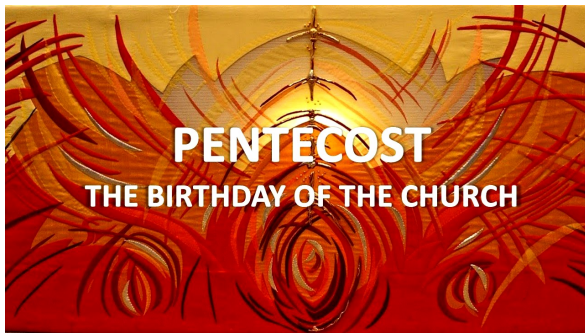


Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER M a y 1 9 , 2 0 2 4

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



Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 11:00am

Join us Sunday, May 19 at 11am worship and enjoy the decorations and a reception will follow worship.

Remember to wear red or orange and be sure to get a flame nametag for this special day.

Pentecost affords today's Christian a chance to proclaim unity in the church, the body of Christ ministering in the modern world, while also celebrating the diversity of talents that individuals give to the church through work and worship.



Covenant is hosting Family Promise **May 19—26**. Please contact Phil Hale if you would like to volunteer.....phale50@hotmail.com or 706-614-0812.

Volunteers Needed: Lunch, Literacy, and Love

Summer literacy program providing meals for Athens children

June 3-July 19

A brand new summer program for the most underserved children of Athens is being piloted this summer by Envision Athens. The concept behind "Lunch, Literacy and Love" is that children will come to the camp from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. from June 2 through July 19 and they will receive lunch (supplied by the Summer Lunch Program) and there will be volunteers present to read with the children (books provided by Books for Keeps)! They are now looking for volunteers for all parts of the program from reading with the children to setting up the space to serving lunch. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out this volunteer interest form and Kaycie Malcom, the Lunch, Literacy and Love Program Director will be in touch with you about next steps. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScp0_1mQrxgr4FzLYIFaNUm16UtvEdQrqqrLAeDtn9dADCyBA/viewform?usp=sf_link



PRAYER CONCERNS: Larry Hatfield in skilled nursing care at Presbyterian Village; Zara Carter-Enyi, Aaron & Qintina's daughter, surgery rescheduled to June 6; Arnelle Combs at home recovering from sepsis; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky, recovering from hip replacement surgery April 25; Bert Ballard-Myer's sister, Jan recovering at home; Brian Striggow's wife, Becky at home; Juergen Wiegel at home; Covenant's Pastor Nominating Committee; and our nation.

* **DAILY BIBLE READINGS:** *
* May 20—26 *
* Isaiah 6: 1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8: 12-17, *
* John 3: 1-17 *
* Trinity Sunday *

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.

Knitters & Knotters
Thursday, May 23 at 2pm
Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun while making blankets for people recovering from illness and for clients of Highland Hills, Family Promise and Project Safe.

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in desperate need of BROWN PAPER BAGS.
Please NO egg cartons at this time. Consider asking for paper bags with your groceries and a few more for the food bank.
Thank you!

PENTECOST affords today's Christian a chance to proclaim unity in the church, the body of Christ ministering in the modern world, while also celebrating the diversity of talents that individuals give to the church through work and worship. Not only are the popularly remembered gifts of the Holy Spirit (Act 2: 1-13) acknowledged at Pentecost, but the gifts God inspires in everyone (I Corinthians 12: 1-11) may be rededicated for their primary purpose, strengthening the community of the faithful and attesting to the glory of God. In the traditional yearly calendar of the church, Pentecost signifies that particular day after Christ's ascension to heaven on which Jesus' first followers took courage from the presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst, and went into the world as disciples carrying on His work. To some, Pentecost symbolizes the historical birthday of the church.

Throughout the church's history, Christians have celebrated Pentecost with different emphases. Doves, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's guiding presence, have been released through windows of cathedrals. Flaming bundles of straw, signifying the burning presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, have been dropped from the ceilings of churches. The use of orange and red tongues of flames among the many symbols of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost has become traditional. The presence of brilliant music in worship, often with brass fanfares, has become customary for this day of celebration in the life of the church. Pledging of personal time and talents for the work of the local church occurs in some places at Pentecost. Individual Christians have been both inspired and separated by the varying meanings given to Pentecost and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The direction for the church's discipleship in the world from these conflicting viewpoints has not always resulted in unity of purpose (I Corinthians 14:1-39).

