

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER  
March 24, 2024

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



# HOLY WEEK

AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**MARCH 24 - PALM SUNDAY**  
**9:45AM CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**  
**11 AM PALM PROCESSION AND WORSHIP**

**MARCH 27 - COVENANT CONNECTION 5:30 PM**  
(ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN INTERGENERATIONAL EASTER EGG DECORATING)  
**HANDBELL PRACTICE 6:00 PM,**  
**NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY, ADULT CHOIR 7:15 PM**

**MARCH 28 - MAUNDY THURSDAY, 7 PM WORSHIP**

**MARCH 29 - GOOD FRIDAY, 7 PM WORSHIP**  
(AT OCONEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

**MARCH 30 - EASTER EGG HUNT, 11 AM**  
(RAIN OR SHINE)

**MARCH 31 - EASTER SUNDAY**  
**7:30 AM SUNRISE WORSHIP**  
**8-9:45 AM EASTER BREAKFAST**  
BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS AND A COVERED DISH  
TO SHARE (BAGELS, JUICE, COFFEE AND TEA WILL BE PROVIDED)  
**11 AM WORSHIP**



Covenant's nursery is in need of a few more volunteers who would be willing to help once every four months. It's a great opportunity to get to know our very youngest Covenanters. If you're willing to help, please contact the church office or Ellen Stoneburner (phone and text 706-296-4468).



Pledge packets for the 2024—2025 Stewardship Campaign were mailed on Friday, March 15. If you have not received one in the next week please contact the church office and we mail one to you or put it in your church mailbox. Stewardship Sunday is April 7th.



### 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](mailto:calyd44atgmail.com) for more information.



*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

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

**NEWS FROM THE GREEN DREAM TEAM**— Columbia Theological Seminary has been awarded a Climate Science in Theological Education grant by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ethics and Religion program. "Integrating science into seminary education and events will encourage interest within seminaries and surrounding communities about the relevance of science to theological education and will produce growing number of religious leaders equipped to help their congregants find answers to science-related questions." For more information go to: <https://presbyterianmission.org/story/columbia-theological-seminary-awarded-climate-science-in-theological-education-grant> Barbara Burnett & Jere Bowden, Covenant's Green Dream Team

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Teresa Mauldin undergoing surgery for breast cancer March 27; Bob Placek and family on his move from independent living to skilled nursing at Presbyterian Village Athens; Family & friends in the passing of Georgiana Sumner March 14. Memorial Service at Covenant March 25 at 11am; Arnelle Combs receiving treatment for a kidney stone/infection; Bert Ballard-Myer's sister, Jan recovering at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; and our nation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:** \*  
\* March 25—31 \*  
\* [Lenten Devotional](#) \*  
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*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 28 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.

*knitter*  
*knoller*

**The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in desperate need of BROWN PAPER BAGS. Please NO egg cartons at this time. Consider asking for paper bags with your groceries and a few more for the food bank. Thank you!**

**LIBRARY CORNER**

***Care of the Soul: A Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life* by Thomas Moore**

This *New York Times* bestseller became a classic since its publication in 1992. The author lived as a monk for a dozen years before embarking on an academic path in theology, musicology, and philosophy. The book explores such topics as the symptoms of discomfort, care of the soul in everyday life, spiritual practice for psychological depth, and care of the world's soul. This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 3.  
—Church Librarian Valerie Stone

**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 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!



**USHERS NEEDED FOR 3 SERVICES:**

**Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00pm** - 2 ushers are needed.

**Easter Sunrise Worship at 7:30am** - 2 ushers are needed.

**Easter Worship at 11:00am** - 2 ushers are needed.

*If you can help please contact*

*Judy Capie at [jcgcapie@gmail.com](mailto:jcgcapie@gmail.com) or the church office.*



On Wednesday, April 10 at 5:15pm the Fellowship Team will meet during Covenant Connection to discuss plans for the upcoming Strawberry Festival (Saturday, May 4) as well as spring/summer fellowship ideas. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend. If you would like to share a meal with us during the meeting, a \$3 donation is suggested. Please RSVP to Valerie ([valeriefreystone at gmail](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend so we can let Chef Patrick know how many to expect.

**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 24—Palm Sunday**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Bill Barstow, Catharine Tyson, Jim & Sandy Whitney

**LITURGIST:** Sandy Whitney

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31—Resurrection Sunday**

**USHER/GREETERS:** DeLynda & Hank Tweedell, TBD

**LITURGIST:** Jim Newland

**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



March 24, 2024

Lily McKay,  
Clayton & Grace Adams,  
Don Bower

March 31, 2024 Lily McKay, Phil & Sallie Hale

**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 .

March 17 Reaves/Burmeister

March 24 Whitehead & Herndon families in honor of Donny's 77th birthday.

March 31 Gijs & Louise Schimmel

**Wonderful Wednesdays—March 27**

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



...to two of Jere Bowden's grandchildren:

Scott Bowden & Marie Arita who were married on February 22,

and to Anna Catherine Bowden and Dillon Moor who were married on March 9.

