

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER April 28, 2024

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



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

### **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.



### **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. More info contact Robyn Malone or Mary Anna Wynes.

### **Presbyterian Women Bible Study**

**Thursday, May 9 at 9:30am**

We will be studying Lesson #9, led by Pam Thompson. We will have a salad luncheon afterward in the Covenant Gathering Room. Please bring a salad, bread or a dessert to share!

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Arnelle Combs admitted to hospital with sepsis; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky, recovering from hip replacement surgery April 25; 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. 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; 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 29—May 5

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; Genesis 35: 9-15;

Psalm 101, 1 John 5: 1-6; John 15: 9-17

*Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto: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, May 2 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!

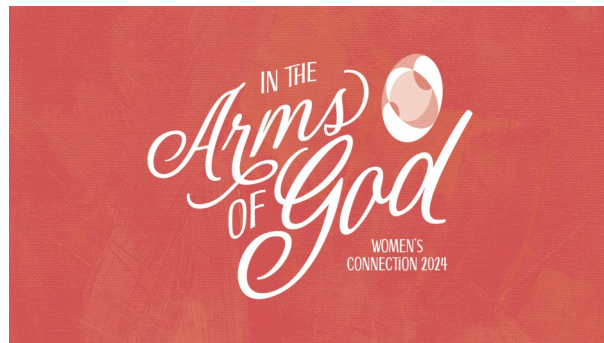


**Adopt -a- Mom 2024**

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!

**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>

**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 28**

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

**LITURGIST:** Stephanie Cahill , Jacob Page

**SUNDAY, May 5**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Chris Wilson, Katy Terry

**LITRUGIST:** Warren Combs, Ada Brock Rea

**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 28, 2024

Lily McKay,  
Richard & Marcia Page

May 5, 2024 Lily Herndon,  
Adam & Rebecca Rea

**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 28 *Rebecca & Kent Silver*

May 5 *Julie & Don Bower*

May 12 *Hilda & Alex Clark*

May 19

May 26

**Wonderful Wednesdays—May 1**

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

# 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/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/)

[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 Ath-

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

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



## COOKING BASICS CARE PACKAGES FOR SENIORS

Many seniors served by Meals on Wheels in Athens do not have the means or the ability to get simple condiments and spices for cooking at home. These items are also not available for ACCA to purchase from the NEGA Food Bank. If you are able to help, please purchase the items listed below and place them in a paper grocery bag and bring them to church by Sunday, May 26!



Contact Amy Baer  
with questions!

**706-380-8482**

[abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org)

**NEEDED ITEMS:**  
Cooking Oil  
Sugar  
Ketchup  
Mustard  
Mayo  
Salt  
Pepper  
Garlic Powder  
Chili Powder  
Italian Seasoning



Click on the link below to sign up to help:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-adoptacampuskit)  
[go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-adoptacampuskit)  
[adoptacampuskit](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-adoptacampuskit)



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

**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!



**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 us 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 #43**  
Anticipated Pledges — \$352,272.52  
Actual Pledges — \$347,368.71  
Non-Pledged - \$ 15,520.10  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

**April 28, 2024**

## **Covenant by the Week!**

**May 5, 2024**

**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  
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  
5pm—8pm Strawberry Festival (rain or shine)

**SUNDAY** 9:30 Nursery  
9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children's Bible Study  
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  
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's (Eastside)  
7:00pm 12 Step Group

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band  
**5:30 pm Covenant Connection dinner - FINAL**  
**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  
9:30am Presbyterian Women Bible Study w/Salad Luncheon  
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



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](mailto:pwnegaregistrar@gmail.com).



- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ann Anderson     | 24 Richard Zimdars  |
| Arnelle Combs      | Ntumwa Kisaalita    |
| Hannah Baird       | 25 Carol Calbos     |
| Karen Wetherington | Emily Ballard-Myer  |
| 2 Elsie Bothwell   | 26 Tim Bemisderfer  |
| Linda VanSickle    | Luke Shannon        |
| 3 Alex Clark       | 27 Joan Prittie     |
| Wesley Whitehead   | 28 Spencer Baird    |
| 12 Abby Horvath    | Eric Zimdars        |
| Marcia Verbrugge   | 31 Ssempe Kisaalita |
| 13 Catharine Tyson |                     |
| 14 Louie Boyd      |                     |
| Teresa Mauldin     |                     |
| Rich Kimmich       |                     |
| 19 Annie Meyers    |                     |
| 22 Kent Silver     |                     |



# FAMILY PROMISE

## *Mission*

Family Promise of Athens (formerly the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, Inc.) is a non-profit organization committed to providing housing supports to families with children who are facing or experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

## *Communication*

Covenant hosts Family Promise for four weeks each year with different coordinators for each week. They will communicate all information with and assist volunteers in finding and using the Sign-up Genius. Coordinators should be contacted if any difficulties arise during our host weeks. Please reach out to one of the Coordinators listed below if you are interested in joining the Family Promise Volunteer Team from Covenant! Thank you, and God bless our families.

## *Covenant's Family Promise Coordinators*

**Don and Julie Bower:**  
don.bower@gmail.com  
bower.julie@gmail.com

**Phil Hale:**  
phale50@hotmail.com

**Randy and Susan Parish:**  
rrparishjr@yahoo.com  
sdp51@yahoo.com

**Brian and Valerie Stone:**  
vmi91h@aol.com  
valeriefreystone@gmail.com

## *Volunteer Needs*

Volunteers from Covenant are vital to Family Promise and are needed in the following ways:

### **VAN DRIVING**

Volunteers using the Family Promise van are needed on:

1. Mondays from 9 a.m.-12 noon to help families without transportation run errands related to work or other necessities.
2. Saturdays from 12:45-1 p.m. to transport families to the Day Center and from 5-5:30 p.m. to return to the residences.

### **DINNER FOR EACH FAMILY**

Dinner should be divided in family-style containers for each Magnolia Terrace unit and delivered at 6:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Coordinators will communicate family food preferences and allergies. Volunteers can either provide a home-cooked meal for the families or pick up restaurant food, such as pizza or chicken nuggets. It is best to use disposable containers.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR SATURDAY DAY CENTER**

The Day Center will be open from 1-5 p.m. for families to do laundry. Volunteers can sign up for a children's activity, giving parents the opportunity to do laundry, use the computer, or other activities.

Children's activities could include reading, ping pong, going out to the playground, or others depending on the children's ages and interests. Coordinators will assist volunteers with ideas. In the beginning of this new model, Family Promise will have either a staff member or intern on-site to help facilitate activities.

## *Volunteer Sites*

Beginning in 2024 Family Promise Athens adopted a new model for hosting our guest families in single family apartments. Guests will be in the program for a maximum of 90 days, during which the Family Promise staff will assist in finding work with a basic income and adequate, affordable housing.

### **FAMILY RESIDENCES ON MAGNOLIA TERRACE**

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, each of the two Family Promise apartment units has two bedrooms with kitchens and bathrooms.

### **DAY CENTER AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Located on the second floor, with stairs accessible from the parking lot behind the church, just off Hancock Avenue. Families are invited to come to the Center on Saturdays to do laundry and possibly have children's activities.

