

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER April 21, 2024

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



**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.



### 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 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.

# 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?**



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).

### 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.

### Update from Our Sister Church in Olomouc

Several joyful events have taken place in the community of our congregation since the beginning of the year: we have entered the new year ecumenically. Traditionally, in the first weeks of January, ecumenical meetings are held in various churches in Olomouc. It is somewhat sad that the interest in them is getting smaller and smaller, but we wanted to encourage it this year among the young generation, so I cooked a big pot of goulash and after one of the prayer meetings in the Catholic Church of St. Wenceslas (the biggest church in Olomouc), the youth gathered in our premises. The motto was: "invite your Catholic to our youth group" :-) (or a member of any other church). We consider it important to meet as Christians across the denominational spectrum. Another ecumenical event also took place in January: a service for the victims of the shooting at the Faculty of Arts in Prague. We are a university town, and this horrific act hit many of us hard. Our priest Jan Lukas preached at the service in the Catholic church and over 200 people, mainly students and teachers of Palacký University in Olomouc, attended.

We also had a nice meeting within the congregation: we welcomed a guest - pastor Štěpán Janča, who served us with a sermon and an afternoon lecture about his involvement in missionary activities and helping Christians in South Sudan. Another joyful Sunday afternoon was spent with the children: again, traditionally our Sunday School teachers prepare a carnival for the children before the beginning of Lent. We also experienced great joy during the baptism service, during which Julie Batla (daughter of Dan and Misha) was baptized. And the latest news: Jan Lukas celebrated his 60th birthday in early March, and last week our congregation held the swearing in of the newly elected "senior committee" (sorry, I don't know what the PC USA equivalent is for this; it is simply a higher administrative body than the eldership of the congregation). I was also elected to this committee at our Convention (???), so I would be grateful for your intercessory prayers.

However, we are also still experiencing a challenging time regarding the renovation of our church building. Financial contributions from all ECCB congregations for this year's Easter Sunday will go towards the repair of our church, but we will not receive the proceeds until next year. We didn't know that before, so we were already counting on that money being raised for this year's building improvements, so we are in a rather complicated situation where we will most likely have to borrow money for construction that is already contracted. The work is scheduled for 6 years and it was already really necessary to get started (we have a leaky 100 year old roof for example). But it is financially extremely demanding, and we cannot rely only on donations from members of the Olomouc congregation. So we are learning how to write grant applications and show the local community that there is a vibrant ECCB congregation that has something to offer the city of Olomouc. And that in order to continue to do our ministry, we need help from those who may not even be Christians but are grateful for the cultural diversity of the local community. If you would like to see how the reconstruction is planned, we also have an English version of the website that describes it <https://kostelnanaplavce.cz/en/>. We wish our partner congregation a blessed Easter season! You are always in our hearts!

--Jana Vrajova and the Olomouc Church

*Please note that the donation button on the Olomouc church website does not function here in the United States. Covenant's Fellowship Team is looking into a way to take up a love offering to help our sister church with their renovations.*

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Carolyn Hatfield's father, John Hallam Ring, passed away Wednesday, April 17, in Ft. Worth, TX. He was 94 years old and a native of Arlington, MA. Carolyn's sister-in-law, Betty Sue Williams Wilson, also passed away Wednesday, April 17, in Allendale, SC. She was 89 years old and a native of Walterboro, SC.; Larry Hatfield diagnosed with colon cancer, beginning chemo April 22; Joe & June Meyers' godson Ted Coons beginning hospice care. He will discontinue all treatments for stage IV prostate cancer; Family and friends in the passing of woodcrafter, Pavel Janošik, who designed and carved the beautiful nativity scene gifted to Covenant by our sister church in Olomouc;; 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 replacement surgery in two weeks; Bert Ballard-Myer's sister, Jan recovering at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; our nation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**  
 April 22—28  
 Acts 8: 26-40, Psalm 22: 25-31; Exodus 19: 1-6;  
 Psalm 118: 19-25; I John 4: 7-21; John 15: 1-8  
 \*\*\*\*\*

*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 25 at 2pm

*knitter  
 knitter*

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!**

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

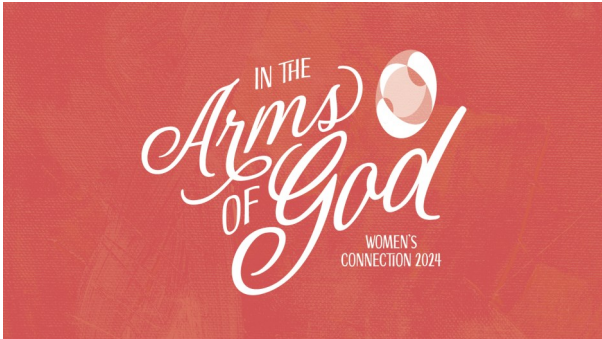
**Adopt -a- Mom 2024**

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](http://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, SILVER ARCHIBALD LAW, thrivent FIVE POINTS EYECARE



**Women's Connection 2024—**  
**Montreat Conference Center**  
**IN THE ARMS OF GOD**  
**August 9—11, 2024**

For more info and to register click on the link below:

<https://montreat.org/events/wc-2024>

**The BUILDERS CLASS beginning at 9:45am.** 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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com).

