

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 18, 2024

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

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!

Ministry Team Chairs & Co Chairs for 2024 Continued...

Mission Outreach-

*Bert Ballard-Myer,
Bob Brewster*

Worship—*Richard Zimdars*

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 at gmail.com with your new updated budget figures. Thank you!



THE SEASON OF LENT—The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

from the PC (USA) website

PRAYER CONCERNS: Randy Parish and family in the passing of his sister, Molly, Feb 14; Eric Zimdars with a bacterial lung infection; 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; 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 19—25

[Lenten Devotional](#)

You can find additional copies on the desk as you come in the glass doors.

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 22
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!

LIBRARY CORNER

Stages of Faith by James W. Fowler

Dr. Fowler and his associates interviewed nearly 400 people from all walks of life about faith – “a person’s way of leaning into and making sense of life.” This classic book came out in 1981 and has helped many understand what faith can mean to a person as well as how it may develop across a lifetime. This book can be found at Bay H, Shelf 5.

– Church Librarian Valerie Stone

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

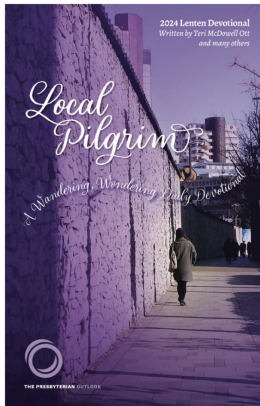
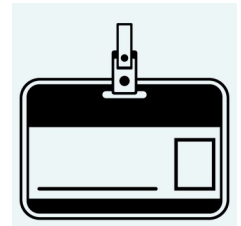


PW Save-the-Date: March 16, 2024

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.

Ordination Anniversaries— give thanks for the following NEGA clergy who are celebrating ordination anniversaries this month. The Clergy Care Committee invites you to keep these individuals, their families, and their ministry in your prayers.

Travis Adams

Roe Callaway

J.J. Choi

Lindsey Collins

Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Teresa Franklin

Ford G'Segner

Barbara Rodgers

Hilary Shuford

Martha Starnes

Craig Toppie

Karen Whelchel-Redwine



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 18

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Warren Combs

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

PIANIST: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Sandy & Jim Whitney, Randy & Susan Parish

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Dick Zimdars 5th Sunday



February 18, 2024

Lily McKay, Marie Ballard-Myer, Sandy Whitney

February 25, 2024

Luanne Rigsby, Wyatt Herndon

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.

Floral arrangement in worship today is given in loving memory of Jim Bowden and his birthday February 18th, from Jere Bowden.

Wonderful Wednesdays—February 21

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



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 audience 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.

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 to abaer@covpresathens.org 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 #33

Anticipated Pledges — \$270,348.68

Actual Pledges — \$270,146.46

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,3475.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

BCVF...\$250.00

February 18, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

February 25, 2024

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

SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

Choir Rehearsal in Worship Center

12:30pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

2pm—4pm Athens Free Clinic

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA

7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting

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

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

8:00pm 12 Step Group

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

La Table 2024 was a Big Success!

Covenant had four tables at La Table. Each display was designed by Ellen Stoneburner and Susan and Randy Parish. In total there were 44 tables each with a different theme. All donations serve the needs of Family Promise.



Covenant's Beautify the Grounds Day (formerly known as workday)

Saturday, April 6

9 am—12 pm

More info to come later!



Chili Cookoff

FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AT GAINES

February 22, 2024

Gaines Elementary School

900 Gaines School Road

Drop off crockpots by 4:30 p.m.

Pick up by 7:30 p.m.

Check-in Volunteers also needed:

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5A22A20-47601118-chili#>

GAINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS HOSTING ONE OF THE "HEART CENTERED PARENTING" SERIES AND COVENANT IS PROVIDING THE MEAL WITH A FUN CHILI COOKOFF! JOIN IN THE FUN, BUILD COMMUNITY AND HELP OUR NEIGHBORS AT GAINES!

