

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.

Stewardship Sunday

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

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

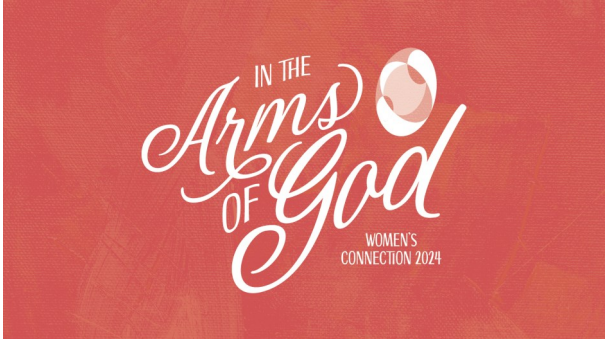
Adopt -a- Mom 2024

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. 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.

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!

Mark Your Calendar for Covenant's Strawberry Festival!

Date: Saturday evening, the 4th 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.

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 #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

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7:00pm 12 Step Group

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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.