

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER JANUARY 19, 2025

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

### Visitors' Luncheon

**Sunday, January 19– immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall**

For all of you who are frequent or occasional visitors to Covenant Church: The Congregational Care Team invites you to an informal Visitors' Lunch after worship on Sunday, January 19 in the Fellowship Hall!

Join us to learn more and ask questions about Covenant and its many opportunities for spiritual growth, discipleship, and service! If at this time you are interested in becoming a member of the church, we can explore that with you as well. But whether you pursue that road or not, we are glad you're here and want to invite you more fully into all that Covenant offers! Hope to see you for lunch on the 19<sup>th</sup>!



In the month of January  
we collect for the  
Christmas Joy Offering.

The Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please indicate on memo portion your check for the *Joy Offering*. Thank you!

### Discover the Magic of Butterfly Moments at LaTable 2025

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend LaTable 2025. It is the major fundraising activity to support Family Promise, our interfaith organization that helps homeless families.

LaTable will be Tuesday, February 25 at 1055 Barber Street. You are encouraged to register now by going to [familypromiseathens.org/events](https://familypromiseathens.org/events). Be sure to indicate your food preference and enter COVENANT as you host. You may also register in the church office.



### Installation/Ordination for Melissa Cobb!

Join us on Wednesday, January 22  
at Covenant Connection at 6pm  
for the Installation/Ordination service for Melissa Cobb  
class of 2027.



January 14, 2025

Dear Covenant Family,

As many of you know, just before Christmas, the Session became aware that the building next door to the church, on the corner of Gaines School Road and Greencrest Drive, would be going up for sale, and Covenant Church would be offered the right of first refusal.

This prospect presented some intriguing possibilities, especially for mission and outreach, and some steep practical challenges of affordability and demands on time and energy.

After several weeks of fact-finding, and extensive, honest, and faithful discussions, our Session decided that it is in the best interest of our congregation and its mission, and the best stewardship of our resources, *not* to pursue this possibility at this time.

Community service remains at the heart of Covenant's identity; nothing will change that. As we grow in numbers and vitality, that commitment will become ever stronger. The Session feels that the best path forward for us now is cultivating a vision for future ministry that is both ambitious and forward-looking, rooted in the gifts and resources already on rich display in this dedicated and faithful congregation.

That work, having already begun, moves into high gear as the Session holds its annual retreat in just over a week. We humbly ask for your prayers as we continue to seek the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I am excited about the days to come!

Grateful to be on this Journey with you,  
*Pastor Tom*


**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Children and Youth Programs—** The children's and youth programs here at Covenant rely almost entirely on volunteers! As we read in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, the Body of Christ has many parts and yet we are all part of the one Body. Each of us brings unique gifts to this community of faith and all of those gifts are pivotal to our functioning and success as a church. Please consider sharing your unique gifts with our children's and youth programs either as a teacher for Sunday School or as a Meal Provider for Youth Group. Thank you so much to each of you for giving of your time to serve the children and youth of Covenant! We appreciate you!  
SIGNUP HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-54091633-covenant#/>

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Jere Bowden in the passing of her sister, Jan Jernigan on December 22; Dennis Calbos recovering at home from surgery Tues, Jan 14; Sandy Whitney's brother, Steve Endrodi and wife Linda. Linda fell while caring for her mother and broke her hip; John Wilkin's brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Ann Anderson at home; 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; all those affected by the California fires; our Country

*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:** \*  
 \* **Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29, Acts 8: 14-17;** \*  
 \* **Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22** \*  
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**Financial Summary for Week #27**  
 Anticipated Pledges—\$240,142.73  
 Pledges Received—\$240,495.844  
*Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!*  
 Joy Offering—\$230.00

 **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.

Please keep Jere Bowden in your prayers as she mourns the loss of her beloved sister, Jan Jernigan, who passed away Sunday, December 22. Due to the inclement weather forecast the memorial service has been re-scheduled for Saturday, January 25 at Macland Community Church, Power Springs, Georgia.

**Did you receive a Christmas gift you can't use? Will you be doing some cleaning out for New Year? Soon we will 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.**



*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](mailto:ABAER@COVPRESATHENS.ORG)  
 ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30am Nursery

9:45 Church School  
for all ages!

