

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 04, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 04, 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>



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

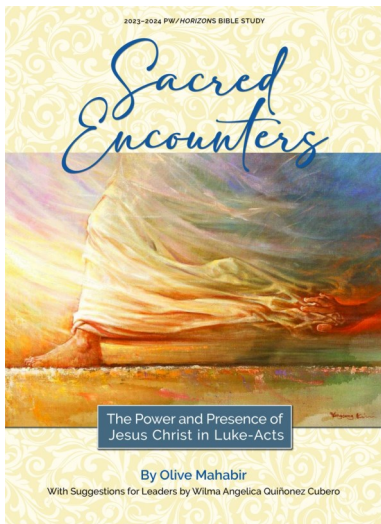
[https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/
complete_book?fr=sOWE1OTY1MjgxMDI](https://issuu.com/pres-outlook/docs/complete_book?fr=sOWE1OTY1MjgxMDI)

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

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



Covenant Presbyterian Women will meet on **Thursday, Feb 8, at 9:30am** in the Covenant Library. Caly will be leading our Lesson (#6) and Deb and Pam will be providing refreshments. Please read Lesson #6 and be prepared to join in the discussion of how Jesus included everyone in his ministry. We will also discuss the upcoming NE GA PW Annual Meeting in Augusta, the Montreat Women's Conference, and a possible service project! We look forward to seeing you there! If you are unable to attend in person, a Zoom invitation will be sent on Wednesday, prior to the meeting. For any questions, email Jennifer at jenofrey@gmail.com. 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:
 February 5—11
 2 Kings 2: 1-12, Psalm 50: 1-6,
 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6, Matthew 17: 1-8,
 Mark 9: 2-9, 2 Peter 1: 16-18

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, February 8
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!



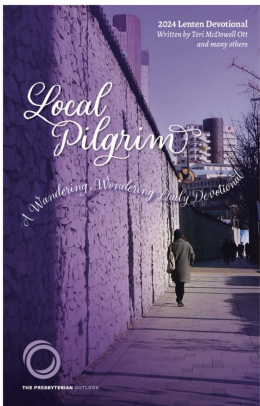
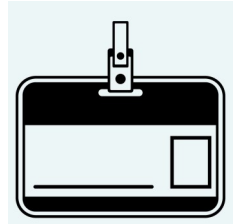
The contributions statements for 2023 are now available in your church mailbox. Please check them over carefully for any corrections or additions. If you would like your statement emailed or snail mailed please let us know. Thanks, *Karen & Judy*

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 February, Covenant! We will be continuing our trial of Name Tags throughout the first quarter of this year. Since we have had such a good response to using Name Tags, we decided to continue this project and to investigate possible permanent Name Tags. Thank you to all for your participation in this project and for providing us feedback. If you have more feedback, questions, or concerns, please let me know and I will pass them on to the Worship Ministry Team. Thanks! Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com.



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, FEBRUARY 4

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Dennis & Carol Calbos, Don & Julie Bower

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Stephanie Cahill, The Tweedells, Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Warren Combs

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



February 4, 2024

Lily McKay, Richard & Marcia Page

February 11, 2024

Lily McKay, Don Bower, Pam Knox

**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.

Wonderful Wednesdays—February 7

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!

For the month of January 2024 Covenant volunteers distributed food to 1,353 food insecure neighbors. That includes 484 children and 208 senior adults. Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Highlights of the January 27, 2024, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at end of the Session's retreat at Rock Eagle 4- H Center. Luanne Rigsby presented a devotional based on John 13:34-35 and shared practical tips for elders.

The Session will continue their regular monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with ZOOM option available but meeting in person preferable.

Dana reviewed the proper way to make a motion and made several suggestions for more efficient meetings. He gave an overview of several items which the Session will be addressing at upcoming meetings, discussed where we are in the process of searching for our new pastor and how to set our new pastor up for success.

Ministry Team chairs and co-chairs are as follows:

Christian Education - Katy Arora and Brian Herndon,	Fellowship - Valerie Stone and Rebecca Silver
Mission Outreach - Bert Ballard-Myer and Bob Brewster	Personnel - Abby Horvath and Dennis Calbos
Building & Grounds - Carolyn Hatfield,	Congregational Care - Ansley Tweedell Land
Finance – Kathryn Fowler	Worship – Dick Zimdars

Luanne Rigsby presented the Clerk's report which included the approval of the 2023 church statistical report, update of total membership total to 213, and a letter from Jim Newland awarding a grant of \$10,924.46 from The Central/Covenant Endowment Fund to be used at Session's discretion.

The Financial Summary for December, 2023, indicated that everything looks to be on track financially. We have \$34,822.55 in surplus from last year's budget. The Finance Ministry Team is drafting a new financial policy which will include periodic audits of the financial records every 2-3 years. Ministry Teams are asked to review their budgets and to have their proposed budgets for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to the Finance Ministry Team by the end of February. Finance MT is still looking for someone to shadow Pam Knox, Treasurer, for her last year in that position.

Session approved Valerie Stone, Carolyn Hatfield, and Warren Combs as Covenant's commissioners to the February 24th NEGA Presbytery meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA.

Session elected Pam Knox to serve as Church Treasurer and Luanne Rigsby as stated Clerk of the Session for 2024.

Session approved the following motions:

To spend \$2152.82 from surplus funds to purchase a 4-drawer Fire-King cabinet for the office.
The Annual Session Planning and Training Meeting to be paid for out of the annual budget.
Communion will be served the first Sunday of every month, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
To serve as the sponsoring congregation for the Calvin's Institute worshiping-communities grant proposal entitled "An open worship resource of choruses from Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa." If we receive the grant, the contract will be reviewed before signing to discern our financial obligations should we have to default mid-year.
The "Spirit of Comfort" document which will be publicized in various ways.

Fellowship will be hosting The Heart of Covenant Getting-to-Know-You dinner on February 10th for ages 14 and up.

Personnel Committee is working on digitizing job descriptions this year.

Christian Education is going to work on "reimagining Covenant Connection" and the possibilities of what it could become.

Building and Grounds' annual "Planting Day" will be March 23rd, the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

Submitted by *Luanne Rigsby*, Clerk of Session

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#/>

Annual Child Protection Training

Sunday, April 28

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Lori Karr from The Cottage

Boxed lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by April 19 (max. 25 spots available)





Covenant Cooks!

Every First Tuesday of the month, our Covenant group alternates serving dinner to the children and families of the Athens Area Homeless Shelter and the UGA students at The Table (formerly the PSC). Click the signup link to volunteer and for more info!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

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 #31

Anticipated Pledges — \$253,963.92

Actual Pledges — \$255,386.33

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,297.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Joy Offering...\$1,450.00

February 4, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

February 11, 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

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

5:30pm Classic City Coin Meeting
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom
7:00pm 12 Step Group
7:00pm Stamp Club Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner
6pm—7pm Prepping Ashes
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
6:30pm ASH Wednesday Worship Service
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

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

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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
8pm—9pm HEART OF COVENANT

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

