

COVENANT CHIMES

Covenant Presbyterian Church • Augusta, Georgia • January/February 2024

From Our Pastor

Churchwide Potluck

Sunday, February 4 after
10:00 a.m. worship in the
Fellowship Hall

Join us for a church-wide potluck to celebrate the ordination and installation of our new officers! Drop your dish off in the kitchen by the fellowship hall before worship, and then plan to stay for lunch and fellowship afterward.

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All Covenant Members

Co-Pastors:

The Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke and
The Rev. Andy Cooke

Director of Music and Organist:

Lyn M. Patterson

Parish Associate:

The Rev. Karla Conditt Daniels

Nursery Caregivers:

Alex Krumme, Sherry Nash, and
Sara van Plew

Church Administrator:

Rachel Gregory

Finance Secretary: Jenn Harrison

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

On the first Sunday morning of the new year, Covenant middle and high schoolers met in the youth room and shared highs and lows from their winter break. I was somewhat surprised (though I don't know why) to hear several of the youth talk about the start of a new year as their high. There's just something about having a fresh start, they said, that they really like.

I get that, and I imagine some of you do too. Even with all of its reasons for rejoicing, December can feel like a whirlwind, and it is nice to see a whole new year spread out before us uncluttered and full of possibility.

It's exciting (and maybe a little daunting) to think about - What will this new year hold for you? Where will you go? Who will you meet? What will be different in 12 months? What will be healed? What will be broken? What will find new life?

However those questions are answered, we trust that God is with us in all of it. We also believe that God sees us as being "full of possibility" too. It's worth saying that "full of possibility" does not necessarily mean "better" or "improved," which is what the world tells we should aspire to be at the start of a new year. In us, God sees the possibilities of love, grace, and justice. God sees the possibilities of well-being, connection, and community. At Covenant, we are committed to the possibilities of hospitality, compassion, and inclusiveness because we've seen those possibilities become realities through the work of the Spirit.

This issue of the *Chimes* is filled with stories of possibilities that have become realities already and possibilities that are still in process. As you're reading, I'd invite you to notice where you sense God might be calling you in the new year. Perhaps you'll join the choir this year, or maybe you'll start coming to Wednesday Night Fellowship. Maybe serving with GAP Ministries will become your thing or spending time with Covenant youth.

It's a new year. The Spirit is at work. I'm excited to see what God does through Covenant this year. Aren't you?

Grace and peace,
Katelyn

Clerk's Corner

January/February

December 5, 2023 Session Meeting

Building usage requests:

Playground: Austin DeMaagd - December 3, 2023, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Parlor: Angela Hobby - December 10, 2023, 2:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Membership:

Lindsay and Beau Southwell joined November 26, 2023. Their children are Sarah and Charlie.

Charlie Southwell was baptized November 26, 2023.

The membership of Gail Kouame Spill was transferred to Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Mobile, Al.

Review 2022 Annual report: Ministry team's input

Clerk Judy Grieve asked each ministry team to begin working on their input for the annual report, which will be due in mid-January 2024.

2023 Membership Statistics review:

Current members: 215

Communion servers December 24, 2023, 9p.m. Candlelight service:

Hubert vanTuyll, Susan Monk, and Jim Buckalew

Communion servers January 7, 2024:

William Davis, Aubrey Moore, and Judy Grieve

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Aubrey Moore reported that November 2023 Covenant budget figures showed a surplus of \$25,335.14 to date. Preschool budget figures for November 2023 were not available for the meeting.

As we begin this LEAP year, let us *leap* at every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus's resurrection love, God's merciful grace and the great JOY of being a member here at Covenant.