11:00am Worship

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Alan Edwards, Judy Capie, Sandy & Jim Whitney

**LITURGIST:** Lisa Buchanan

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Catharine Tyson, Bill Barstow

**LITURGIST:** Warren Combs

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEAL COORDINATOR**

for January: *Sarah Lamb*



**January 19, 2025**

Lily McKay, Ansley Land,  
DeLynda Tweedell

**January 26, 2025**

Lily McKay, Pam Knox, Rebecca Silver

**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



**Covenant Connection January 22, 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

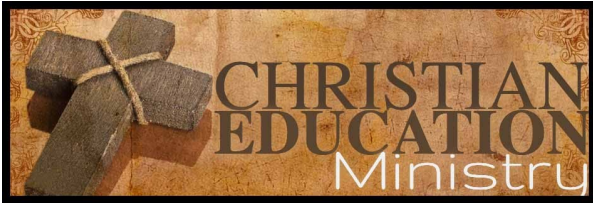


**The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank** always needs brown paper grocery bags. (*minus the cat*)

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.



## 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—JANUARY 19th**

**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, January 19 at 5:30pm**



# WAYSTOSERVE @COVENANT

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



**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#/>



**Calling all Covenant Bakers:**  
**VALENTINE'S SWEET TREAT BUFFET FOR GAINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STAFF-** Covenant is providing a tasty buffet of sweet treats for the amazing teachers and staff of Gaines Elementary School on Friday, Feb. 7!  
 Please sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-54136496-calling#/>

Please email Amy at [abaer@covpresathens.org](mailto:abaer@covpresathens.org) if you have questions!



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

Thank you Volunteers! Without you this vital ministry would not be possible.

## Project Safe Needs List JANUARY 2025

995 Hawthorne Avenue, inside Bell's Shopping Center

- Cell Phone Chargers (Blocks & Cords)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Trash Bags
- Hair Brushes
- Tracfones & Plans
- SIM Cards

To donate, please bag or box your items and bring them to the Thrift Store during business hours (Monday- Saturday 11am-4:30pm) and indicate that they are items for the shelter. Please, do not leave donations if the store is closed as they may get stolen or weather-damaged.

### DONATIONS NEEDED: Cedar Shoals High

**School Care Center**—For January, students over at Cedar Shoals are most in need of deodorant for both boys and girls. You can bring items to the donation table outside the church office OR use this Amazon Wishlist link if you would like to donate and the items will be delivered directly to us at the church office: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN/?ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_3](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN/?ref=nav_wishlist_lists_3)

# Covenant by the Week!

**January 19, 2025**

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

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA  
6:00pm Scouts  
7:00pm 12 Step Group

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
9:30am Art of Sabbath with Amy  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
**6:00pm Melissa Cobb-Ordination/Installation**  
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—11am Campus Kitchen  
**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1pm Covenant Food Distribution**  
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
Session Retreat at Rock Eagle  
7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

**SATURDAY**  
Session Retreat at Rock Eagle  
10:30am 12 Step Group

**January 26, 2025**

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

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**  
**4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic**  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA  
6:00pm Scouts  
7:00pm 12 Step Group

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
4:30pm OLLI - Arts and Crafts with Caly  
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting -

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
**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—11am Campus Kitchen  
**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1pm Covenant Food Distribution**  
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters

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

**SATURDAY**  
10:30am 12 Step Group



The beginning of this year has brought unprecedented challenges for our neighbors in California, who are now facing a devastating disaster. The harrowing images of wildfires consuming parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties have deeply impacted us all, stirring our hearts with sorrow and compassion. Authorities are reporting this as a historic and deadly wildfire event. More than 40,000 acres have burned, with over 12,300 structures destroyed, entire communities wiped out, and tens of thousands of residents displaced. Currently, 92,000 residents are under evacuation orders, and 89,000 more remain in evacuation warning zones, meaning they may need to leave their homes at a moment's notice. Tragically, at least 24 lives have been lost, and the numbers continue to rise as fires remain uncontained. This is an ongoing disaster, and the extent of damage and loss continues to evolve, with figures expected to change as the situation develops. As part of the ongoing response and in consultation with the Presbyteries of the Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel, as well as the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii and its leadership, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with faith leaders in the affected communities. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual care, PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate assistance. Though the final outcomes of these fires are yet to be known, we are clear that the magnitude of the event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Presbyterians in the region are participating in coordination calls with nonprofit and faith-based disaster organizations to ensure that no one is forgotten.

PDA affirms our commitment to accompany those affected by this disaster. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in the "GAP" — *Give, Act and Pray*.

**Give Now**

Give online by major credit card or electronic bank transfer. Make a one time or recurring gift.

SUPPORT THE PC(USA)