

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
January 28, 2024

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

Heart of Covenant... A Get to Know You Dinner!

Saturday, February 10, 6pm—9pm



The Heart of Covenant Get-to-Know-Each-Other Dinner is Saturday, February 10 from 6pm to 9pm. This fun annual event is open to ages 14 to 104. Everyone will circulate to three different tables during three courses, so you'll have the chance to chat with many people. We are working with a caterer and thus need an accurate headcount, so please sign-up by Monday, February 4. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you may sign up using the link below. If you would like to circulate with your spouse or a friend, please indicate this on the sign-up. Also let us know if you need a ride, child-care, or to remain at one table due to mobility issues.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FoC44A5AF28A3FE3-47346418-heart>

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 9:30AM

**RETIREES COVERED
DISH LUNCHEON**

February 13 at 12:30pm

Join us for a great time of fellowship and food. Please bring a dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.



Join us Wednesday,
February 14 for
CovConn dinner at 5:30pm
and

Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30pm.

Please click on the link below to access the Lenten Devotional, "Local Pilgrim" by Teri Ott and others

https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/complete_book?fr=sOWE1OTY1MjgxMDI

Print copies are available on the desk as you come in the double glass doors.

BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATIONS FUND

A special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church February 2024

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 60 +years. Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATION FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received in February. Make checks payable to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together! Many thanks!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Arnelle Combs' cousin's wife Evonne, from Albuquerque NM, recovering from successful surgery January 24; Bert Ballard-Myer's sister, Jan recovering at home; Jere Bowden's friend's son,(12 years old) now at home slowly recovering from a bacteria infection; Larry Hatfield with hip pain; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; and our nation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

January 29—February 4

Isaiah 40: 21-31, Psalm 147: 1-11, 20,

I Corinthians 9: 16-20, Mark 1: 29-39

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, February 1
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!

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/>

PW Save-the-Date: March 16, 2024

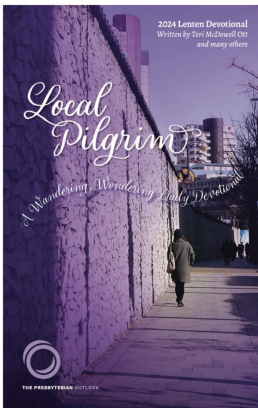
Annual NE GA PW Meeting in Augusta

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



More about the Lenten Devotional, Local Pilgrim...

This daily Lent devotional from the *Presbyterian Outlook* invites you to explore and observe new and familiar places in your community. What will God reveal to you when you pause, ponder and reflect? A cemetery, a bar, a library, an emergency waiting room: what do all these places have in common?

In *Local Pilgrim*, *Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott and other writers explore what God might reveal to us if we intentionally explore our communities. Who do we see? What do we hear? God reveals God's self when we look.

Lent is the perfect season for a pilgrimage such as this, leading to meaningful contemplation and sacred discoveries. As you make your way through this devotional, you might find yourself inspired to go somewhere new; or somewhere familiar with a notebook in hand; pause, ponder and pray. What will God unveil? Join us on your local pilgrimage to new and familiar places in your community.

Each daily reflection, beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating on Easter Sunday, will combine personal reflection, Scripture and prayer. May God bless you and keep you on your Lenten journey.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS beginning at 9:45am. Location: Library. Pastor Dana leads a weekly discussion of faith-based topics using the PC(USA)'s "Follow Me" curriculum. Recent topics have included: welcoming all, honoring the sabbath, and hope. Each week includes concrete ways to put faith into practice.

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

We are discussing *"What's So Funny About God— a theological look at humor"*, by Steve Wilkens. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

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!