Judy Grieve
Clerk of Session

Northeast Georgia Presbytery Meeting

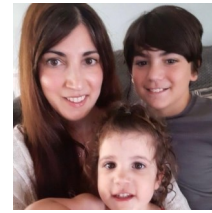
On Saturday, February 24, 2024, Covenant will host the Winter Quarterly meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Beginning around 8:30 a.m., fellow Presbyterians from across our region will convene here at Covenant for worship, fellowship, and a business meeting, and it is sure to be a Spirit-filled event. Covenant last hosted the presbytery meeting in February 2019, and we are looking forward to doing so again. And we need your help. We have a Host Task force comprised of Chuck Baldwin, Lola and Steve Bell, Judy Grieve, Aubrey Moore, and Sabina Widner, who have been at work with preliminary planning and preparations, but there is still more to do. You may have already noticed some efforts to spruce up our building and grounds. On the day of the event, we will need volunteers to help with parking, registration, kitchen duty—we will have a continental breakfast and a buffet style lunch, set-up/clean-up, ushers, greeters, guides (indoor traffic directors), and more.

The Host Task Force will present a Faith in Action message and appeal for your support on January 21, 2024. There will be sign-up sheets available after worship, and task force members will be there to answer any questions you may have. Please join us as we look forward to sharing our Hospitality, Compassion, and Inclusiveness with our presbytery sisters and brothers on Saturday, February 24, 2024



Spotlight

Each month we'll share a few fun facts about current officers and/or Covenant Staff.



Getting to know Natalie Ackley, Preschool Babies Teacher

A few fun facts about Natalie:

- "Love your neighbor as yourself" Matthew 22:39 is my favorite Bible verse.
- The favorite place I have traveled to is Negril, Jamaica.
- My favorite hobbies are cooking, baking, and reading.



Getting to know Sarah Brozek, Preschool Tots Floater

A few fun facts about Sarah:

- I lived in South Korea for two years (military family)
- I have a talent for photography.
- For fun I enjoy reading, painting, and hanging out with my family.

Congregational Life

Congregational Meeting

The annual stated meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service (at approximately 11:00 a.m.). All are welcome at this open meeting, but only members of the congregation may vote. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the annual report and 2024 budget, to vote on the pastors' terms of call, and to elect a president and treasurer for the corporation.

Ladies for Lunch

Ladies for Lunch will meet Tuesday, February 6, at 11:30 a.m. Women and friends of Covenant will gather at Takosushi, 1202 Town Park Lane, behind the Family Y on N. Belair Road. Contact Phoebe Crimmins at 706-738-7820 or by email at pbjcrim.949@gmail.com to make your reservation for this gathering so that we may have space for you.

Men's Brownbag Lunch

Join us on Tuesdays, January 23, February 13, and February 27 at noon in the fellowship hall. You are invited to bring your own "brown bag" lunch, or pick up something on the way to the church, join us if you can!

Officer Retreat

The annual Officer Retreat is happening on Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3. Officers from the classes of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 will gather for dinner, worship, a blessing for outgoing officers, and a time of sharing faith statements from incoming officers on Friday night.

On Saturday, we'll spend time together considering what it means to be the church and what it means to be a leader in the church. Deacons and elders will also meet separately to set their meeting schedule and determine ministry team placements.

This retreat is an important time for the leaders of our church, and we ask that you keep Covenant elders and deacons in your prayers in this time of preparation and transition.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Please join us in praying for our deacons and elders this month as they transition to a new year. On January 14, our new officers began their training in preparation for their ordinations/installations. Our elders-elect are Elaine Lea, Amelia Hall, Robert Vernoy, and Anne Ealick Henry. Our deacons-elect are Kadie Cheeks, Julie Usry, and Claire Welborn Hancock. On February 2 and 3, our current and new officers will gather for their annual retreat. On Sunday, February 4, we will ordain and install our new deacons and elders during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Thank you to Outgoing Leaders

When our new officers are installed on February 4, the terms of service for several other leaders will conclude. Thank you to Steve Bell, Chris Henry, Mary McCarter, Hubert van Tuyll for three years of service as elders. Thank you Lindsay Kircher and Gail Baker for three years of service as deacons. Thank you to Mary Beachum and Terry Bowers for two years of service on the Congregational Nominating Committee. Please be sure to thank these people in person for their years of service at Covenant!

