm 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

SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

12:30pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

1:00pm—4:30pm Athens Free Clinic

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

Mission Outreach Ministry Team Meeting at 5:30pm

5:30 pm 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

2:00 pm Knitters & Knotters

FRIDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

Session Retreat at Rock Eagle

8:00pm 12 Step Group

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

Session Retreat at Rock Eagle