

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER FEBRUARY 2, 2025

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

FAMILY PROMISE SUNDAY, February 9, 2025 at 11:00am Worship

On February 9 our special guest in Worship will be Madison Sanders, Executive Director of Family Promise of Athens (FPA).

Please join us as she shares the mission of Family Promise and the many exciting changes happening now. These changes are improving how the shelter needs of homeless families with children are met AND are addressing the underlying community issues for vulnerable families.



RETIREES COVERED DISH LUNCHEON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 12:30PM

Join us for a delightful covered dish luncheon. Lord & Stephens will present their program—"Easy As Pie" and will provide the dessert.

Please bring a covered dish to share and a friend. Beverages will also be provided. See ya there!



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE

The Heart of Covenant!

Join us as we celebrate YOU at:

**The Heart of Covenant Dinner
&
Evening of Fun!**

**Saturday, February 22, 2025
at 6:00pm**

Suggested Donation \$15

Please RSVP on the signup sheet by February 16 so that we can let the caterer know how many meals to prepare and of course **SAVE THE DATE!** Sign up on the sheet next to the mailboxes.

Where Imagination Takes Flight....

That not only describes butterflies, but it describes LaTable and Family Promise! Please join us on Tuesday, February 25, at 1055 Barber Street as the imaginations of many transform that venue and then learn about where the imagination of the Family Promise staff and volunteers have taken us. Your support will help us fly higher in 2025.



Register now at Familypromiseathens.org. Go to the website and click on "Events". Be sure to indicate your food preference and enter Covenant as your host.


You may also register by seeing Karen in the church office.


IN OUR PRAYERS: Barbara Burnett and family in the passing of her brother, Jim Morris, January 23 in Lilburn, Georgia; Friend of Joe & June Meyers, Brent Haglund of Madison, WI who suffered a severe stroke on Dec 28th is not doing well in the hospital; All those effected by the air crash Wednesday, Jan 29; Hayleigh Smith, Bert & Marie's great niece, facing serious health problems; Dennis Calbos recovering at home from surgery Tues, Jan 14; Sandy Whitney having knee surgery Feb. 3; 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 at Piedmont Hospital and Heide at home; Gene Holshouser at home; 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:** *
 * **Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Psalm 71: 1-6,** *
 * **I Corinthians 13: 1-13, Luke 4: 21-30,** *
 * **Genesis 18: 1-8, Hebrews 13: 1-3** *

Financial Summary for Week #30
 Anticipated Pledges—\$257,267.31
 Pledges Received—\$255,664.93
Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!
 Joy Offering—\$990.00
 Your 2024 contribution statements are in your mailbox or have been mailed. Any questions see Karen or Judy. Thanks!

 **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.

 **Congratulations to Jere Bowden on the birth of her 5th great grandchild, Liam David Bowden, born January 28 to Will (Bill & Eydie's oldest son) & Taylor Bowden in Macon, GA. Mother & son & the whole family are doing very well.**



THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR TEAM
 The Fellowship Ministry Team would like to reach out to any of you who enjoy meeting and working on a team of delightful folks; are interested in volunteering to help plan and organize fun events for Covenant's Members; or who enjoy completing discreet tasks that help make an event run like a dream. We will soon be having a committee meeting. If you are interested in participating with the members of this team, please contact me at 706-207-0118, at ohiosilver@windstream.net or find me at church. I hope to chat with you soon.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45 Church School
for all ages!

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Carol & Dennis Calbos

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

Congregational Care for February: *Ellen Stoneburner*



February 2, 2025

Nancy Alila,

Phil & Sallie Hale

February 9, 2025

Lily McKay, Susan Parish, Jacob Page

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 February 5, 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

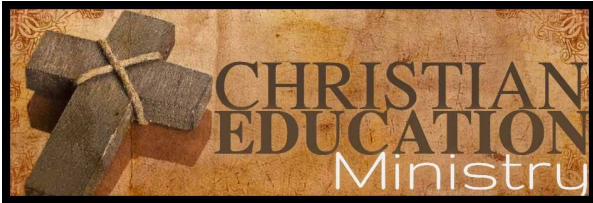
The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank always needs brown paper grocery bags. People who are experiencing short term emergencies such as job loss, medical bills, etc., go to the ARK which is sponsored by area churches, including Covenant. Some of our members helped start this program. Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*

Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church by N. T. Wright

The nightly news is enough to make us feel that we live in dark times. *Surprised by Hope*, however, takes fresh views of Christian hope as it relates to life on earth and what will come after.

This book can be found at Bay E, Shelf 4. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone





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, February 2, we will begin our next class-selected book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, written by Amy-Jill Levine. Professor Emerita at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Levine (AJ) describes herself as a “Yankee Jewish feminist who taught in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt.” 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, February 2 at 5:30pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Children and Youth Programs— The children's and youth programs at Covenant rely almost entirely on volunteers! 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#/>

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#/>

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



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.



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 Thursday, Feb. 13! Please sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-54136496-calling#/> Please email Amy at abaer@covpresathens.org if you have questions!

Bowden Church Vocations Fund

A special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church February 2025

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 60 years.

Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATION FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received this month.

Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund.

PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together!
 Many thanks!

Covenant by the Week!

February 02, 2025

SUNDAY - 9:30am Nursery
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
12:30pm 12 Step Group
3:00pm Youth leave for Rock Lobster Match
at the Classic Center
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm Bells of NEGA
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:00pm Scouts
7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
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
9AM—3PM SCOUTS COUNCIL IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
10:30am 12 Step Group

February 09, 2025

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

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
4:30pm OLLI Arts & 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
6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting

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

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

Highlights of the January 25, 2025, Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at end of the Session's retreat at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

Luanne Rigsby presented the Clerk's report which included the approval of the 2024 church statistical report updating the total membership to 213 and a letter from Jim Newland awarding a grant of \$10,598 from The Central/Covenant Endowment Fund to be used at Session's discretion.

The Financial Summary for December, 2024, indicated that everything looks to be on track financially with received pledges exceeding what was anticipated.

The Session will hold regular Stated Session meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m.

Session approved Caly DePalma and Brian Herndon as two of Covenant's 4 commissioners to the February 22th NEGA Presbytery meeting at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA. Session elected Luanne Rigsby as stated Clerk of the Session for 2025.

Session approved a motion to continue serving Communion the first Sunday of every month, Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.

Fellowship will be hosting The Heart of Covenant Getting-to-Know-You dinner on February 22nd. Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of Session



- 2 HEIDE WIEGEL
- 9 WARREN COMBS
- SALLIE HALE
- 12 DELANEY BRASWELL
- 13 BILL LINDSTROM
- 18 WILLENE O'NEAL
- 19 TOM RIGSBY
- 20 KIRCHE ROGERS
- 27 CAROLYN HATFIELD