

THE COVENANTER  
February 16, 2020

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



Before the Ash Wed Worship service at 6:30pm you are invited to enjoy dinner with us in the fellowship hall. Please call the church office or email Karen at [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) and let us know that you are coming so we will know how many to prepare for.



At our recent session retreat, we spent time thinking about what "home" meant to us. And we tried to imagine how Covenant could feel more like home to both members and neighbors. What makes us want to be here? What makes us feel at peace? What about this place and community makes us feel like our best, truest selves? In other words, what is it about Covenant that would inspire us, not to just go through the motions of church life, but to really ENGAGE with God, with one another, and with our neighbors? To help us -- and you -- respond to questions like these, we invite you to come to an "engagement day" on **March 1st, following the 10:45 a.m. worship service.** This event will take place in the fellowship hall and will feature a light but delicious lunch of homemade chilis and soup. After grabbing a bite, you will be encouraged to circulate among a number of tables where a facilitator will encourage you to consider how one of your deep interests could intersect with something that is happening, or might happen, at Covenant. These tables will not represent Ministry Teams, but will raise what we hope are provocative questions, like: *\*Do you like cooking? \*Do you like to build things and/or make things beautiful? \*Do you like to be outdoors? \*Do you like building connections with kids? families? adults of all ages? \*Do you like music? \*Do you like to engage in social justice issues? \*Do you like numbers or technology?* We want to hear from you and to learn what gets your heart beating and spirit moving. We want to engage with you so that together we can better engage with one another and the community we are called to serve. *See you on March 1st!*

COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)

**Bowden Church Vocations Fund**

a special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church

**February 2015** 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 will be received this month, though donations are welcome all year long. 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.

## **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!**

We need your help to make our children and youth ministries vibrant, especially our Sunday morning WoRM program, Sunday afternoon youth groups, and Wednesday evening Covenant Connection. Here are some opportunities to serve our young people and (by the way!) honor your baptismal vows to raise our children in the Christian faith:

Are you willing to make a light lunch for our youth groups? If so, please contact our Lunch Volunteers Coordinator, DeLynda Tweedell, 706.540.2473. The volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office.

Are you interested in brightening the morning for our young people? Please consider bringing a snack for them to enjoy during the Sunday School hour. The box to receive donations is in the hall across from the church office. Thank you!

We continue to need volunteers to help with our vital Covenant Connection ministry which is serving our own young people, kindergarten – twelfth grade, but also young people from our neighborhoods. If you are able to assist with table set up, meal prep, or “hanging out” with our middle and high schoolers, please sign up on the CovConn Volunteers Sign -up on the bulletin board outside the church office. We are in special need of volunteers to help with table set up and to “hang out” with our high schoolers and middle schoolers.



## WoRM CHURCH SCHOOL - Sunday, February 16th at 9:30am

We meet the boy Jesus in the temple with creative activities led by Rindy Trouteaud and our shepherds, Jere Bowden and Wanda Oliver.

**YOUTH GROUPS** - After volunteering at FEAST, (Sat., Feb. 15, 8-10 a.m.) the High School youth group will travel to North Georgia for its winter retreat, Feb. 15-17. For more information, contact Bert Ballard-Myer, mysammie1@yahoo.com.

**Confirmation** We meet right after worship, noonish -2:00 p.m. (note time change!!!) for lunch in the fellowship hall and our session on the sacraments, "Keeping It Real". We'll view two film snippets about the sacraments and bake bread for the celebration of Holy Communion at the Feb. 29 stated meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

### Wednesday, February 19, 2020

**10am Adult Bible Study** in the Upper Room  
Using Miriam Dunson's book, *A Very Present Help*,  
the Wednesday morning Bible study which meets in  
the Upper Room, 10 - 11:15 a.m.  
Mark Harper facilitates.

### **Covenant Connection** 5:30pm - 7:00pm

We will soon enter the reflective season of Lent, and our young people will be preparing the ashes for our congregational Ash Wednesday service, February 26, 6:30 p.m. The following Wednesday, March 4, we will enjoy an intergenerational event during Covenant Connection, *Bringing the Wilderness in Art Project* where we will make wilderness vase displays that will be used to enhance our Lenten worship. We will begin the project at 5:30 p.m., enjoy a meal together, 6:00 p.m., and conclude our artistic endeavors by 7:00 p.m. For this evening we will suspend all activities for our young people so that we may enjoy time together as our Covenant family.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** →

**6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal**

**7:30pm Adult Choir**



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
YOUTH AT  
COVENANT  
CONNECTION on  
Wed, Feb. 19th**  
*For middle and high  
school students.*