Like Easter's relation to Passover, Pentecost as a Christian celebration was first occasioned by a Jewish holiday. Pentecost to the Jews was celebrated 50 days after the Passover, to commemorate God's giving of his law through Moses to the Jews while they wandered in Sinai, in order to bind the many tribes as a single nation around this law. Pentecost to the Jews was also a celebration of the first fruits of the spring harvest, a time of thankfulness for the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to always lead and provide for His chosen people. For the Christian, Pentecost represents inheritance of all these covenant promises of the Father, as well as the acknowledgment of all individual gifts for strengthening the community of the faithful with which to begin the church. As recounted by Act 2: "*When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place, and suddenly there was...*"

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Church School

Adult Classes:

Journey Class

Upper Room Class

Childrens Class
K-5th

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, May 19 - Pentecost Sunday

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

LITRUGIST: Jim Newland

SUNDAY, May 26—Trinity Sunday

USHERS/GREETERS: Sandy & Jim Whitney, Susan & Randy Parish

LITRUGIST: Jim Anderson

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Dick Zimdars 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



May 19, 2024
Luanne Risby,
Wyatt Herndon

May 26, 2024
Pam Knox, Dell Whitehead

Ministry of Flowers

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to provide flowers for worship services. You can arrange them yourself or order from a florist. If you would like to commemorate an event please let the church office know so we can publish it in the newsletter and/or bulletin .

May 26 Given by Paula & Dick Zimdars in honor of their son, Eric's 33rd birthday.

June 2



Wednesday, May 22
Adult Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm

The PCUSA has a history of environmental advocacy dating back to 1990. Are you familiar with this mission of our denomination? See the 2022 action of the 225th General Assembly entitled "Investing in a Green Future: A Vision for a Renewed Creation" at

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/investing-in-a-green-future-a-vision-for-a-renewed-creation-2022/>

The Covenant Green Dream Team

Ways to Serve @ Covenant

Covenant Cares!

Covenant Food Pantry Every Thursday

SHIFT 1: Unloading and
Bagging the Food
(9:30am – 11:30am)

SHIFT 2: Food Distribution
12: 30pm – 3pm

You can click on the pic or sign up at this
link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aa5aa22a20-covenant#/)

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!



**Covenant Cooks! Every First
Tuesday of the month, our Covenant
group alternates serving dinner to
the children and families of the Ath-
ens Area Homeless Shelter and the UGA students at
The Table (formerly the PSC). Click the signup link
to volunteer and for more info!**



[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/)

COOKING BASICS CARE PACKAGES FOR SENIORS

Many seniors served by Meals on Wheels in Athens do not have the means or the ability to get simple condiments and spices for cooking at home. These items are also not available for ACCA to purchase from the NEGA Food Bank. If you are able to help, please purchase the items listed below and place them in a paper grocery bag and bring them to church by Sunday, May 26!



Contact Amy Baer
with questions!
706-380-8482
abaer@covpresathens.org

NEEDED ITEMS:
Cooking Oil
Sugar
Ketchup
Mustard
Mayo
Salt
Pepper
Garlic Powder
Chili Powder
Italian Seasoning



Please RSVP to Amy at
abaer@covpresathens.org if you plan to:

1. March with Covenant in the parade
2. Come to lunch beforehand
3. Volunteer at our resource table at the festival after the parade



Covenant Habitat for Humanity Group offers opportunities to volunteer for Saturday Builds June 22 and June 29. If you are able to join the group, please click the registration link below that corresponds to your availability and submit your registration.