Wednesday Night

Fellowship

Even if you haven't come to Wednesday Night Fellowship in the past, you're welcome to join us now. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:15 p.m., and the program will be from 6:15-7:00 p.m. Childcare is provided each week in room 2.

Walking with God

Wednesdays, January 10, 24, 31, and February 7
6:15-7:00 p.m. // Fellowship Hall
Led by Rubén Rosa



The apostle Paul liked to compare the church to a physical body, and he often called the people of God "the body of Christ." Our bodies matter, and so does our health.

In a four-week series titled "Walking with God," we will explore our health and wellness through the lens of Scripture. Weekly sessions will include Bible verses relating to the topic and some seated exercises. Comfortable clothes and shoes are recommended.

Lenten WNF Series

Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20
6:15-7:00 p.m. // Fellowship Hall

Save the dates for a Lenten WNF series. More information will be available in upcoming church publications.

Education Ministry

Emmaus Class

Sundays at 11:15 a.m. Room 12

Leader: Karla Conditt Daniels

In January, the Emmaus Class will be exploring New Testament parables. Jesus used these short stories to teach, not only his disciples, but the crowds who knew little about him. The brief and vivid nature of parables can fool people into believing they are hearing a simple teaching. Jesus used these carefully crafted kerygmatic devices to challenge and surprise his followers, thereby engaging them at a deeper and more personal level. Each Sunday we will discuss their enigmatic characteristics while looking at a different parable. Join us for some challenge and surprise. All are welcome.

Coffee and Conversation

Gathering Area by the Fellowship Hall Kitchen

You've already come to worship, so stay after the service for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. Join other Covenant friends for some time to visit and see where the Spirit leads us in conversation.

This time is meant to be informal, and all are welcome!



SALT

Adult SALT

(Sharing and Learning Together)
11:15 a.m. in Room 7

We will complete our series by author Megan Fate Marshman entitled *John: Believe I Am* on January 28. On February 11, we will begin a new series entitled *What's so Amazing About Grace?* written by Phillip Yancey. Using videos and class materials, we will delve into the topic of the love and grace God gives to us and how well we provide love and grace to a broken world. The Participant's Guide will be provided. For anyone interested in purchasing the book, here's the link: [What's so Amazing About Grace?](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0687494923?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details)

Please note: we will NOT have class on February 4 but will attend the congregational lunch in the Fellowship Hall instead.

Year End Contribution Statements

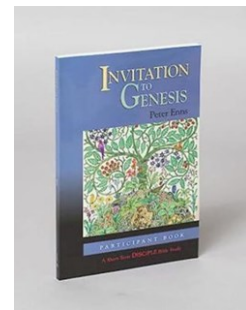
Happy New Year, friends! I hope you each had a joyous holiday season with friends & family! Be on the lookout around the 4th week in January for your 2023 Year End Contribution Statements as I plan to mail them out by 1/19/24. If you do not receive your statement by 1/26/24 please email me at jharrison@covenantaugusta.org and I can send you a digital version! Best wishes to all and please don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything I can do to better serve you!

Jenn Harrison,
Finance Secretary

Disciples

Come join the Disciples Bible Study *Invitation to Genesis* starting February 14, 2024. The class meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 1-2:30 p.m. in Room 104. The Participant's guide is needed for this study and can be purchased on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/dp/0687494923?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details.

Members take turns leading the lessons. The DVD and leaders guide are provided for this class. Let Judy Grieve judygrieve@mac.com know if you have any questions or are interested in joining this study.



WINGS-Women in God's Service (PW)

All women are invited to the monthly meetings of WINGS. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 7. This year's study book is *Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. We will discuss Lesson Six. Please join us as we fellowship with each other and learn more about Christ.

Men's Breakfast

The Men of the Church will have a Saturday morning breakfast on February 3, at 8:00 a.m. in room 7.

