

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER April 14, 2024

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

Welcome Rev. Ron Gilreath as our quest speaker Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 11:00am

The Rev. Ron Gilreath is a retired minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a minister member of Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Ron is a native of Fayetteville, NC and a graduate of Methodist University, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary. He retired in 2014 after serving Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Sandy Springs, GA. Ron and his wife Melisha, a retired school psychologist, are the parents of two daughters and the grandparents of a grandson and granddaughter. Ron and Melisha live at Presbyterian Village Athens.

Sunday April 21 will be Pastor Dana's last Sunday with us. Thank you Pastor Dana for serving Covenant as our transitional pastor for almost 2 1/2 years. You brought wisdom, compassion, and love to our church and we thank you and your family. We wish Pastor Dana & family all the best. A reception will follow the worship service.



Covenant is pleased to welcome Reverend Teresa Franklin as our Interim/Transitional Pastor.

She comes to us after serving two years through the pastoral transition for Nacoochee Presbyterian Church in Sautee, GA. On **April 24** she plans to join us at Covenant Connection and will lead worship on Sunday, April 28.

Teresa and her husband and two granddaughters live in Clarkesville, GA.



Sunday, April 21

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

Pledge packets for the 2024—2025 Stewardship Campaign *If you have not received your packet yet there are extra pledge cards, budget items and envelopes on the table in the gathering room.*



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).



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

SAVE THE DATE! Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People **June 8, 10am - 2:30pm** at Covenant. To register and more info email at pwnegaregistrar@gmail.com.

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

A Spirit of Comfort...

Covenant seeks to nurture a spirit of welcome where members and visitors are at ease. Here are some ways we hope you can be at home during worship services and programs:

There is breathing room for your faith.

- If you are uncomfortable with the words in a hymn or public profession, you are welcome to remain silent. We are glad that you are thoughtful about your beliefs.
- During discussions, you are welcome to respectfully ask questions and disagree.

You can be comfortable here.

- Formal clothing is not necessary even for Sunday morning worship.
- If you are not comfortable standing for hymns or readings during worship, please remain sitting.
- If you have difficulty sitting for long periods, you may stand in the back.
- If you listen better when your hands are occupied, you are welcome to do non-distracting/non-messy handiwork (knitting, cross-stitch, etc.).
- You are welcome to bring a cushion or lap blanket.
- If you have dietary concerns, you're welcome to bring your own food to gatherings.

We hope you find that Covenant is a reassuring place to worship, explore, grow, and enjoy fellowship.

PRAYER CONCERNS: We are sad to share the news that Woodcrafter, Pavel Janošik, who designed and carved the beautiful nativity scene gifted to Covenant by our sister church in Olomouc, passed away last week. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers; Dell Whitehead recovering at home from knee surgery April 11; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky, recovering from surgery on April 12, and will undergo hip replace surgery in two weeks; 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; Bert Ballard-Myer's sister, Jan recovering at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; traveling mercies for Pastor Dana and family; our nation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
 April 15—21
 Acts 4: 5-12, Psalm 23, Zechariah 10: 1-12,
 Psalm 80: 1-7, I John 3: 16-24, John 10: 11-18

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 the Pastor.

Knitters & Knotters
Thursday, April 18 at 2pm

knitter knotter

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!**

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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).

Univerzita Karlova

April 1- May 31

A \$25 donation sends love, flowers, and a card to a worthy mother in our community!

THE ARK UNITED MINISTRY OUTREACH CENTER

Adopt -a- Mom 2024

The Ark honors single warrior moms, grandmothers raising their grandbabies, and isolated mothers in our local nursing homes and hospice care programs!

Go to www.athensark.org/adoptamom to adopt today!

All proceeds benefit The Ark's Single Working Mothers Fund, which assists single moms who experience an unexpected loss of income or an unexpected expense. Help us prevent disconnections and evictions!

Saint Stephen's Publix, **SVA ARCHIBALD DISABILITY LAW**, **thrivent FIVE POINTS EYECARE**

www.etf.cuni.cz
 @etfunikarlov
 @etf_unikarlov

The BUILDERS CLASS beginning at 9:45am. NO CLASS April 14. Will resume April 21. 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. 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

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!



Building & Grounds wants to thank our dayworker, Brett Royer, for preparing the holes needed for the planting of 11 new holly bushes that we added on Saturday to the front of the church. Also, thank you to Rich Reaves, Alex Clark, Warren and Arnelle Combs, Ellen Stoneburner, and Susan and Randy Parish for helping plant not only the hollies but nine azalea bushes. Randy removed many fallen trees from the property. A few weeks ago Hilda and Alex Clark planted summer annuals in the front patio containers and they are flourishing. Brian Striggow and Brett completed a tricky drainage project in the Memorial Garden. Beginning the week of April 15, weather permitting, new gutters and drain pipes will be installed on the entire church. We hope this will solve our flooding issues in the basement and elsewhere. Thank you to two church members who have donated funds to Building and Grounds for future plantings and to an anonymous donor or donors who bought six azaleas that are now happily in the ground! ---Carolyn Hatfield, Chair, Building & Grounds



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Church School

Adult Classes:

NO Builders Class

Journey Class

Upper Room Class

Childrens Class
K-5th

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

USHERS/GREETERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Luanne & Bill Rigsby

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Robyn Malone, Randy & Susan Parish

LITRUGIST: 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		

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



April 14, 2024
Lily McKay, Susan Parish
Marie Ballard-Myer

April 21, 2024

Lily McKay, Stephanie Cahill, Sandy Whitney

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 .

April 14 Charles Cantrell in honor of Nan's birthday

April 21 Sandy Whitney

April 28

May 5

May 12

May 19

Wonderful Wednesdays—April 17

Covenant Connection—join us for a delicious dinner prepared by our own Chef Patrick at 5:30pm (\$3.00 donation per meal)

6:15pm NO Adult Bible Study

6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
makeminesupine@hotmail.com

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
acarter-enyi@covpresathens.org



Interested in Learning to play Mahjong?

Bring a friend and join us in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, April 30,

10am—noon. For more info contact Caly DePalma at calyd44atgmail.com

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 #41

Anticipated Pledges — \$335,887.76

Actual Pledges — \$331,043.71

Non-Pledged - \$ 15,289.10

Thank you for your faithful giving!

OGHS—\$3,585.00

April 14, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

April 21, 2024

SUNDAY 9:30 Nursery
9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children's Bible Study
11:00am Worship

SUNDAY 9:30 Nursery
9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children's Bible Study
11:00am Worship—Stewardship Sunday,
Pastor Appreciation, reception following

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

2pm—4pm Athens Free Clinic
7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class
6:30pm Stated Session Meeting
7:00pm 12 Step Group

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
Pastor on Vacation April 10—17
11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30pm Mission Outreach Ministry Team Meeting
5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner
6:15pm NO Adult Bible Study
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal, 7:15pm Adult Choir
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner
6:15pm 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
7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

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

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

SATUDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

SATUDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

Earth Day April 22 That Makes April Earth Month!

**What in heaven's name are you
doing for earth's sake?**

**What on earth are you doing
for heaven's sake?**