

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, December 01, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER DECEMBER 01, 2024

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



### Meals on Wheels Offering—

to be received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service to sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$2,000.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 6 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously. Please mark in the memo portion of your check MOW. Consider making a special gift in honor or memory of a loved one.

### Calling All Covenant Youth Alums! Save the Date: Sunday, December 29, 2024

Remember those amazing years in Covenant's youth whether you were here in the '70's or during the pandemic? It's time to relive the memories and create new ones!

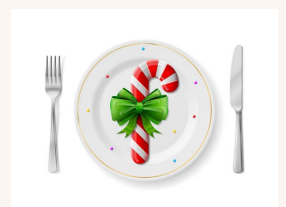
What's Happening 9:30 AM – Breakfast served by current youth group members (Yes, there's a rumor that Donny Whitehead may be flipping pancakes!)

11:00 AM – Worship led by Covenant youth, past and present

RSVP – Please respond to this email or contact one of us. Ansley Tweedell Land, Cong. Care Team (706-540-7026) Brian Herndon (Alice Whitehead Herndon), Christian Ed Team (706-714-1464) Warren Combs, Worship Team (706-521-2530)

### Retirees Christmas Luncheon, Tuesday, December 10

We are going to the Presbyterian Village for our Christmas Luncheon. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board. Meet at the church at 11:30am to carpool. We will gather in the Atrium around noon with lunch at 12:30. The luncheon will cost \$12 per person. **Please sign up today and pay Sara Cooney by Sunday, December 1.**





Four times annually, Covenant is joyfully committed to coordinating important responsibilities for one week to the families temporarily housed in the two **Family Promise** apartments on Magnolia Terrace. **Our next week of service is Dec. 1-7.** We appreciate the many meals lovingly prepared and delivered to our friends at Magnolia Terrace. Please examine your ability to offer a meal, drive the van, or help to provide activities that engage the children while their parents do their weekend laundry, run errands, etc., on

Saturday afternoon (see SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/>).

Don and Julie Bower are the coordinators for this upcoming opportunity and will gladly answer any questions. Each of our responsibilities is described in some detail on the **Sign-Up Genius** site. If you are new to volunteering for Family Promise, you might want us to meet you at Magnolia Terrace to show you the meal delivery drill. We are happy to meet first-timers there. [bower.julie@gmail.com](mailto:bower.julie@gmail.com) or [don.bower@gmail.com](mailto:don.bower@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for continuing to help families who are experiencing homelessness achieve independence. This new model of service brings the program one large step closer.



Purchase a beautiful live poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special! They will be used in the worship center through the Christmas season. Sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering room. Please make your checks payable to Covenant and put Poinsettia in the memo portion of the check. Please put check in the drop box or bring to the church office - \$12.50 each.  
*Please no cash.*



**The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank always needs brown paper grocery bags. (minus the cat)**

People who are experiencing short term emergencies such as job loss, medical bills, etc., go to the ARK which is sponsored by area churches, including Covenant. Some of our members helped start this program.

The people's needs are screened and various kinds of help are available for job loss, medial needs, etc. They are provided with meals for up to two weeks if needed.

The food for each day is put into a separate brown bag. The meals are nutritionally sound. Menus and recipe's are included.


Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** DeLynda Tweedell's sister, Brandy Murdock waiting for results from four biopsies; Mark Harper's mom, Betty Jo Harper in hospice care in Lynchburg, VA; DeLynda Tweedell's best friends mom, Ann Mathis battling stage 4 cancer and c. difficile and is depressed; Lisa Buchanan recovering from broken foot; Alice Rose fighting leukemia and heart condition; Rich Kimmich recovering at home from an accident; Dick Zimdars at home; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; Larry Hatfield remains under treatment for stage 4 colon cancer; Juergen Wiegel in PVA memory care and Heide at home; Gene Holshouser at home; and pray that goodness, mercy & compassion prevail against the evil and greed in the world.

*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.*

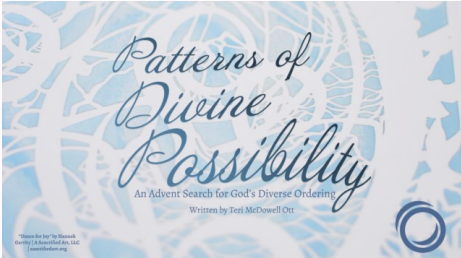
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 \* **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:** \*  
 \* **Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10;** \*  
 \* **I Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-26** \*  
 \* **Please read in your Advent Devotional!** \*  
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**Financial Summary for Week #21**  
 Anticipated Pledges—\$180,087.11  
 Pledges Received—\$182,279.18  
*Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!*  
 Thornwell Home for Children—\$2,425.15



**LUNCH BUNCH**  
 Each month on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30am at DePalma's Italian Restaurant (eastside). All are welcome to join us for a good time of fellowship and food.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL— *Patterns of Divine Possibility***



Step into a journey of discovery this Advent with a devotional that challenges us to see beyond familiar binaries and embrace the complex, natural patterns of our creator in the world. In this devotional, *Outlook* Editor/Publisher Teri McDowell Ott invites us to open our eyes to the intricate designs of God's creation that often go unnoticed. From art to everyday life, this devotional series invites us to see God's world as more than either/or. It's a call to step into divine possibility, with curiosity and openness, just as the Advent season prepares us to welcome Christ into the world. The devotionals are available on the table in the gathering room and on the desk as you come through the double glass doors.