Children

Preschool

Sundays // 11:15-11:25 a.m.
Room 2

As part of their time in worship nursery, our youngest members also get to hear a Bible story, do a craft or activity, and say a prayer together each week. The weekly Bible stories correspond with the liturgical season and the stories we hear in worship on Sunday mornings.

Elementary School

Sundays, January 14, 28, February 11 and 25 // 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Room 103

Elementary Sunday School meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, and we're excited to spend some time together! In January and February, we'll learn more about Jesus and his disciples as how we can be Jesus' disciple too!

Children's Music

There is exciting news to share about Children's Music at Covenant. Starting this month on January 28, we are resuming Sunday morning music time for the preschool and elementary school children! The group will meet in the preschool enrichment classroom (room 5) on the fourth Sundays of the month from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Brock Daniels and Lyn Patterson will lead the first music time on Sunday, January 28, and Sarah Colborn assisted by Lyn will lead subsequent sessions.

Information about children's music will go out to families via email and upcoming church publications soon.

Youth

Sunday Morning

January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4 // 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Youth Sunday Planning

This year, Youth Sunday is Sunday, February 11, and this service is always a special one for the congregation. The youth spend Sunday mornings in the month of January planning the service by studying the assigned lectionary passages, developing a theme for the service, writing liturgy and prayers, and planning the sermon together.

All middle and high school youth are welcome to join us in both our planning and the service itself, and we look forward to seeing how the Spirit leads us in our preparations!

Beyond Sunday Morning

January Second Sunday Service: College Care Package and Cards to Homebound Members
Sunday, January 14 // 3:00-4:30 p.m.

There are many people in our church family who aren't always able to join us on Sunday mornings, and they include college students and homebound members. For our Second Sunday Service activity this month, we'll be making care packages to send to our college students and cards to send to our homebound members.

January Fourth Sunday Fellowship: Bowling at Stars and Strikes
Sunday, January 28 // Time TBD

Join your youth friends for an afternoon at the bowling alley. The church will cover the cost of bowling and snacks to share, and friends are welcome to join us. Please let Katelyn know by Monday, January 22 if you plan to attend.

February Second Sunday Service: Youth Sunday & Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 11

Leading worship is an act of service to our family of faith, and we look forward to sharing God's love and word with the congregation on Sunday, February 11. It's also Super Bowl Sunday, which means we'll receive the Souper Bowl of Caring special offering. The donations we receive for this offering are given to GAP Ministries to support their work to stop hunger in our community.

February Fourth Sunday Fellowship
Sunday, February 25

Stay tuned to other church publications for more info about the February Fourth Fellowship activity!

Education Ministry

Overnight Service Retreat

Friday, March 8-Saturday, March 9
Thornwell Home for Children // Clinton, SC

Middle and high school youth are invited on overnight service retreat to Thornwell Home for Children the weekend of March 8 and 9. We'll get to spend time together as a youth group on Friday evening and stay in one of the cottages at Thornwell. On Saturday, we'll hang out with some of the youth who live at Thornwell. We'll play games and eat lunch together before getting on the road back to Augusta on Saturday afternoon.

Katelyn will email registration information for this retreat to youth families by the end of January.

Summer Trips

We have two summer trip opportunities for Covenant youth this year, and registration information for both trips will be available in mid-January via email.

Montreat Youth Conference (completed 9th grade-graduated senior)
Sunday, July 7-Saturday, July 13, 2024
Montreat, North Carolina

Montreat Middle School Conference (rising 6th grade-rising 9th grade)
Wednesday, July 17-Sunday, July 21, 2024
Maryville College // Maryville, Tennessee

Covenant Preschool

December was a full and fun month at the preschool, and we're excited to be back after Christmas Break! The second half of our school year includes Valentine's Day celebrations, Read Across America Week, Egg Hunts, and class photos.

We're also looking ahead to the summer and the 2024-2025 school year! Registration for the next school year will open to current preschool families on Monday, February 5 and to the public on Monday, February 12. Information about the registration process is available on the preschool website, and we also offer tours for interested families. We'll offer six weeks of Summer Fun in June and July, and information about that program will be available on the preschool website as well.