**A Lenten Worship Project will begin at  
5:30pm with supper at 6:00pm and  
conclude our artistic endeavors by 7:00pm**

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

**6:30pm - 7:30pm will resume March 18th.** Wednesday evening Bible studies will resume after spring break, Wednesday, March 18. Lewis Smede's book, *Keeping Hope Alive for a Tomorrow We Cannot Control*, will guide our conversations. *In this fearful and cynical age, when doom-and-gloomers forecast catastrophe and fearmongers try to get us to hedge our bets on the future with insurance policies and safety nets, we need to rediscover real hope. Lewis Smedes says, "Hope is as native to our spirits as thinking is to our brain. Keep hoping, and you keep living. Stop hoping, and you start dying." He shows how hope powers every good thing we accomplish and helps us overcome every bad thing we encounter. He talks about how to keep hope alive in difficult times, discern false hope from true hope, and move beyond worry to trust in God. If you would like a book, please call Karen Wetherington in the church office to place your order, 706.548.2756.*

# THE GRADUATES



Covenant Breakfast Club  
 Monday, Feb. 17 at 8am.  
 Cracker Barrel on Epps  
 Bridge Road. Join us for a good time  
 of conversation and food.



Lunch Bunch  
 Let's meet for good food,  
 great company, and  
 interesting conversation  
 Tuesday, February 25, 12:30 p.m.,  
 at  
 DePalma's Italian Café (eastside)  
 1965 Barnett Shoals Rd

## Graduate Gaming Group

will Meet March 3, 2020 at 10:00am

The March meeting of the G3 (Graduate Gam-  
 ing Group) will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4th at  
 10 am. All ages of adults are welcome to partic-  
 ipate in this group, so come and bring a friend.

## Knitters & Knotters

Thursday, February 20 at 2pm

Join us for a great time of fellowship &  
 ministry as we join together to make  
 blankets, hat, scarves, pillows, etc. for those in  
 need. Everyone is invited, beginners welcome!

**DOUBLE HITS** — *the same words or phrases can  
 share a common expression.*

*Example: Peter's Family; judge unfavorably. P A N*

1. Plunge; hair attachment
2. Courage; sandy residue
3. Epidermous; masks

**Answers to  
 Double Hits:**  
 1. Fall  
 2. grit  
 3. hide

*By Marilyn Brown*

## La Table Luncheon

Tuesday, February 25 beginning at 11 am

It is the major fundraiser for Family  
 Promise. See page 5 for more details!



Let's do lunch and a movie, Tuesday, February 18. We'll watch an af-  
 ternoon matinee, *Little Women*, University 16 Cinemas, and have an ear-  
 ly lunch at Charlie Grainger's, 1791 Oconee Connector (across the park-  
 ing lot from the movie theater). The movie time has not been an-  
 nounced, but we'll meet at the restaurant at 11:15 a.m. In this award-  
 winning movie, Jo March reflects back and forth on her life, telling the beloved story of the March  
 sisters - four young women each determined to live life on their own terms.

take them a  
**meal**



For those times  
 when filling their  
 table will warm  
 their hearts.

Please consider signing up to take a meal to the home  
 of Anna and Gene Holshouser.

To sign up, go to the website [takethemameal.com](http://takethemameal.com).

Under "Find", type in Holshouser and also type  
 Holshouser for the password. Or, you can call Luanne  
 Rigsby, (706) 224-3828 and she can sign you up or walk  
 you through the website sign up process.

**Knitters & Knotters Need Help!** From time to time, K & K regulars make heart-shaped  
 pillows for the Lauren Smith Cancer Support Center. This is one of those times and we  
 could use some extra people to help cut out the hearts and stuff the pillows. K & K  
 meets every Thursday, 2-3 PM, so if you are free at that time, stop by the church for  
 some fun and fellowship as you contribute to the comfort of local cancer patients.

*Caren Snook for K & K*



The annual *La Table* luncheon will be held this year on February 25 at the Athens Country Club beginning at 11am. It is the major fund raiser for

Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospital-ity Network). You will enjoy beautiful and creatively set tables and a chance to visit with Covenant friends. Tom Rawlings, State Director of DFACS will be the key note speaker. Please sign up on the form on the bulletin board or call Ginger Davis-Beck or Ellen Stoneburner for information. \$50.00 per person check made out to Covenant with LaTable in the memo portion.

**Want to give a helping hand?** Join our ministries at **Our Daily Bread**, the soup kitchen for Athens, based at First Baptist Church downtown. Dorothy Newland coordinates preparing lunch on fifth Wednesdays, arriving at 10am. The next day of service is Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Contact Dorothy at 706-202-0474 if you would like to help.