*The Editor has requested that the devotional NOT be posted online.*

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Church School for  
all Ages

11:00am Worship

5:00pm Youth Group

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2024

USHERS/GREETERS: Katy Terry, Robyn Malone, Phil & Sallie Hale

LITURGISTS: Warren Combs, Jacob Page

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2024

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Caly DePalma, Carol & Dennis Calbos

LITURGISTS: Jim Newland

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEAL COORDINATOR

for December: Barbara Burnett

### OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Brian Striggow 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



December 01, 2024

Adam & Rebecca Rea,

Ada Brock & Larson,

Nancy Alila

December 08, 2024

Clayton & Grace Adams, Lily McKay



### Covenant Connection December 4, 2024

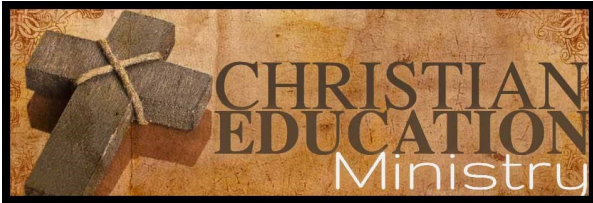
5:30pm with a family style meal prepared by our own  
Chef Patrick McMaster. (donation \$3 each)

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir rehearsal in Worship Center





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

**The "GOD-BOTHERERS" Class at 9:45am.** Join us in the library for this exciting class facilitated by Pastor Tom. This class is for anyone of any age who wrestles with tough questions.

**The "UPPER ROOM" 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" at 9:45am**

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will begin study and discussion of our newly-selected book, *The Substance of Faith and Other Cotton Patch Sermons* by Clarence Jordan (foreword by Jimmy Carter). We share leadership with class participants volunteering to lead our discussion each week. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class at 9:45am.** Taught by Katy Arora and volunteer shepherds meet each week downstairs in the "Temple Courtyard" classroom.

**Middlers (4th—7th) Class at 9:45am.** Betsy Burmeister facilitates this class downstairs in the "Potter's Workshop" classroom.

**Covenant Youth Connection—Sunday, December 01 at 5:00pm**

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### **THE COVENANT FORUM—**

In addition to its many classes and educational opportunities, Covenant is also pleased to host "The Covenant Forum." This class will feature special speakers, panel discussions, and stimulating presentations, bringing together the heart and the mind for the life of faith! These events will be held at least quarterly, on weekday nights or Saturdays. *Check this spot for a new forum in the near future.*

## *Knitters & Knatters*

**THURSDAYS AT 2PM.**

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.



Meals are needed for the Buchanans while Lisa heals from a broken foot.

Click on this link to sign up:

<https://takethemameal.com/BQB12901>

If you need to sign in the name is Buchanan and password is Buchanan.

# WAYS TO SERVE @ COVENANT



Please look through these volunteer opportunities coming up at Covenant and sign up if you can help!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**  
**Athens Free Clinic @ Covenant** Volunteers are needed to welcome the medical team into the church building and to sit at the front desk to greet clients as they arrive for their appointments. Here is the link to sign up for all of our upcoming volunteer spots: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**  
**Covenant Cooks "First Tuesday" Dinners**  
Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**  
**Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)** Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>

## Used Sleeping Bags & Tents Collection

The weather is turning colder and our neighbors experiencing homelessness could use your used sleeping bags and tents. At this time, we are only collecting these two items. If you have any to spare, you can leave them on the purple table outside the church office and Corky Callaway will deliver them to the Sparrow's Nest for distribution to our neighbors in need.

*The Art Of*  
**SABBATH**  
JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE SABBATH PRACTICES THROUGH THE ARTS.  
THIS MONTH: "LIFE IS SWEET!"  
LEARNING TO DECORATE WITH ROYAL ICING  
**TUESDAY • DECEMBER 10**  
**9:30-11:30 A.M.**  
LOCATION: COVENANT - LIBRARY  
RSVP BY DECEMBER 5 TO AMY AT  
ABAER@COVPRESATHENS.ORG  
ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED



## **BAKERS NEEDED: Holiday Benevolence Market @ Covenant, Sunday, December 8**

We need your help to make this market a great success by volunteering for the event and helping us fill our dessert buffet with homemade treats! Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/.../409084AA5AA22A20...>

# Covenant by the Week!

**December 01, 2024**

**SUNDAY - 9:30am** Nursery  
9:45am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00am Worship  
12:30pm 12 Step Group  
**2:00pm New Horizons Band Concert at Covenant**  
5pm Covenant Youth Connection  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

**4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic**  
6:00pm Scouts  
7:00pm 12 Step Group  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA  
6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's  
1pm New Horizon Strings Rehearsal  
6:00pm Stated Session Meeting  
5:30pm—6:00pm Classic City Brass Rehearsal in FH  
6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band in Fellowship Hall  
**5:30pm Covenant Connection**  
**6pm Handbells Choir**  
**6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom**  
**7:15pm Adult Choir in worship center**  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
11:00am—12noon Abundance Athens in FH  
**1pm Covenant Food Distribution**

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

6:00pm Covenant Progressive Dinner  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**December 08, 2024**

**SUNDAY - 9:30am** Nursery  
9:45am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00am Worship  
**12:15pm Benevolence Market**  
12:30pm 12 Step Group  
5pm Covenant Youth Connection  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

**4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic**  
6:00pm Scouts  
7:00pm 12 Step Group  
4:00pm Bells of NEGA  
6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am Art of Sabbath  
12:30pm Retirees Luncheon at PVA  
1pm New Horizon Strings Rehearsal  
4:30pm—5:30pm OLLI GROUP  
5:30pm—6:00pm Classic City Brass Rehearsal in FH  
6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am Great Conversations Christmas Event  
**5:30pm Covenant Connection**  
**6pm Handbells Choir**  
**6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom**  
**7:15pm Adult Choir in worship center**  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1pm Covenant Food Distribution**

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**SATURDAY**

9:30aam Handbell Rehearsal  
10:30am 12 Step Group