Volunteers Needed:

The Ark, Mondays 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and on-call

Our volunteers are super special, unique, and talented folks who have one morning a week they are willing to dedicate to helping serve our neighbors in need. Register to volunteer at this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKPSrBooO4R5GIMqyIIU6ghZ3q0-](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKPSrBooO4R5GIMqyIIU6ghZ3q0-YgiLm6ey75yPMh1lnqWA/viewform)

[YgiLm6ey75yPMh1lnqWA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKPSrBooO4R5GIMqyIIU6ghZ3q0-YgiLm6ey75yPMh1lnqWA/viewform)



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 28

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Chris Wilson, Katy Terry

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Dick Zimdars 5th Sunday

GROUND'S 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



January 28, 2024

Tim Foutz, Dell Whitehead,

Lily McKay

February 4, 2024

Lily McKay, Richard & Marcia Page

Ministry of Flowers

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the mail-boxes 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.

Wonderful Wednesdays—January 31

Covenant Connection—join us for a delicious dinner prepared by our own

Chef Patrick at 5:30pm
(\$3.00 donation per meal)

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#/>

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 is one opportunity available for **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 Received: Cedar Shoals Care Center

Thank you to everyone who donated for the Cedar Shoals Care Center in December! You donated 45 tubes of toothpaste, 93 toothbrushes, and 59 deodorants for the children of Cedar Shoals.



Save the Date!

**Athens Access to Justice (AATJ)
Legal Pop-Up Clinic at Covenant**

March 23, 2024, 9-11 a.m.



ATHENS ACCESS TO JUSTICE
WESTERN CIRCUIT

In partnership with the Athens Access to Justice Initiative, Covenant will host our first free legal pop-up clinic on Saturday, March 23 from 9-11 a.m. Volunteer attorneys with AATJI will take questions related to family law, evictions, unemployment benefits, and other civil legal questions. They will provide short legal consultations, help pro se litigants with court forms, or offer referrals to other services when available. We need a few Covenant volunteers on-hand that day to greet the AATJ team, set up and take down tables and chairs, and offer coffee and donuts to our neighbors coming to the clinic!

If you are available to help with the event, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-47261839-athens#/>

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 #30

Anticipated Pledges — \$245,771.53

Actual Pledges — \$245,787.13

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,127.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Joy Offering...\$1,350.00

January 28, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

February 4, 2024

SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

12:30pm 12 Step Group

SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

12:30pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

5:30pm Classic City Coin Meeting

7:00pm 12 Step Group

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band

4pm Congregational Care Meeting

5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner

6:15pm Adult Bible Study

6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal, 7:15pm Adult Choir

7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band

5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner

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 preparing bags for food distribution

1pm Covenant Food Distribution

2:00 pm Knitters & Knotters

THURSDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1pm Covenant Food Distribution

2:00 pm 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

6pm—9pm HEART OF COVENANT




February Birthdays!

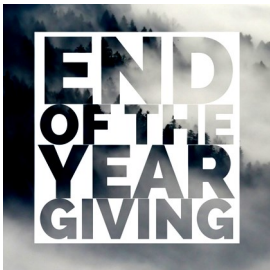
- 2 Heide Wiegel
- 9 Warren Combs
Sallie Hale
- 12 Delaney Braswell
- 13 Bill Lindstrom
- 18 Willene O'Neal
- 19 Tom Rigsby
- 20 Kirche Rogers
- 27 Carolyn Hatfield

COVENANT YOUTH
BASH FOR THE ASH PARTY

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 7
DINNER AT 5:30 PM
PREPPING ASHES 6-7 PM



WE WILL HAVE PIZZA AND THEN BURN SUNDAY'S PALMS TO PREPARE THE ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY!
DROP OFF AND PICKUP AT COVENANT • CONTACT BRIAN HERNDON OR KATY ARORA WITH QUESTIONS



The contributions statements for 2023 are now available in your church mailbox. Please check them over carefully for any corrections or additions. If you would like

your statement emailed or snail mailed please let us know. Thanks, *Karen & Judy*

Covenant welcomes new Members, Alice Rose, and Larry and Wanda Minton.

If you would like to update your directory please contact the church office.