**The "JOURNEY" Class beginning at 9:45am**

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. Join us as we study the book, *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!

**Covenant's Strawberry Festival!**

**Date:** Saturday evening, the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, *rain or shine*

**Time:** 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (or until dusk)

**Who:** Everyone! All ages are welcome. The Strawberry Festival is a great event for newcomers or to welcome back friends who haven't attended in a while. Please think about who you might invite.

**Food:** The event is returning as a potluck! Please bring a dish or two to share. (This can be homemade or something you pick up at a deli or restaurant.)

**Strawberry Cookoff:** If your dish is homemade and features strawberries, you'll automatically be in the running for one of our three Strawberry Festival prize categories—Yummiest Strawberry Dish, Prettiest Strawberry Dish, and Most Springlike Strawberry Dish. Secret judges will be prowling to choose the winners. (*Please have your item on the table by 5:15 PM to be sure it will be part of the judging.*)

**Other Items to Bring:** Camp chairs and/or picnic blankets, water bottles, games.

**We Will Provide:** Tables, utensils, paper plates, water and lemonade, decaf coffee, corn hole games.

**Music:** New Horizons band will play again this year! Their concert will be from 5:00 to 5:30 with lots of time to socialize afterwards.



## 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 21

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

**LITRUGIST:** Pam Knox

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Catharine Tyson, Bill Barstow, Alan Edwards,  
Judy Capie

**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

### 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



**Nursery  
Ministry**

April 21, 2024

Lily McKay, Stephanie  
Cahill, Sandy Whitney

April 28, 2024

Lily McKay, Richard & Marcia Page

## 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 21 Jim & Sandy Whitney

April 28 Rebecca & Kent Silver

### Wonderful Wednesdays—April 24

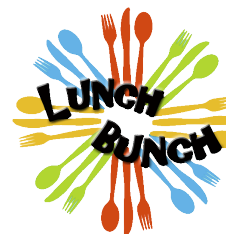
Covenant Connection—join us for a delicious dinner prepared by our own

*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



### Lunch Bunch Has Returned!

Join us at DePalma's Restaurant (eastside) on Tuesday, May 7 at 11:30am for a delightful time of food and fellowship.

### Women's Bible Study

Saturday, April 27

East Friendship Baptist Church  
(our sister church)

400 Arch Street, Athens

If you need a ride or more information please contact Jere Bowden.

# 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!*



## 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#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/)



**COVENANT CARES:** Donations needed for Exam Week Care Packages for PSC Students. To support and show care for the students of the Presbyterian Student Center, Covenant members will be assembling **Exam Week Care Packages** to be delivered on Monday, April 29. If you are able to help, we are using an Amazon Wishlist to make collecting the items simple and quick. Also, if you prefer, please feel free to purchase items from the list and place them on the table outside of the church office. Here is the Amazon Wishlist Link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/39K7DUHRCICTS?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/39K7DUHRCICTS?ref_=wl_share)

Thank you so much in advance for your help with this outreach effort for our local Presbyterian college students! Please message Amy with any questions!



## Covenant "Habitat for Humanity" Group Saturday Build in June!

Please click the link below and add your availability if you would like to join the Covenant group for a Habitat Saturday Build in June. All Saturday builds are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and lunch is provided. Please mark your availability by next Friday, April 26. And share this with your friends! [https://doodle.com/  
meeting/participate/id/dwROD5Jb](https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dwROD5Jb)

**Did you know** that 2 million new plastic bags are used every minute worldwide? Or that one million plastic bottles are bought every minute? And only 5-6% of plastic is recycled? Much of the remaining plastic is dumped into landfills, incinerated or finds its way into the ocean. And every molecule of plastic made since 1907 is still around today. Earthday.org, which sprang from the first Earth Day in 1970, has declared the theme for 2024 to be Planet vs Plastics.

To learn more from National Geographic about plastics production and the disposal problem see: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=gghOPtk3VGE>

For a faith based view of plastic pollution from Presbyterians for Earthcare see:

<https://presbyearthcare.org/from-plastic-pollution-to-environmental-justice/>

*The Covenant Green Dream Team*

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 #42**  
Anticipated Pledges — \$344,080.14  
Actual Pledges — \$342,543.71  
Non-Pledged - \$ 15,410.10  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

**April 21, 2024**

## **Covenant by the Week!**

**April 28, 2024**

**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**  
7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA  
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  
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

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

**SATUDAY**  
10:30am 12 Step Group

**SUNDAY** 9:30 Nursery  
9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children's Bible Study  
11:00am Worship—  
Welcome Reception for Rev. Teresa Franklin  
1:30pm The Cottage

**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

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
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1pm Covenant Food Distribution  
2:00 pm Knitters & Knotters  
7:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

**SATUDAY** 10:30am 12 Step Group  
5pm—8pm Strawberry Festival (rain or shine)

# A SPIRIT OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 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.**