Paige Cummings coordinates preparing lunch on first Fridays monthly, arriving at 11am. Contact Paige at paigemercercummings@gmail.com if you would like to help. The next day of service is Friday, March 6, 2020.

### **Puerto Rico Mission Donation Board**

**Help your mission team help the families that we will be working with to restore their communities.**

**Select an envelope of any amount you wish to donate and please return envelope with your contribution.**

**Bring your donation to the church office or place it in Sunday's offering plate.**

**FEED MY SHEEP for February** Covenant is collecting these items for the Athens Emergency Food Bank: *salty snacks, canned pork & beans, canned fruit with pop-top, and salti nes.*

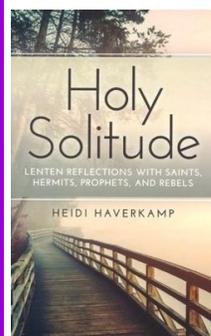
And as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and  
*May we all have enough!*



### **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY!**

We are taking a two-week hiatus from our conversations and resume our gatherings on **March 3** where our



conversations will center around Lenten spiritual practices. Heidi Haverkamp's book, *Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Prophets, and Rebels* will guide our discussion. If you would like a book, please call Karen Wetherington in the church office to place your order, 706.548.2756. *Rindy Trouteaud facilitates.*

**The Presbyterian Student Center** has an urgent need for folks to help provide meals for their Tuesday night dinner and church service. They have had very few volunteers this year and could really use your help. You can search for available dates and sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4ca4af2ca1fb6-tuesday>. Please contact Pam Knox to ask about dietary needs or other information or if you need someone to help.

## Did you know that Covenant has an Emergency Food Pantry?

*In partnership with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, our Emergency Food Pantry exists to distribute food to families and individuals in need. For some, this need is on-going. For others, this need may be temporary. Covenant's Food Pantry is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1PM-4PM.*

**Did you know that we need volunteers to help distribute the food?**

**Here is what is needed:**

1. Two volunteers each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1-4. You can just sign up for 1 day, or for multiple days. You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!
2. When someone comes in requesting food, one person will assist the person in filling out the required one page form, and the other person will go to the food pantry, put the food in the bag, place it in the grocery cart and take the cart to the person.

**Interested?** Call or email Betsy Pless 540-1719 [bppless@gmail.com](mailto:bppless@gmail.com)

OR- [click the link](#) below for an easy sign up.

**Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!**

**Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:**

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/login/entry/611848298042>

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.



**THANK YOU Covenant Emergency Food Bank Volunteers!**

**For the month of January,** 47 families were given food, that included 38 children under the age of 18, and 14 adults 65 and older. *Don't forget to sign up for March.*

**This month we have two more opportunities to serve.**

The first opportunity is for the Ash Wednesday Service, which will be 6:30-7:00pm on February 26th. We need 3 Ushers to participate in that service. They will also serve as Greeters that evening.

The second opportunity is for the NEGA Presbytery Meeting and Service on Saturday, February 29th. We will need volunteers between 8am and noon, with times varying for different roles. The roles include Ushers (4), Greeters (4), Parking attendants (4), Registration attendants (4), Breakfast Table (2), Sound system (1), and Childcare (1). All the volunteers would need to be at the church by 8am Saturday morning, to help set up and greet and park the guests. Registration begins at 9am. Check out the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes. Please let us know if you are available and able to assist on either of these two dates. We want to provide a warm welcome to all the members of the Presbytery who will be visiting with us this month. Covenant Presbyterian Church is known for its hospitality and we want to continue that in 2020! *Thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer!*

*Jennifer Frey & Tamara Stam, Worship*



**Prayer Concerns:** John Chamblee and family in the passing of his Aunt Libby, there will be a memorial service at Covenant on Feb. 22 at 4pm; Caren Snook feeling stronger; Ellie McMinn doing well at home; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Ruth Brewster at Arbor Terrace #222; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; and John & Elizabeth Brewer, & Anna Holshouser at home.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS February 17 – 23**

Monday	Exodus 3: 1-12
Tuesday	Exodus 24: 12-18
Wednesday	Exodus 34: 29-35
Thursday	Psalms 99
Friday	Luke 1: 26-38
Saturday	Matthew 17: 1-9
Sunday	2 Peter 1: 16-21

<p><b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b> for Week Ending 2/09/2020</p> <p>ANTICIPATED PLEDGES: \$285,403.08</p> <p>ACTUAL PLEDGES: \$284,861.73</p> <p><i>Thank you for your faithful giving!</i> Bowden Vocations Fund: \$2,125.00</p>
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**ATHENS WINTER CHAUTAUQUA**  
**Celebrate Black History Month**  
***The Black American Experience***

