

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER FEBRUARY 23, 2025

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

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 VOCATIONS 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!

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 (yimi91h@aol.com). Thank you for supporting this worthwhile organization!



Garden
Rail-
road
Open
House
Caren
&
Mau-
rice
Snook
160
Plan-

A message of thanks from our neighbors at Gaines Elementary School:

THANK YOU so much for all of the wonderful ways that you care and share with our school community. We are so blessed for every single act of kindness, generosity, love, and support that you have shown us.

Needless to say, the job that we do here is challenging. Our teachers and support staff spend a significant amount of time and effort breaking down barriers to success. In the community that we serve, it is imperative that we are not only here to teach our students. We have to make sure that their most basic needs are met so they will be prepared and able to focus on learning. Everyday is a challenge and sometimes it can become quite overwhelming. But we are committed to showing up each day with a smile, ready to pour love into our precious kiddos.

Covenant Angels, this special Valentine's Day Treat you are providing makes us feel seen and appreciated in ways you will never know. THANK YOU again for the wonderful ways that you not only join hands in partnership with us, but wrap your arms around our entire school! Your actions are nothing short of amazing and we are beyond blessed for your kindness & unwavering support.

Gratefully,

Stephanie Anderson, Community School Coordinator & Family Engagement Specialist




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; 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; Karen Wetherington recovering from surgery; 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:** *
 * **Psalm 55:22; Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40;** *
 * **Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Luke 6: 27-38;** *
 * **I Corinthians 15: 35-38** *

Financial Summary for Week #32
 Anticipated Pledges—\$274,418.46
 Pledges Received—\$275,025.17
Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!
 Bowden Church Vocations Fund—
 \$1.305.00
 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.

Many thanks to our Covenant family for the healthy meals, cards, phone calls and most of all, your faithful prayers. Our good Creator was always beside us through these 9 months of trials and tribulations. Our team of 5 physicians continue to monitor his progress. Tests are all slowly returning to normal.
 Dick & Paula Zimdars



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 Rebecca Silver at 706-207-0118, or 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 23

USHERS/GREETERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Caly DePalma, Katy Terry

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

SUNDAY March 2

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Robyn Malone, Luanne and Bill Rigsby

LITURGIST: Claire Bruner



February 23 2025

Lily McKay,
Brian Herndon,

Marie Ballard-Myer

March 2 2025

Don Bower, Ada Brock,
Larsen Rea

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 26 2025

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

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Bible Study

7:15pm Adult Choir rehearsal in Worship Center

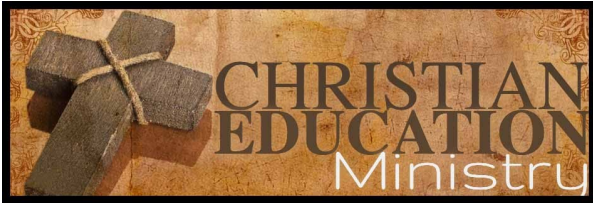
The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank always needs brown paper grocery bags. People who are experiencing short term emergencies such as job loss, medical bills, etc., go to the ARK which is sponsored by area churches, including Covenant. Some of our members helped start this program. Thank you Covenant 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. Leadership is shared 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 23 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#/>



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.

Please sign up at the link below if you can help with our meal for the children and families served by the Athens Area Homeless Shelter coming up on Tuesday, March 4...or any of the other First Tuesdays through August we are signed up for:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>



You're Invited to "Jammin' in our Jammies!"

Join us on March 28th in support of the children and families at Athens Area Homeless Shelter because there truly is no place like home, where sweet dreams come true!

Purchase tickets at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/jammin-in-our-jammies>



The Covenant Green Dream Team had its first Informational Meeting on Feb 19, with a combined Bible Study on Earth Care with Pastor Tom. We had a good turn out and a lively discussion! Our next GDT Meeting will be Sunday, March 23, after worship, at 12:15 pm. Please bring a brown bag lunch and join us in the Covenant Library to learn more about our Mission, Goals, and Action Plans for 2025!



Athen's 3rd Annual Feed My Starving Children Event Needs Two Hours of Your Time April 25 - 27 in Stegeman Coliseum



The 2025 Athens Feed My Starving Children Event is now set for **April 25 - 27**. Once again, this successful event will partner with the UGA Athletic Association which has provided Stegeman Coliseum for the event. Sign up now for two hours to fill meal packs and feed children around the world who are dying of hunger. In two hours you will create enough packs to feed a child for **SEVEN MONTHS!** Nationally, 450 million meals packed in 2024! Family teams welcomed. Organizations, groups, or individuals needed.

Goals: **185,000 meals packed by 1,000 volunteers and raise \$65,000** to pay for the ingredients. This goal was exceeded last year. The event will also include collecting food donations for a local food pantry to address food insecurity in the Athens area.

Use the link to volunteer or donate
give.fmssc.org/athens
or contact Tom Spencer
tspencer44@gmail.com
706-340-3785 (C)



WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO?

- * GIVE TWO HOURS DURING ONE SHIFT OVER THE WEEKEND
- * WORK WITH A TEAM TO FILL MEAL PACKS
- * FEED STARVING CHILDREN

Covenant by the Week!

February 23, 2025

SUNDAY - FAMILY PROMISE ENDS

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

Athens Free Clinic 4pm—7:00pm
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm Bells of NEGA
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:00am LaTable at 1055 Barber Street
4:30pm OLLI Arts & Crafts with Caly
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen
6:15pm Stated Session Meeting
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting -

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
5pm Mission Outreach Team Meeting
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
7:00pm Worship Team Ministry Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

March 2, 2025

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm Bells of NEGA
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
6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
6:30pm Handbells Choir
6:30pm 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