June 22 (9am – 3pm, Location TBD, Lunch is provided for volunteers)
<https://give.athenshabitat.com/reservations/17702/join?auth=1714487714>

June 29 (9am-3pm, location TBD, lunch is provided for volunteers)
<https://give.athenshabitat.com/reservations/17703/join?auth=171448714>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

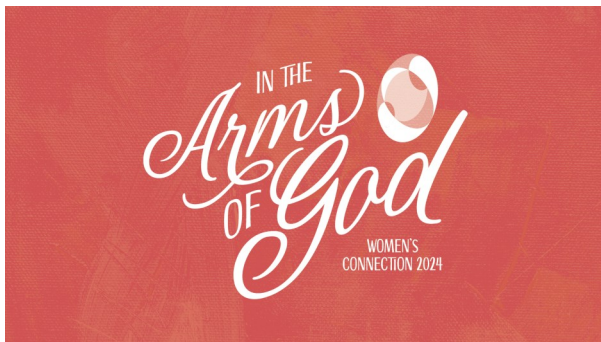
The **"UPPER ROOM" Class beginning at 9:45am** Location: "Upper Room" Classroom at the top of the ramp and Via Zoom. James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in The Present Word. If you would like to participate, via Zoom please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The **"JOURNEY" Class beginning at 9:45am**

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. Join us as we study the book, *Everything Happens for a Reason, and Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS for K-5

This multi-age class, taught by Katy Arora and our volunteer Shepherds, meets each week (August-May), 9:45-10:45, on the main level of the church across from The Journey Class. Each week, this class begins with a lovely music time with Betsy Burmeister and then, using "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum," the children enter into sacred space together, read from their story Bible, pause for a time of wondering, engage their curiosity and imagination with God's story through art and drama, wrestle with their place in God's story through activities and discussion, and bless one another with God's grace. Please join us for this time of Growing in God's Love!



Women's Connection 2024—
Montreat Conference Center

IN THE ARMS OF GOD
August 9–11, 2024

For more info and to register click
on the link below:

<https://montreat.org/events/wc-2024>



Worship will begin at
10:00am
June 2, 2024!

In the summer months, Covenant enjoys fellowship with **cookies and punch** after church. Can you provide refreshments one Sunday? (*Sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes with a partner or two*) Around a dozen cookies and two gallons of beverage are needed. (please no **RED** punch) The Fellowship Team can provide napkins and cups. **Thank you** to all who sign up! (yes, purchased cookies are just fine. It's all about enjoying each other.)

Please click on this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/session-minutes/> for the session minutes. When you scroll down you will see links to earlier minutes. If you would like minutes from previous years please let me know at kwetherington@covpresathens.

HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office or give in person.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #46
 Anticipated Pledges — \$376,849.66
 Actual Pledges — \$370,619.04
 Non-Pledged - \$ 15,800.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!

May 19, 2024

Covenant by the Week!

May 26, 2024

SUNDAY

PENTECOST

9:30 Nursery
 9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children’s Bible Study
 11:00am Worship— Reception after worship
 1:00pm Session Meeting

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
 6:00pm Choir
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
 1pm Covenant Food Distribution
 2:00 pm Knitters & Knotters
 4:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting

FRIDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am Staff Luncheon at Red Bowl

SATUDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

SUNDAY

TRINITY SUNDAY

9:30 Nursery
 9:45am Adult Bible Study, K-5 Children’s Bible Study
 11:00am Worship—

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7pm—9pm Bells of NEGA
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class
 7:00pm 12 Step Group

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
 6:00pm Choir
 7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
 1pm Covenant Food Distribution
 2:00 pm Knitters & Knotters

FRIDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

SATUDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

Pastor Nominating Committee Update #5

5/19/24

This update from the PNC is presented in a Q&A format to better address questions the congregation may have about the pastor search process from the time the PNC was formed until now.

Q. Who are the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)?

A. Karen Foutz, Kathryn Fowler, Wyatt Herndon, Rose Kisaalita, Bill Rigsby, Linda Rogers, and Brian Stone. Karen and Linda are co-chairs.

Q. Why is it taking so long to find a new pastor?

A. Covenant is following a careful process developed and overseen by the Presbytery for calling a new pastor. It takes time to work through all the steps. Since its formation in April 2023, the PNC has met 40 times, with each meeting averaging 90 minutes. Members also work individually outside of meetings to review applications, watch sermons, and do other tasks to prepare for the meetings.