Athens-Clarke County Library  
Appleton Auditorium

**Sunday, February 23, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

Featuring Documentary Film: *Rosa Parks: The First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement* and Panel Discussion with

*Broderick Flanagan, Artist and Community Activist*

*Freda Giles, Associate Professor Emerita of Theatre and Film Studies and African American Studies, UGA*

*Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander, J.D., Associate Professor of Employment Law & Legal Studies, UGA*

Public Reception following in Multipurpose Room B in appreciation of Community Partners, Sponsors, and Friends of Athens Chautauqua

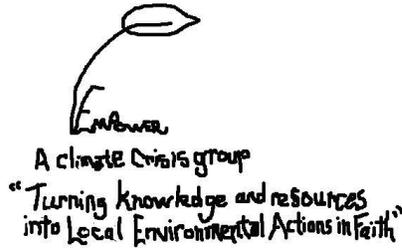
Community Sponsors: Athens Downtown Development Authority, Swagler-Marlowe Family Fund, Athens Area Arts Council and Friends of Athens Chautauqua

Community Partners: OLLI@UGA, UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, WUGA-FM Public Radio, Classic Center Cultural Foundation, Athens-Clarke County Library, Rabbit Box Storytelling, and Boom Athens Magazine

For information on Athens Chautauqua  
<http://historycomesalive.org/performances/athens/>

"Kudos" as well as "gi-normous" words of "thanks" are due to Alex Clark and Hank Tweedell, who have donated their talents, time, expertise, and experience over the past few months both designing and installing a multi-sector, computer controlled, sprinkler system, which is capable of efficiently distributing water to preserve landscape plantings across the Cov Presby front yard. Alex recently reported that pilot testing of water pressure in the lines and control of sprinkler sectors with various levels of output intensity was successfully accomplished. Creation of such a capacity for landscaping enhancement has been one of Hank's grounds-keeping goals for more than just a few years. The Andrew Ministry Team, with its professionally designed landscaping plan for the church's front yard, is now poised to work with the Building & Grounds Ministry Team in fulfilling aspirations of renewing the floral and greenery presence of Cov Presby along Gaines School Road. Not to be overlooked, Zeb Hendricks and Andrew Zimdars also merit a "thank you" for contributing their labor in the establishment of this new facility.

*Rich Reaves, Building & Grounds*



A Climate Lecture by Willis Jenkins, professor of religion, ethics, and environment, University of Virginia

## ***“The Sacred Anthropocene: On Religious Interpretations of Planetary Change”***

Presented by the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts in partnership with the departments of anthropology and religion and the Coasts, Climates, the Humanities, and the Environment Consortium.

**Wednesday, February 19 at 4:00pm**  
Zell B. Miller Learning Center, 275  
 48 Baxter Street, Athens, GA 30602

**Car-pool rides from Covenant will leave the parking-lot at 3:15pm.**

“UGA EARTH DAY 2020 includes engaging activities throughout spring 2020 to educate and inspire action. UGA Earth Day 2020 is a collective campus — **community-wide** event.” The Climate Crisis — Working Group at Covenant will, when it is deemed helpful, highlight such university, church and community events which focus on our role in the global climate challenge. If you would like to join a Covenant climate working group we invite you to call Carolyn Hatfield, Steve Rathbun or Ed Ralph. Workers always Welcome!



**February 29, 2020**  
**10am-3pm**  
 (workshops and award continue until 5pm)  
**State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

**The Green Life Expo is designed to provide inspiration and the tools needed to help our community members become more sustainable in our everyday lives. More information at [athensclarkecounty.com/greenlife](http://athensclarkecounty.com/greenlife).**

ACC (Athens-Clarke County) is mighty engaged in addressing global challenges through local solutions programs and events. Ed's note: Plan to spend the day visiting displays at the EXPO, attending workshops and taking garden walks. Greet the Covenant member who will be there with the presentations, displays and activities. A great expo — a lot of fun

+  
 The Climate Crisis — Working Group at Covenant will, when it is deemed helpful, highlight such university, church and community events which focus on our role in the global climate challenge. If you would like to join a Covenant climate working group we invite you to call Coordinators: Carolyn Hatfield, Steve Rathbun or Ed Ralph. Next General Meeting: 12:30pm, Sunday, March 1 in the Conference Room (bring a sack lunch). Workers always Welcome!



