

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 11am**: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER May 5, 2024

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

### 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!

### Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14 at 12:30pm

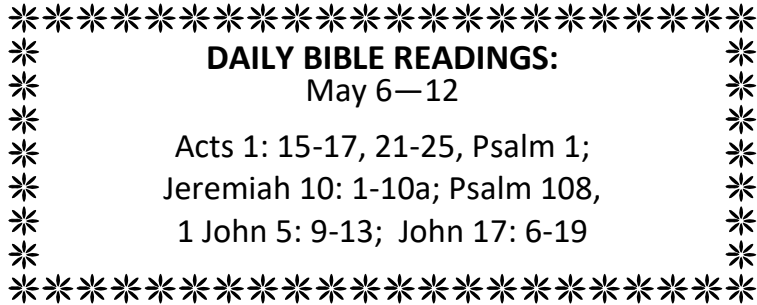
Please join us in the fellowship hall for a great time of food and fellowship. Bring your favorite covered dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.



**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Zara Carter-Enyi, Aaron & Quintina’s daughter, having surgery on May 15; Kirby Bell (Covenant neighbor) and family in the passing of his wife this past week; Arnelle Combs at home recovering from sepsis; Abby Horvath’s mom, Becky, recovering from hip replacement surgery April 25; Larry Hatfield diagnosed with colon cancer, beginning chemo; 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:**  
May 6—12

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-25, Psalm 1;  
Jeremiah 10: 1-10a; Psalm 108,  
1 John 5: 9-13; John 17: 6-19



*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, May 9 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!

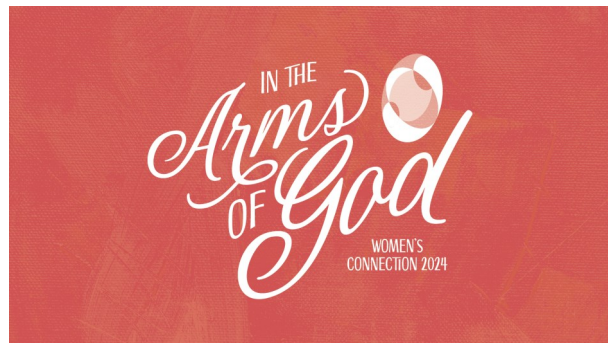
**THE ARK**  
UNITED MINISTRY OUTREACH CENTER

**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](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:*

Journey Class

Upper Room Class

*Childrens Class*  
K-5th

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, May 5

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

LITURGIST: Warren Combs, Ada Brock Rea

SUNDAY, May 12

USHERS/GREETERS: Stephanie Cahill, Hank Tweedell, Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

### 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

May 5, 2024

Adam & Rebecca Rea

May 12, 2024 Ansley Land, DeLynda Tweedell

## 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 .

May 5 Don & Julie Bower

May 12 Hilda & Alex Clark

May 19 Alice & Patrick McMaster &  
Gloria Pylant in memory of Belle McMaster

May 26

June 2

Wonderful Wednesdays—May 8—FINAL  
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/  
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/  
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/  
go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-  
adoptacampuskit](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-adoptacampuskit)



**Covenant Habitat for Humanity Group** opportunities to volunteer for Saturday Builds f June 22 and June 29. If you are able to join the group, please click the registration link below that corresponds to your availability and submit your registration.

**June 22** (9am – 3pm, Location TBD, Lunch is provided for volunteers)  
<https://give.athenshabitat.com/reservations/17702/join?auth=1714487714>

**June 29** (9am-3pm, location TBD, lunch is provided for volunteers)  
<https://give.athenshabitat.com/reservations/17703/join?auth=171448714>



## 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!



The PCUSA has a history of environmental advocacy dating back to 1990. Are you familiar with this mission of our denomination? See the 2022 action of the 225th General Assembly entitled "Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation" at

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/investing-in-a-green-future-a-vision-for-a-renewed-creation-2022/>

*The Covenant Green Dream Team*

### **WORSHIP— Sunday, May 12**

**Confirmation Sunday**—Eli Stone completed his confirmation classes with Pastor Dana. Eli and his Covenant partner, Phil Hale plan to work together to provide a "**Hale** Fire and Brim **Stone**" BBQ Luncheon in the fall to honor Covenant's volunteers.

