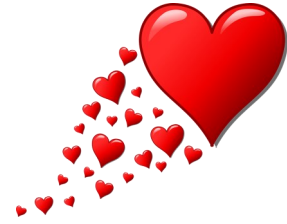


Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
February 11, 2024

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



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 BCFV or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together!
Many thanks!

Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

Tuesday, February 13 at 12:30pm

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

**Ministry Team Chairs & Co Chairs
for 2024**

Building & Grounds—*Carolyn Hatfield*

Christian Education—*Katy Arora,
Brian Herndon*

Congregational Care—*Ansley Land*

Congregational Fellowship—
Valerie Stone, Rebecca Silver

Finance—*Kathryn Fowler*

Personnel—*Abby Horvath,
Dennis Calbos*

PRAYER CONCERNS: Family, friends & students in the passing of Cedar Shoals Teacher, Stephen Castile, 2/6; DeLynda Tweedell's stepsister, April Heard, recovering from major abdominal surgery 2/7, Denver, CO.; DeLynda Tweedell's sister's mother-in-law diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer; DeLynda's parents: Her Dad's oxygen levels continue to decline, Her stepmother with hip, knee and foot pain, Her mom stumbling and fallen several times; Her step-dad's blood sugar very high and he fell off a roof 3 weeks ago; Randy Parish's sister, Molly in Augusta University Hospital; Kathryn Fowler's friend Leila, in skilled nursing facility in Charleston, SC; 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, now receiving physical therapy; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; and our nation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
 February 12-18
 Genesis 9: 8-17, Psalm 25: 1-10
 Ash Wednesday-begin reading from your
Lenten Devotional

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 15
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!

On Friday, February 23 at 7:30 pm, eleven Covenant members are attending the Voces 8 concert in Hodgson Hall at the UGA Performing Arts Center. Voces 8 is a superb British vocal ensemble. Their UGA program ranges from late Renaissance sacred music to arrangements of Paul Simon songs. Covenant members are getting a group discount on tickets (10%), and will occupy eleven adjacent seats in Row D of the balcony. Good seats remain, including three in row D. If any one is interested in attending, visit: <https://pac.uga.edu/event/voces8/>
 To be added to the Covenant discount group, contact Dick Zimdars at zpear@bellsouth.net

LIBRARY CORNER
Painting the Stars (film)
 "Celebrating the communion of science and faith, *Painting the Stars* explores the promise of evolutionary Christian spirituality." This seven-session video program features over a dozen leading evolutionary theologians and progressive thinkers. This film can be found at Bay D, Shelf 1.
 —Church Librarian Valerie Stone

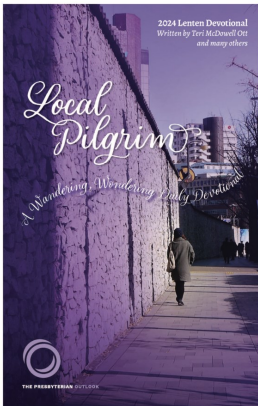
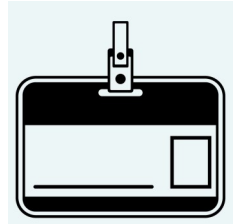


PW Save-the-Date: March 16, 2024

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.

ALL MINISTRY TEAM CHAIRS it is that time of year again when we are beginning to prepare for the 2024-2025 Budget. So we need your **new** budget for your ministry. Please email Pam at pnknox@gmail.com with your new updated figures. Thank you!





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 11

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb

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 11, 2024

Lily McKay, Don Bower,
Pam Knox

February 18, 2024

Lily McKay, Marie Ballard-Myer, Sandy Whitney

**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 14

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

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

6:30pm

Ash Wednesday Worship Service



SAVE THE DATE for DANCING WITH THE STARS

MARCH 23, 2024 at the Classic Center

Dancing With the Athens Stars is Project Safe’s most glamorous fundraiser. Teams of two pair up—one local Athens “star” and one dance teacher- to learn a routine and raise money for Project Safe. The performances are always captivating, and the audi-

ence chooses the winner. One dollar equals one vote, and there’s no limit on how many times you can vote! All proceeds go to Project Safe and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Voting is open. Take a look at the teams and get your vote in at [DWS VOTING](#). *Covenant’s own Paul Brooks is on Team 7, just saying.*

About Ash Wednesday...

Ash Wednesday, in Western **Christianity**, the first day of **Lent**, occurring six and a half weeks before **Easter** (between February 4 and March 11, depending on the date of Easter). It is immediately preceded by **Shrove Tuesday**. Ash Wednesday is a **solemn** reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes and with **fasting**. **Eastern Orthodox** churches begin Lent on Clean Monday and therefore do not observe Ash Wednesday.

In the **early Christian church**, the length of the Lenten celebration varied, but eventually it began 6 weeks (42 days) before **Easter**. This provided only 36 days of fasting (excluding Sundays). In the 7th century, 4 days were added before the first Sunday in Lent in order to establish 40 **fasting** days, in imitation of **Jesus Christ's** fast in the desert.

It was the practice in **Rome** for penitents and grievous sinners to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent in preparation for their restoration to the **sacrament** of the **Eucharist**. They were sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and obliged to remain apart until they were **reconciled** with the Christian **community** on **Maundy Thursday**, the Thursday before Easter. When these practices fell into disuse (8th-10th century), the beginning of the penitential season of Lent was symbolized by placing ashes on the heads of the entire congregation.

Today Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn assembly that is built right into the church year. It is a fast day, a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

More about Lent...

In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us. The Presbyterian Hunger Program strives to walk with people in moving towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate, which translates to warmer temperatures, rising sea-levels, and severe storms, just to name a few. To turn this tide, we must tread lightly on the face of God's Earth.

From the PC(USA) website

For more about the Presbyterian Hunger Program click on this link:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/>

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 #32

Anticipated Pledges — \$262,156.30

Actual Pledges — \$261,836.46

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,395.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

BCVF...\$220.00

February 11, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

February 18, 2024

SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

12:30pm 12 Step Group

1:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA

7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

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

6:30pm ASH Wednesday Worship Service

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

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

12:30pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA

7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom

7:00pm 12 Step Group

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

7pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

8:00pm 12 Step Group

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group