

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, December 15 2024 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

**THE COVENANTER
DECEMBER 15, 2024**

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



Advent @ Covenant

Sunday, December 15 at 11am

*Sights & Sounds of Advent and Christmas Musical
Worship Service*

Sunday, December 24 at 5:30pm

*Christmas Eve Worship with carols, communion
and candlelight*

Sunday, December 29

9:30am Youth Alumni Breakfast

11:00am Youth Alumni-led Worship



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.



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!*



THE Table at UGA (formerly Presbyterian Student Center)

Invest In Campus Ministry

The Annual Fund serves to meet the Table's annual budgeting needs, including hospitality and weekly meal costs, conference and retreat registrations, pastoral and administrative salaries, small group and other educational materials, and so much more. Your gift—whatever the amount—is crucial to the ongoing ministry of belonging at UGA, centered in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Click on this link to donate: <https://www.tableuga.org/donate>



Did you receive a Christmas gift you can't use? Will you be doing some cleaning out for New Year? In January we'll

be bringing back our annual Bingo game night. Please set aside a few items you don't want but that someone else might treasure and we'll use these for Bingo prizes. Stay tuned to the Covenanter for the date.

Calling Covenant bakers! The Fellowship Team is hosting a cookie reception after the Musical Worship Service on Sunday, December 15. We are looking for bakers to contribute cookies or finger foods. Items can be dropped off in the church kitchen that morning or they can be frozen for advance delivery. Please contact Valerie Stone to let her know you'll contribute, to arrange for delivery of frozen items, or with any questions you may have. Thank you! We look forward




to this fun event. [valeriefreystone at gmail.com](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com) or (678) 360-6983 cell/text.

IN OUR PRAYERS: John Wilkin's brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Carolyn Steuer having problems with blood pressure; Wanda Minton recovering from surgery Dec. 11; Joan Baird's niece and Hannah Baird's cousin, Lindsey Haggerty at Cleveland Clinic with probable encephalitis; DeLynda Tweedell's best friends mom, Ann Mathis will have surgery Dec 18; Lisa Buchanan recovering from broken foot; Alice Rose fighting leukemia and heart condition and back pain; 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 our country.

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.

 * **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:** *
 * **Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6;** *
 * **Philippians 4: 4-7, Luke 3: 7-18** *
 * **Please read in your Advent Devotional!** *

Financial Summary for Week #23
 Anticipated Pledges—\$197,238.26
 Pledges Received—\$204,032.53
Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!
 Meals On Wheels—\$4,470.00

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.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, December 29, 2024
THE OCCASION - The Return of Youth Alumni Sunday
TO DO - Make arrangements with your children who are Covenant Youth Alums to participate.
THE SCHEDULE - 9:30am - Pancake breakfast with all the fixings
 11:00 am - Worship led by youth alums
We're excited about our return to this signature tradition of Covenant.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY
Thursday, December 19 at 9:30am
 We will meet at Ellen Stoneburner's 185 Longview Drive, (next door to Judy Capie). Paula Zimdars will lead our lesson (#4), "Water Justice." Jere Bowden, Barbara Burnett, and Gloria Pylant will provide refreshments. Join us to celebrate the Christmas season as we continue learning about environmental justice, through our PW Bible Study, "Let Justice Roll Down." For questions, contact Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Church School for
all Ages

11:00am Worship

5:00pm Youth Group

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

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

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson, Covenant Youth

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

USHERS/GREETERS: Hank & DeLynda Tweedell, Bill & Luanne Rigsby

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill, Lila McMaster

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 15, 2024

Nancy Alila, Don Bower,

Brian Herndon

December 22, 2024

Nancy Alila, Richard & Marcia Page



Covenant Connection December 18, 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

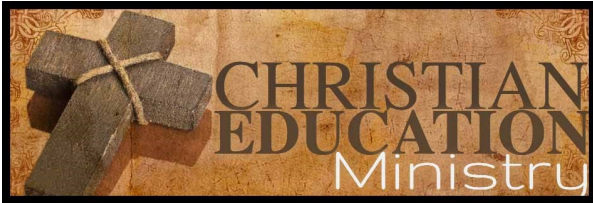
7:15pm Adult Choir rehearsal in Worship Center



The knotted blankets display in the hallway is made up of blankets lovingly made by Covenant's Knitters and Knotters. These blankets will be given to the Project Safe shelter for battered women and children for Christmas. Knotted blankets are also given to members of the Covenant congregation who have had surgery, rehabilitation, chemotherapy, and etc. New babies in the congregation also receive a knotted blanket.

The Knitters and Knotters meet on Thursday at 2pm and welcome all who would like to attend this activity. Knitting and Knotting instruction is provided.

Knitters and Knotters will resume meeting Thursday, January 9, 2025!



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.

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 15 at 5:00pm

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 at least quarterly, on weekday nights or Saturdays. *Check this spot for a new forum in the near future.*

The Art of
SABBATH

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE SABBATH PRACTICES THROUGH THE ARTS.
IN JANUARY WE ARE REPEATING "LIFE IS SWEET!"
LEARNING TO DECORATE WITH ROYAL ICING

TUESDAY • JANUARY 21
9:30-11:30 A.M.

LOCATION: COVENANT - LIBRARY
RSVP BY JANUARY 14 TO AMY AT
ABAER@COVPRESATHENS.ORG
ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

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#/>



Look at these beautiful people and the gorgeous cookie designs they created at this week's "Art of Sabbath" Class facilitated by Amy Baer!

Adopt-A-Campus-Kitchen-Meal for our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

As you may know, UGA's Campus Kitchen has volunteers who come to Covenant a several days every week during the semester to prepare meals for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. They need volunteers to cover these meals during breaks while UGA students are away. When the students are away, the recipients of these meals at the Homeless Day Center and Bigger Vision often must just go without. Please sign up below if you are available to shop, cook or deliver these meals:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-46944399-adoptacampuskit#/>

Covenant by the Week!

December 15, 2024

SUNDAY - 9:30am Nursery
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Sights & Sounds of Advent & Christmas with Cookie Reception following in the FH
12:30pm 12 Step Group
5pm Covenant Youth Connection

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

6:00pm Scouts
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
1pm New Horizon Strings Rehearsal
5:30pm—6:00pm Classic City Brass Rehearsal in FH
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
5:30pm Covenant Connection (final for the year)
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 Presbyterian Women's Adult Bible Study at Ellen Stoneburner's
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
NO Knitters & Knotters

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

December 22, 2024

SUNDAY - 9:30am Nursery
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
12:30pm 12 Step Group
NO Covenant Youth Connection will resume Jan 5

MONDAY Office Open 10:00am
6:00pm Scouts
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10:00am
5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

Office Closed



THURSDAY Office Closed
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
NO Knitters & Knotters

FRIDAY Office Closed
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group