#### **Graduation Recognition**

Owen Barnett—will graduate from Central High School  
Wyatt Pless—will graduate from Harvard Law School  
Anna Murphy—will graduate from UGA  
Ben Williams—will graduate from Mercer Law School

*A reception will follow.*

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 #44**  
Anticipated Pledges — \$360,464.90  
Actual Pledges — \$356,793.71  
Non-Pledged - \$ 15,642.10  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

**May 5, 2024**

## **Covenant by the Week!**

**May 12, 2024**

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

**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 - FINAL**  
**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

**SUNDAY MOTHERS DAY!**  
9:30 Nursery  
9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children's Bible Study  
11:00am Worship— Confirmation Sunday &  
Graduates Recognized—Reception to follow 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  
12:30pm Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon  
7:00pm 12 Step Group  
7:00pm Athens Stamp Club in Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band  
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 Worship Ministry Team Meeting

**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).

### Highlights of the April 23, 2024, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on April 23, 2024. Dick Zimdars read from the book, *Markings*, by Dag Hammarskjöld on fellowship. Without warm intimate relationships with a few, one would not be able to accomplish big things in life because of a lack of love and empathy. Dick opened the meeting with this prayer, "Lord, keep binding us together in mutual love. Amen."

According to the financial summary for March, 2024, pledges and non-pledged income are coming in very well. The Stewardship Campaign for the new fiscal year got off to a slow start due to slow mail delivery, and the deadline for turning in pledges was extended. Pledges have been coming in slowly but steadily. Finance Ministry Team will be working on the finalized budget to present to Session at the May stated meeting.

Confirmand Eli Stone has been attending confirmation classes with Dana this year. Following the reading of his faith statement and questions from the Session, Eli was joyously welcomed as a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church. This brings our membership total to 215. Eli and his Covenant partner, Phil Hale, plan to work together to provide a "**Hale** Fire and Brim **Stone**" BBQ luncheon in the fall to honor Covenant's volunteers. Eli will be recognized at a reception in the near future.

Dick Zimdars will serve as chair of the Nominating Committee for the next class of elders. Session will elect an inactive elder at the May stated meeting, and the congregation will elect a third person, who is not an elder, to round out the committee.

Bert Ballard-Myer, Dennis Calbos, Rich Reaves, and Gijs Schimmell, will serve as Covenant's four commissioners to the NEGA Presbytery Meeting to be held at Oconee Presbyterian Church on May 21, 2024.

Worship time will be changed to 10 a.m. beginning on June 2, 2024, and resume at 11:00 a.m. on Rally Day. (Date to be determined by Christian Education Ministry Team.)

Session approved a special offering to be collected from May 26 - June 30, 2024 for the building fund for restoration of our sister church in Olomouc in The Czech Republic.

Covenant will be hosting an Antipoverty Workshop on June 8, 2024.

Pastor Dana expressed gratitude for his time at Covenant, and the Session expressed its sincere appreciation for the wonderful job Dana has done as our Transitional Pastor.

Submitted by *Luanne Rigsby*, Clerk of Session





REV. ALONSO JOHNSON AND MARGARET MWALE RETURN TO CONTINUE WHAT THEY BEGAN ON OCTOBER 14, 2023.

COME LEARN SO MUCH MORE FROM THESE TWO LEADERS.



Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People  
**STOP THE CYCLE OF POVERTY!**

**REGISTER FOR OUR WORKSHOP**

*"When Did We See You..." A Missional Engagement In Preventing and Alleviating Poverty as together we seek to stop the cycle of poverty.*

**JUNE 8, 2024**

**10AM- 2:30PM**

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**1065 GAINES SCHOOL ROAD**

**ATHENS, GA**

**REGISTER**

**PWNEGAREGISTRAR@GMAIL.COM**

**EMAIL YOUR NAME AND CHURCH**

**REGISTRATION DUE BY MAY 25, 2024**

**REGISTRATION FEE: CANNED GOODS FOR**

**COVENANT FOOD PANTRY**

**LUNCH PROVIDED BY NE GA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

SPONSORED BY



AND

