

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
 March 03, 2024

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



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!



**in a world of disaster,
 hunger, and oppression**

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry,
 Empowering the Oppressed**

Through the

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING!

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

For more about **One Great Hour of Sharing** or to give please click on the link below or mark your check OGHs in the memo portion. Thank you for your generous giving.

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>



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

Tamara Stam will be leading our lesson via Zoom. She would like to encourage everyone to consider reading the book mentioned at our last meeting, *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Vorghese, an Ethiopian-born Indian-American medical doctor. Our lesson is about the Ethiopian Eunuch, whom Philip encounters in Acts. Please read lesson #7 in advance of our meeting, to prepare for our discussion. Judy and Ellen will be providing refreshments for the meeting next month. Thank you to Tamara, Judy, and Ellen for sharing their time and talents with us!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Dennis Calbos having back surgery on March 5 at Piedmont; 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; 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:** *
 * March 4—11 *
 * 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.*

Knitters & Knotters
Thursday, March 7 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

*knitter
 knotter*

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
Questioning Capital Punishment (film)
 This 5-session DVD features one of the world's leading authorities and most outspoken critics of state-sponsored execution, Sister Helen Prejean. The 1995 movie Dead Man Walking was about her experiences This film can be found at Bay E, Shelf 3. —
 Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

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)

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).



MORNING MAHJONG GROUP!

Like to play Mahjong or want to learn? Come join us on **Tuesday, March 19 from 10am to noon** in the fellowship hall. No experience necessary and we will meet regularly if there is enough interest.

Contact Caly Depalma at calyd44atgmail.com for more information.

Highlights of the February 27, 2024, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on February 27, 2024. In light of African American History month, Bert Ballard-Myer presented a devotional and comments by Jim Wallis, theologian and founder of *Sojourners* magazine in which he urged us to name racism as a sin which negates the work of Christ and the purpose of the church and then to repent from it as we are instructed in Matthew 3:2. Bert opened the meeting with prayer.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk, reported that with the addition of Jim and Pam Thompson as members, our new membership total is 215.

The financial summary for January, 2024 indicated that everything looks to be going very well. Ministry teams were reminded to submit their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year by February 29. The stewardship campaign for next fiscal year will be March 15th – April 7th. Session approved the newly written Covenant Financial Policy Manual developed by the Finance Ministry Team with substantial input from church staff.

Session also approved the use of \$800.00 from last year's surplus funds to cover leadership development training for staff.

Valerie Stone and Carolyn Hatfield gave highlights of the February 24th NEGA Presbytery meeting held at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta. The NEGA Presbytery approved the examinations of five new pastors. Included in this group was Rev. Karen Wilson Fletcher, who did an internship at Covenant in 2018. There was a remembrance for elders and pastors who had passed away during 2023. The commissioners also enjoyed visiting with former members Steve and Lola Bell.

The current gutters on the church building are not sufficient for the amount of water that comes off the roof. This has resulted in flooding and mud in the downstairs classrooms. Session approved using up to \$18,000.00 in surplus funds (out of the remaining \$38,000) to purchase new gutters and drainage system. A drain will be installed in the Memorial Garden to catch and redirect the rainfall that pools up in the garden. Session thanked B & G for their diligence and recent hard work.

Dana announced that he and his family will be taking a vacation in France April 10-17th. Rev. Ron Gilreath will fill in for him in the pulpit.

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session

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!



Sunday, March 24 - PALM SUNDAY

9:30am Church School for all ages

11:00am Worship - processional with palms

Wednesday, March 27— Covenant Connection

5:30pm Family Dinner

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study

Thursday, March 28—MAUNDY THURSDAY- 7pm Worship

Friday, March 29 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00pm at Oconee Presbyterian Church

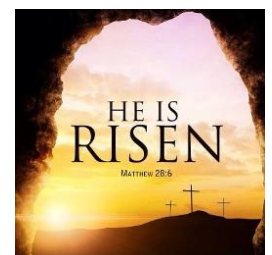
Saturday, March 30 - 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt (rain or shine)

Sunday, March 31—RESURRECTION SUNDAY—7:30am Sunrise Worship Service— please wear comfortable shoes, and bring flowers for the cross

8:00am—9:45am Easter Breakfast—please bring a covered dish to share.

Bagels, juice, coffee and tea will be provided.

11:00am Worship



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, MARCH 3

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

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

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Jim Whitney, Robyn Malone

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



March 3, 2024

Adam & Rebecca Rea

March 10, 2024

Sandy Whitney, Delynda Tweedell

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—March 6

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.

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 #35

Anticipated Pledges — \$286,773.33

Actual Pledges — \$283,926.46

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,632.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!

BCVF...\$3,050.00

March 3, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

March 10, 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

7:00pm 12 Step Group

5:30pm Classic Coin Meeting in FH

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 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!

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

12:30pm Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

7:00pm Athen's Stamp Club

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 Presbyterian Women's Bible Study in Library

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.

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. Your questions may be included in future updates so all will be informed.