

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER February 25, 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!

### Covenant is looking for a new treasurer

to join the Finance Ministry Team and take over from Pam Knox, who is ending her service in December of this year. If you have questions about the position or are interested in providing this service to Covenant, please contact Kathryn Fowler, the Chair of the Finance Ministry Team, or Pam Knox, the current Treasurer, for more information. Necessary skills include being comfortable with numbers, familiarity with spreadsheets and very basic accounting knowledge.

### 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!



### Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

**Tuesday, March 12 at 12:30pm**

**Join us in the fellowship hall for a great time of food and fellowship and a touch of the Irish as we listen to the delightful *Green Flag Band*. Bring you favorite dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.**



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Thursday, March 14 at 9:30am

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Randy Parish and family in the passing of his sister, Molly, Feb 14; Joe and June Meyer's nephew's wife Gaye - recovering from surgery for lung cancer; 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; 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 26—March 3 \*  
 \* 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 29  
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!**

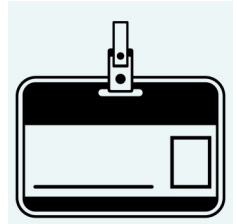
**LIBRARY CORNER**  
Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas  
 “As Adolph Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a small number of dissidents and saboteurs worked to dismantle the Third Reich from the inside. One of these was Dietrich Bonhoeffer—a pastor and author. In this New York Times best-selling biography, Eric Metaxas takes both strands of Bonhoeffer’s life—the theologian and the spy—and draws them together to tell a searing story of incredible moral courage in the face of monstrous evil.” This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 4. —  
 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](mailto: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](mailto:jenofrey@gmail.com).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN KNOX

[Geography Department - University of Georgia](#) and [University of Georgia Atmospheric Sciences Program](#) faculty member [John Knox](#) will be the recipient of a 2024 Felton Jenkins, Jr. Hall of Fame Faculty Award from the University System of Georgia Board of Regents.

According to the USG website, "These system-wide awards will recognize individual faculty and staff for a strong commitment to teaching and student success. One faculty or staff award will be given for the research and comprehensive universities sector, one for the state university sector, and one for the state college sector for a total of three faculty awards."

The University of Georgia has not had a winner of this award since 2015. UGA has had seven previous winners since this award was created in 1997. John is the first UGA Geography faculty member to be a recipient. Previous UGA recipients have been from mathematics (2), sociology, the School of Pharmacy, the Institute of Higher Education, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Grady College of Journalism (the legendary Conrad Fink).

John will be officially recognized at the annual Board of Regents Scholarship Gala, Thursday, September 14, 2024 in Fayetteville, Georgia.



## 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](mailto: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!



- |                    |                    |                           |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 John Knox        | 8 Richard Page     | 25 Karen Whelchel-Redwine |
| 3 Jack Pannecoucke | 9 Junan Crisler    | 26 Andrew Mote            |
| 5 Sam Brewster     | 10 Kent Wolfe      | McKenzie Redish           |
| Josh Ballard-Myer  | 16 James Malone    | 30 Phil Koehler           |
| 6 Betsy Pless      | 17 Ron Simpson     |                           |
| Kathy Boyl-Gast    | 19 Thomas Bowden   |                           |
| Paige Cummings     | 23 Donny Whitehead |                           |
|                    | Owen Barnett       |                           |
|                    | 23 Preston Devaney |                           |



**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 25**

**PIANIST:** Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

**LITURGIST:** Pam Knox

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**PIANIST:** Aaron Carter-Enyi

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Carol & Dennis Calbos

**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 25, 2024

Luanne Rigsby,  
Wyatt Herndon

March 3, 2024

Adam & Rebecca Rea

**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 .

**Wonderful Wednesdays—February 28**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 #34

Anticipated Pledges — \$278,541.06

Actual Pledges — \$273,836.46

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,571.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

*BCVF...\$1,350.00*

**February 25, 2024**

## Covenant by the Week!

**March 3, 2024**

### 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

### SUNDAY

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship

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

7:00pm 12 Step Group

### WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band

**5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner**

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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

## **Pastor Nominating Committee Update #4**

2/25/24

This update from the PNC is presented in a Q&A format to better address questions the congregation may have about the pastor search process from the time the PNC was formed until now.

### **Q. Who are the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)?**

A. Karen Foutz, Kathryn Fowler, Wyatt Herndon, Rose Kisaalita, Bill Rigsby, Linda Rogers, and Brian Stone. Karen and Linda are co-chairs.

### **Q. What has the Pastor Nominating Committee accomplished since its formation?**

A. After the PNC was approved by the Congregation in April, PNC members attended an orientation session in May led by the NEGA General Presbyter to learn about the processes and the work ahead of them. The PNC's first task was to select Co-Chairs and clarify committee procedures. Next, the Ministry Discernment Profile, or MDP, was carefully crafted. This document includes the Head of Staff/Pastor position requirements, a thorough description of Covenant and the Athens community, detailed answers to seven narrative questions, and more. The PNC utilized the Mission Study Task Force Report to aid in completing the MDP. In December, the PNC presented the completed MDP to Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for review and unanimous approval. In January, the Head of Staff position was posted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site, an internet-based matching and referral system. The PNC is now receiving and evaluating applications.

### **Q. How is the position being publicized to potential candidates?**

A. The Church Leadership Connection site mentioned above is the best source of candidates. Qualified candidates are "matched" with positions posted on the CLC site. Our Head of Staff position is also listed on Covenant's website on the Home page and on the Documents page under "Employment Opportunities". These listings include the link to the Church Leadership Connection site. In addition, advertisements in publications such as *Presbyterian Outlook* are being developed.

### **Q. If I know someone who is interested in the position, can I refer them to the PNC?**

A. Yes! Give them our email address: [PNC@covpresathens.org](mailto:PNC@covpresathens.org).

### **Q. How long will it take to find our new pastor?**

A. That is difficult to answer because it depends on many things, not all of which are within our control. The best answer is when God calls the right person.

### **Q. Will Dana stay until the new pastor is hired?**

A. Yes, that is his plan.

### **Q. Who should we contact if we have questions about the pastor search?**

A. Email the PNC at [PNC@covpresathens.org](mailto:PNC@covpresathens.org). Your questions may be included in future updates so all will be informed.