# Ways to Serve @ Covenant

## Covenant Food Pantry Every Thursday

SHIFT 1: Unloading and  
Bagging the Food  
(9:30am – 11:30am)

SHIFT 2: Food Distribution  
12: 30pm – 3pm

You can click on the pic or sign up at this  
link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/)

*THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!*



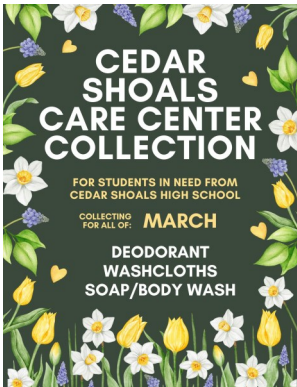
## The Athens Free Clinic at Covenant 2024!

Please sign up below if you are able to  
volunteer for a shift! **Need volunteers for  
Monday, March 18 and Monday, April 15.**

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20  
-athens#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/)

## Covenant Group @ Habitat for Humanity Saturday, March 30, 9am-3pm

Covenant has a group of volunteers forming a  
"Saturday Build" with Habitat for Human-  
ity in Athens. If you would like to join  
the group please email  
[abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org). Location and  
activities TBD closer to the date, lunch  
will be provided.



**Cedar Shoals Care Center Collection** for the month of March we are  
collecting the following: deodorant (men and women) washcloths, and  
soap/body wash. You can bring your items and place on the table in front of  
the office or order from our Amazon wish list and the items will be delivered  
directly to the church. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/  
ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN?ref=wl_share)



**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#/>

## 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).



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 #38**

Anticipated Pledges — \$311,310.62

Actual Pledges — \$299,942.58

Non-Pledged - \$ 14,940.00

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

*OGHS—\$1,835.00*

**March 24, 2024**

**Covenant by the Week!**

**March 31, 2024**

**SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY**

9:45am Church School for all Ages

11:00am Worship with Palm Processional  
Choir Rehearsal in Worship Center

12:30pm 12 Step Group



**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

11am Memorial Service for Georgiana Sumner

27pm—9pm Bells of NEGA

7:00pm 12 Step Group

**TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

11:00 Harmony English Conversation Class

7:00pm 12 Step Group

7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting

**WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

11:30am New Horizons Band

**5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner— all are welcome to join us for Intergenerational Easter Egg Decorating**

**NO 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

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

7:00pm Good Friday Worship at Oconee Presbyterian

8:00pm 12 Step Group

**SATURDAY**

11:00am Easter Egg Hunt at Covenant (rain or shine)

10:30am 12 Step Group

**SUNDAY Resurrection Sunday**

7:30 am Sunrise Worship

8:30 am Easter Covered Dish Breakfast

11:00am Worship

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

5:30pm Classic City Coin Club in FH

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA

7:00pm 12 Step Group

**TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class

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

7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

## Building and Grounds Spring Plantings Day Saturday, April 6, 9 am - 11 am

We need your help again - it's spring - so bring your gloves and a trowel to Covenant on April 6, and let's help beautify Covenant! We will continue to add to the plantings at the front of the church. Eleven new holly bushes are going in. The holes are dug and ready for the installation.



We also need to spruce up the area below the Covenant sign and the front corner of the parking lot along Gaines School Road.

A few new larger planting pots will be added to the patio area on April 6. But before we utilize them, for Easter, B&G is adding some pansies to the large cement containers (where the hostas are already showing themselves). The new planting pots will be ready for the April 6 plantings.

Another area that needs our attention is the Memorial Garden. We currently have some "on full display" pink azaleas on the Memorial Garden hillside. We'd like to add about six to eight more azaleas in the open space that is currently without anything but dirt. We are asking that, if you'd like to, please donate a small azalea for this effort. It doesn't matter the color. Also, we will plant some perennials around the Memorial Garden tree. Plants will be provided for this.

A pot of coffee and some Danish or donuts will be provided for you to enjoy.

*Rain Date: If this is a rainy Saturday, then we will have to invoke a weekday to get the work done. Should this be needed, that day will be announced later.*

Thank you! Hope to see you on April 6! *Carolyn Hatfield, Chair, B&G*

**COLUMBIA**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

EVANGELICKÁ  
CERKVEV  
ČESKÁ  
KŘESŤANSKÁ  
CÍRKEV

# A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

(Psalm 119:105):  
How do we read the Bible today?

A ZOOM conference organized as part of the partnership between the ECCB and the PC (USA) on April 21, 2024 at 2 P.M. EST at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>

Both the CCE and the PC (USA) have their roots in the Reformation, which elevated the Bible above all human authority. Both churches have embraced the modern age with its scientific and critical approach to everything, including the Bible. This is the challenge that both denominations face together. Systematic theologian Dr. Martha Moore-Kelsh of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and Old Testament scholar Dr. Petr Sláma of the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University will open the topic with their presentations. This will be followed by breakout groups discussion and a summary plenary session. All this in 90 minutes. For further information and for registration (which will help us to prepare the discussion groups) contact Rev. Jan Lavický ([jan.lavicky@evangnet.cz](mailto:jan.lavicky@evangnet.cz)).

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Karlova

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