Q. Is the PNC doing anything differently due to Dana Waters' departure?

A. No, his departure does not change anything related to the PNC's progress or affect the timeline. They will continue following the process developed by the Presbytery for calling a new pastor. Until someone is hired, Teresa Franklin will be our interim pastor.

Q. Is Covenant in a "holding pattern" until a called pastor is hired?

A. Absolutely not! Since our last called pastor, Mark Harper, left we have been doing the hard work of getting Covenant ready for a new pastor and determining where we go next. Dana helped us clarify processes, add new programs, and increase our stability while continuing the work of the church. We are stronger than ever and, because of this, Covenant is even more attractive to potential pastors.

Q. What has the Pastor Nominating Committee accomplished since its formation?

A. After the PNC was approved by the Congregation in April 2023, PNC members attended an orientation session the following month led by the NEGA General Presbyter to learn about the processes and the work ahead of them. The PNC's first task was to select co-chairs and clarify committee procedures. Next, the Ministry Discernment Profile, or MDP, was carefully crafted. This document includes the Head of Staff/Pastor position requirements, a thorough description of Covenant and the Athens community, detailed answers to seven narrative questions, and more. The PNC utilized the Mission Study Task Force Report to aid in completing the MDP. In December, the PNC presented the completed MDP to the Session and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry for review and unanimous approval. In January, the MDP was posted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site, a PCUSA internet-based matching and referral system. Since then, the PNC has been receiving and evaluating a plethora of applications.

Q. Has the PNC started interviewing qualified applicants?

A. Yes, we have! However, we cannot give you any details due to confidentiality concerns.

Q. How far along is the PNC in the overall process?

A. The easiest way to tell is by looking at the four-page timeline poster on the hallway bulletin board by the copy room. The poster is titled *Covenant's Pastoral Transition Timeline* and gives a pictorial overview of the steps involved. The red "you are here" arrow points to where the PNC is in the overall process. Currently, we are on step 12 of 20 steps. However, each of the 20 steps takes varying amounts of time and we are much closer to the finish line than "halfway".

Q. How long will it take to find our new pastor?

A. That is difficult to answer because it depends on many things, not all of which are within our control. The best answer is when God calls the right person. Please keep the PNC in your prayers.

Q. How is the position being publicized to potential candidates?

A. The Church Leadership Connection site mentioned above is the best source of candidates. Qualified candidates are "matched" with positions posted on the CLC site. Our Head of Staff position is also listed on Covenant's website on the Home page and on the Documents page under "Employment Opportunities". These listings include the link to the Church Leadership Connection site. In addition, advertisements have been placed in *Presbyterian Outlook* and *Presbyterians Today* publications and websites.

Q. If I know someone interested in the position, can I refer them to the PNC?

A. Yes! Give them our email address: PNC@covpresathens.org.

Q. Who should we contact if we have questions about the pastor search?

A. Email the PNC at PNC@covpresathens.org. Your questions may be included in future updates so all will be informed.

(There are copies available of this update on the table in the gathering room)



REV. ALONSO JOHNSON
AND MARGARET MWALE
RETURN TO CONTINUE
WHAT THEY BEGAN ON
OCTOBER 14, 2023.

COME LEARN SO MUCH MORE
FROM THESE TWO LEADERS.



Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People

STOP THE CYCLE OF POVERTY!

REGISTER FOR OUR WORKSHOP

"When Did We See You." A Missional Engagement In Preventing and Alleviating Poverty as together we seek to stop the cycle of poverty.

JUNE 8, 2024

10AM- 2:30PM

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 GAINES SCHOOL ROAD

ATHENS, GA

REGISTER

PWNEGAREGISTRAR@GMAIL.COM

EMAIL YOUR NAME AND CHURCH

REGISTRATION DUE BY MAY 25, 2024

REGISTRATION FEE: Pop topped canned goods for Covenant's Little Free Pantry.

(ie: sardines, Vienna sausages, beanie weenies, canned chicken, tuna and etc.

LUNCH PROVIDED BY NE GA PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SPONSORED BY



AND

