

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER FEBRUARY 9, 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—

February 9 our special guest in Worship will be Madison Sanders, Executive Director of Family Promise of Athens (FPA). Madison joined Family Promise of Athens as Service Director while completing her Master's of Social Work and certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership at the University of Georgia (2021). She was selected to be the Interim Executive Director in the fall of 2021 and quickly was appointed Executive Director.



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.

Covenant's host week for Family Promise is

February 16-21. We need help preparing meals on two evenings (February 18 and 19), delivered between 6:00 pm and 6:30 pm, and van driving on February 17 in the morning. In addition, on the afternoon of Saturday, February 22, we need 2 van drivers (early and late afternoon) and from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we are looking for someone to monitor the day center, as well as for someone to lead children's activities. Saturday volunteering takes place at the new Family Promise Day Center. More information about the organization can be found at familypromiseathens.org.

To sign up or for questions, please contact Valerie (valeriefreystone@gmail.com) or Brian Stone (yml91h@aol.com). Thank you for supporting this worthwhile organization!

Revival of the Covenant Green Dream Team!

The Green Dream Team is ready for a new
start in 2025!
We want to invite You to join us!!



Our first Informational Meeting will be Wednesday, February 19, 6:00pm. Please come to Covenant Connection for supper, prepared by our own Chef Patrick, then head to the Journey Classroom, for a combined Bible Study and Informational Green Dream Team Meeting with Jere Bowden and Barbara Burnett (GDT Founders), Gloria Pylant and Jennifer Frey (Interim Co-Leaders), and Shari Cobb (Secretary), and Pastor Tom (Advisor/ Meeting Host).

At this first meeting you will learn about the history of the Covenant Green Dream Team, its Mission, Goals, and Action Plans for 2025. Covenant Green Dream Team's Mission Statement:

*To foster awareness of God's gift of the earth and to
promote stewardship of all creation.*

Covenant has a long history of promoting earth care with recycling efforts, road clean-up activities, building energy audit, use of non-disposable dishes, and many more activities.

Please join us this month to see how You can work toward preserving our planet for our children, our neighbors, ourselves, and all of creation! This is an urgent need! If we work together we can make a difference!

As Psalm 24:1 tells us, the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. Other scriptures gladly declare that the Earth and all its life are very good and beautiful in their diversity (Genesis 1; Psalm 104:24-25). And the message of scripture is clear that God gave us this Earth to cultivate and to care for it (Genesis 2:15). And so, let us rejoice and be glad, and rise up to our calling to be God's good stewards of creation!

Hope to see you on February 19, 6pm! Please sign up on the bulletin board for Supper at Covenant Connection, if you would like to eat with us prior to the meeting. Thanks!

Jennifer Frey (jenofrey@gmail.com) for questions or concerns.




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; Taylor Combs' father in law, Raul Rosales, Charleston, S.C. with lung transplant; Hayleigh Smith, Bert & Marie's great niece, facing serious health problems; Dennis Calbos recovering at home from surgery Tues, Jan 14; Sandy Whitney recovering from knee surgery Feb. 3 and beginning rehab; John Wilkin's brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Dick Zimdars at home; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; Larry Hatfield under treatment for stage 4 colon cancer; Juergen Wiegel at PVA Memory Care and Heide at home; Gene Holshouser living with his son in Houston, Texas; 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:** *
 * **Isaiah 6: 1-8; 9-13, Psalm 138,** *
 * **I Corinthians 15: 1-11, Luke 5: 1-11** *

Financial Summary for Week #31
 Anticipated Pledges—\$265,842.88
 Pledges Received—265,577.23
Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!
 Joy Offering—\$1,290.00
 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.

 Join us for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia's largest event of the year, raising funds and awareness to guarantee food access and security for everyone in our 15 county service area. This year's Empty Bowl luncheon will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2024 at The Classic Center.

Click on this link for tickets: <https://www.classy.org/event/empty-bowl-2025/e635465/register/new/select-tickets>

Click here for more info: <https://www.classy.org/event/empty-bowl-2025/e635465>



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 9

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

LITURGISTS: Randy & Susan Parish, Julie Bower, Brian, Valerie & Eli Stone

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

Congregational Care for February: *Ellen Stoneburner*



February 9, 2025

Lily McKay, Susan Parish,
Jacob Page

February 16, 2025

Lily McKay, Joan & Hannah Baird,
Ellen Stoneburner

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 12, 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

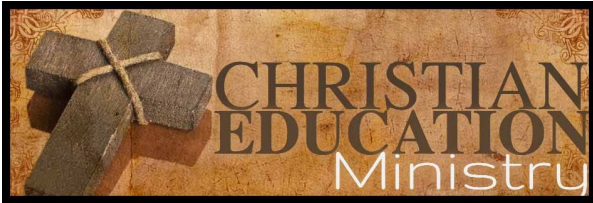
The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank always needs brown paper grocery bags. People who are experiencing short term emergencies such as job loss, medical bills, etc., go to the ARK which is sponsored by area churches, including Covenant. Some of our members helped start this program. Thank you Covenant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

Library Corner—

Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church

by Rachel Held Evans—As church librarian, I wanted to say that this book means a great deal to me, as does each of the works written by Evans in her short life (1981-2019). The back cover explains the book this way: “For a generation that has largely said, ‘count me out,’ church represents a complicated relationship of both longing and apathy. There’s a history there—a past full of confusion and hurt, but a past that often is impossible to abandon. In *Searching for Sunday*, Rachel Held Evans exposes her own thorny relationship with the church, articulating the concerns, frustrations, and hopes of many of her peers.” This book can be found at Bay D, Shelf 2. —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—

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 9 at 5:00pm

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#/>

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!



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

Thank you to all who bring their plastic bags to the Pantry. It is a great help. For the month of January Covenant served 1,551 food insecure neighbors.
 Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*

BOWLING for Bottoms 2025

Thursday, February 20 | Starland Lounge & Lanes Downtown Athens
 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm | \$25 Admission
 A fundraiser to support ATHENS AREA DIAPER BANK
Purchase tickets: bit.ly/BFB2025



Bowling for Bottoms 2025 is here! Join us for a night dedicated to raising awareness, funds, and friends for the Athens Area Diaper Bank. All proceeds go towards providing diapers to families in need in the Athens area. See you there! Purchase your ticket, raffle tickets and/or donate at this link: https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjI3Mjg0

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! *Check out the display on the wall in the hallway near the office for the many folks Covenant has sponsored through the BCVF.*

Covenant by the Week!

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
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
3:00pm Personnel Meeting in Library
4:30pm OLLI Arts & Crafts with Caly
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm Stamp Club in Fellowship Hall
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

February 16, 2025

SUNDAY - FAMILY PROMISE BEGINS

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

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm Bells of NEGA
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

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
6:00pm Green Dream Team Meeting
including Bible Study
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
11:30am Empty Bowl luncheon at The Classic Center
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group
HEART OF COVENANT—kitchen & fellowship Hall