**The Reverend Jimmie Hawkins**  
 Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
 will be here in Athens for a series of events in Athens:

— Saturday, February 29: **“Faith & Intersectionality of Race, Money and Creation”** at Covenant as featured speaker at the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Meeting beginning at 10am (call church office for time of keynote).

— Sunday, March 1: Sermon **“Faith Over Politics: The Word of God for the People of God”** preaching at Covenant at 8:30am and 10:45am and the Sunday school presentation at 9:30am.

— Monday, March 2: **“Appreciating Diversity, Eliminating Greed and Preserving Creation”** at the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia from 3:00pm - 5:30pm.

- all events are free to attend and open to the public -

The Climate Crisis — Working Group at Covenant will, when it is deemed helpful, highlight such university, church and community events which focus on our role in the global climate challenge. If you would like to join a Covenant climate working group we invite you to call Coordinators: Carolyn Hatfield, Steve Rathbun or Ed Ralph. Next General Meeting: 12:30pm, Sunday, March 1 in the Conference Room (bring your own sack lunch). Workers always Welcome!

**WEEK OF February 16, 2020— Family Promise Ends**

**SUNDAY**— 8:30am Worship  
9:30 Church School for all  
10:45am Worship  
No Confirmation Class High School return from Winter Retreat  
3:30pm Debtors Anonymous

**MONDAY—**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

5:30pm—6:30pm Diabetes Clinic in Conference Room  
6:30pm Scouts  
7pm—8pm AA (New Freedom)

**TUESDAY—**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
8pm New Freedom

**WEDNESDAY—**

8:30am—9:30am New Freedom  
10:00am Adult Bible Study  
5:30pm—7:00pm Covenant Connection  
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30pm Adult Bible Study  
7:30pm Adult Choir

**THURSDAY—**

2pm Knitters and Knotters  
6:15pm Yoga  
7:30pm Worship Team Meeting  
7:30pm CR

**FRIDAY—**

Confirmation Class to Koinonia Farms thru Feb 23rd  
9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
3:30pm The Cave  
8pm New Freedom

**SATURDAY—** Fellowship Hall Cleaned

10:30am OEA in Upper Room

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**WORSHIP—February 16, 2020**

**8:30am**

Reader: Dianne Simpson  
Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Alan Edwards

**10:45am**

Reader: Sandy Whitney  
Ushers: Jerry & Sarah Shannon, Dick & Paula Zimdars, Marie Ballard-Myer  
Greeters: Betsy Pless, Shari Cobb  
Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer  
Counters: Judy Capie, Katy Terry  
Flowers: Juergen Wiegel  
Plant Care: Frank Allen  
Open the Building: Rich Reaves  
Close the Building: Alex Clark  
Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (Feb. 17-23)  
Nursery/Super: Annmarie Braswell  
Birth—Walking: Annmarie Braswell  
Walking—5 years old: Sydney & Delaney Braswell, Tim Foutz

**WEEK OF February 23, 2020—**

**SUNDAY**— 8:30am Worship  
9:30 Church School for all  
10:45am Worship  
12:30pm Confirmation Class & High School Youth Group  
3:30pm Debtors Anonymous

**MONDAY—**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

6:30pm Scouts  
7pm—8pm AA (New Freedom)

**TUESDAY—**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
11am La Table at the Athens Country Club  
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's (eastside)  
6:30pm Session  
8pm New Freedom in FH

**WEDNESDAY—**

8:30am—9:30am New Freedom  
10:00am Adult Bible Study  
5:30pm—7:00pm Covenant Connection  
6:30pm **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**THURSDAY—**

2pm Knitters and Knotters  
6:15pm Yoga  
7:30pm CR  
8pm Happy Squares

**FRIDAY—**

9:30am Athens Mothers Center  
3:30pm The Cave

**SATURDAY—**

8:00am—3:00pm NEGA Presbytery Meeting  
Fellowship Hall Cleaned  
10:30am OEA in Upper Room

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**WORSHIP—February 23, 2020**

**8:30am**

Reader: Sonja Holden  
Ushers: Heidi & Kent Wolfe

**10:45am**

Reader: Jim Newland  
Ushers: Bob Trouteaud, Steve Rathbun, Mike Swanson,  
Jim & Dorothy Newland  
Greeters: Jim & Dorothy Newland  
Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer  
Counters: Paige Campbell, Randy Parish  
Flowers: Juergen Wiegel  
Plant Care: Frank Allen  
Open the Building: Jim Bowden  
Close the Building: Rich Reaves  
Grounds Stewards: Brian Striggow (Feb. 24—March 1)  
Nursery/Super: Pam Knox  
Birth—Walking: Pam Knox  
Walking—5 years old: Phil Hale, Dell Whitehead, Sandy Whitney