

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER
March 31, 2024

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

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

AT COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 31 -

7:30 AM SUNRISE WORSHIP
PLEASE BRING FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS

8-9:45 AM EASTER BREAKFAST
BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE (BAGELS, JUICE, COFFEE
AND TEA WILL BE PROVIDED)

11 AM WORSHIP

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 • 11:00 AM
1065 GAINES SCHOOL ROAD

RAIN OR SHINE!
PLEASE BRING YOUR EASTER
BASKETS AND JOIN US FOR
OUR EASTER EGG HUNT!





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.

It seems there is a hold up at the processing center in Atlanta.

There are extra pledge cards, budget items and envelopes on the table in the gathering room.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NEW DATE: APRIL 21

We will celebrate God's gifts by offering our pledge cards during worship.



Team Meeting Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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/>

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: DeLynda Tweedell's step-mom, Barbara Young diagnosed with breast cancer & waiting for results from lymph node surgery; Teresa Mauldin recovering from 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:

April 1—7

Acts 4: 32-35, Psalm 133, Isaiah 65: 17-25,

Psalm 3, 1 John 1: 1-2,2,

John 20: 19-31

*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, April 4 at 2pm

*knitter
knotted*

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. Consider asking for paper bags with your groceries and a few more for the food bank. **Thank you!**

LIBRARY CORNER

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was a Trappist monk, poet, and social activist who wrote many works. This posthumous collection gathered by friends after his death includes essays and meditations that focus on the need for love. This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 3. —Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*

Dear Church Family, Thank you for the prayers concerning Teresa's surgery March 27. All went well! *Jack & Teresa*

Anna Murphy
Student of Professor Maggie Snyder,
as partial fulfillment of the requirements for a
Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance

SENIOR VIOLA RECITAL

with Damon Denton, piano

APRIL
FRIDAY | 5 | 6 PM

Edge Recital Hall
250 River Road, Athens, GA 30602

Hugh Hodgson School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The BUILDERS CLASS beginning at 9:45am. NO CLASS 3/31 will resume 4/7. 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 NO CLASS 3/31 will resume 4/7

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216 We will discuss the film, Babette's Feast. April 14 we will begin our next book study, *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS for K-5 NO CLASS 3/31 will resume on 4/7

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



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) if you

plan to attend so we can let Chef Patrick know how many to expect.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

7:30am Sunrise Worship

8:00am Easter Breakfast

11:00am Worship



SUNDAY, MARCH 31—Resurrection Sunday

7:30am Sunrise Service **USHERS/GREETERS:** Katy Terry, Chris Wilson

11:00 am **USHER/GREETERS:** DeLynda & Hank Tweedell,

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster, Sarah Lamb, Stephanie Cahill,
Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

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 31, 2024

Lily McKay, Phil & Sallie Hale

April 7, 2024

Lily McKay, Brian Herndon,
Ellen Stoneburner

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 31 Gijs & Louise Schimmel

April 7

April 14

Wonderful Wednesdays—April 4

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

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 #39

Anticipated Pledges — \$319,503.00

Actual Pledges — \$305,157.98

Non-Pledged - \$ 15,029.10

Thank you for your faithful giving!

OGHS—\$1,935.00

March 31, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

April 7, 2024

SUNDAY Resurrection Sunday
7:30 am Sunrise Worship
8:30 am Easter Covered Dish Breakfast
11:00am Worship

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class
5:30pm Classic City Coin Club in FH
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

SUNDAY
11:00am Worship
3:00pm Called Session Meeting

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class
12:30pm Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon
7:00pm Stamp Club in FH
7:00pm 12 Step Group

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
Pastor on Vacation April 10—17
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
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

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA
KARLOVA UNIVERZITA

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).

www.etf.cuni.cz
@etfunkarlova
@etf_unikarlova

Univerzita Karlova



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | Karl Barnett | 14 | Ton Stam |
| | Sylvia Huber | 17 | Alex Morrison |
| | Juergen Wiegel | 18 | Ben Foutz |
| | Nkaku Kisaalita | 19 | Jim Whitney |
| 3 | Bob Brewster | 22 | Nan Cantrell |
| 4 | Phil Hale | 23 | Jacob Page |
| | Wanda Minton | 26 | Sandy Whitney |
| 5 | Marilyn Brown | | Hannah Barnett |
| 6 | Laura Foskey | 28 | Don Bower |
| 11 | Mary Anna Wynes | | Hilda Clark |
| 12 | Anna Cobb | 28 | Alan Edwards |
| | | | Larry Minton |

March 26, 2024

Dear Covenant,

It is hard to believe that nearly 2 ½ years ago you welcomed Kira and me into this congregation. As I think back on all that God has accomplished through you in that time, I am both amazed and filled with joy.

At a Session meeting earlier tonight, I shared that after a great deal of prayer and discernment, I have accepted a call to serve as a Ministry Relations Officer with the Presbyterian Foundation.

This has been a difficult decision to make. It follows several months of wrestling with where the Spirit is leading me. When we welcomed Leona into our family last July, I began to sense that God was working on new plans for us. I felt the Holy Spirit's handiwork when I learned that this new position would allow me to spend more time with my family.

My last Sunday with you will be April 21, and my last day in the office will be April 23. As I conclude my time as your pastor, I will be praying for the Spirit to lead you faithfully into the next chapter. The Session will share updates with you about the next steps being taken in the days ahead. The Presbytery is assisting the Session to ensure that you have a smooth transition with a bridge interim pastor to follow my place. Your PNC remains faithfully committed to their work as well as they interview candidates for the permanent pastor position.

Over the course of these next few weeks, I will be working hard to ensure that the ministry we have built together continues to be successful and faithful to our calling as disciples. There are phone calls to make, plans to set in motion, and prayers to be said as we lean into what God has in store.

Following Christ requires extraordinary strength, faith, and creativity from disciples of all ages — spiritual gifts that are abundant in this congregation. By using these gifts as God calls you to do, Covenant will continue to do great things in the name of Christ.

Thank you, Covenant, for the gift of being able to walk alongside you in ministry. May God bless you and keep you on the journey ahead!

In Christ,

Dana

Rev. Dana Waters
Transitional Pastor