We're always grateful for the prayers and support from the Covenant church family. Thank you!

Peace,
Katelyn Gordon Cooke
Co-Pastor and Preschool Director



Worship

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on February 14. Please join us for an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will receive ashes as we begin this time of penance and reflection.

Lent

The season of Lent is a time of reflection, contemplation, and discipline. Those three practices can happen in many ways and in many places, but one place where they often happen is at a table. Whether it's a larger family meal at a holiday or an intimate dinner for two, time spent together around a table can bring us closer to each other as we share a meal and conversation.

Jesus spent a lot of time around tables during his ministry, and we can learn from the company he kept at those tables and the kinds of conversations he had there too. This Lent, we're looking forward to meeting Jesus at the table, and we've saved a seat for you.

Home Communion

Covenant deacons will be serving communion to homebound church members on Sunday, March 3, 2024, after 10:00 a.m. worship. If you or someone you know would like to receive home communion, please contact Katelyn Gordon Cooke.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Covenant's talented and faithful singers, ringers, and soloists who volunteered their musical gifts to beautify our Advent and Christmas services! Your efforts were eagerly anticipated by the entire congregation and enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present and online.
Soli Deo Gloria!

Lyn Patterson,
Director of Music



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service*	1 Preschool Christmas Break 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	2 Preschool Christmas Break 11:30am Ladies for Lunch, The Chop House 3:30pm Communion at Brandon Wilde	3 Preschool Christmas Break 7:15pm Covenant Choir	4 Preschool Christmas Break	5 Preschool Christmas Break Preschool Teacher-Workday	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
7 10:00am Communion Worship Service* 11:15am Sunday School*	8 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor 6:30pm Building and Grounds Ministry Team Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom	9 Chimes Deadline, Jan/Feb. 12:00pm Men's Lunch, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Stated Session Meeting, Room 7	10 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:30pm Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Dinner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	11 6:00pm Jubelation Ringers	12	13 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
14 10:00am Worship Service* 11:00am Equal Exchange Coffee Sale* 11:15am Officer Training, Room 104* 11:15am Sunday School* 12:05pm Liturgist Training, Sanctuary* 3:00pm Youth, Second Sunday Service, Room 203	15 MLK, Jr. Day - Preschool and Church Office Closed 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	16 9:15am PW Coordinating Team, Room 104 10:30am PW Wings Meeting, Room 7 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 4:00pm Education Ministry Team, Room 104 6:30pm Sustainability Ministry Team, Room 7	17 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 7:00pm MLK Inheritance Service, Speaker-ion Meacham at Sacred Heart 7:15pm Covenant Choir	18 1:15pm Preschool Staff Meeting, Room 7 6:00pm Jubelation Ringers 6:30pm Matthew 25 Task Force, Room 7	19	20 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
21 9:45am Called Session Meeting, Parlor* 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Officer Training, Room 104* 11:15am Sunday School* 6:00pm Officer Elect Dinner, Katelyn & Andy's House	22 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	23 12:00pm Men's Lunch, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	24 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 1:30pm Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Dinner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	25 6:00pm Jubelation Ringers	26	27 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
28 Congregational Meeting, after worship* Youth Fourth Sunday Fellowship 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Optional Officer Training, Room 104* 11:15am Sunday School* 11:45am Children's Music, Room 5 12:15pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting, Parlor	29 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	30 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym	31 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Dinner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	1 6:00pm Jubelation Ringers	2 9:00am Officer Retreat, Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Rm 7 9:00am Officer Retreat, Fellowship Hall 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104

*Childcare available

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Congregational Meeting, after worship* Youth, Fourth Sunday Fellowship 1000am Worship Service* 11:15am Optional Officer Training, Room 104* 11:15am Sunday School* 11:45am Children's Music, Room 5 12:15pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting, Parlor	29 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	30 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym	31 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Diner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	1 6:00pm Jubellation Ringers	2 9:00am Officer Retreat, Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Rm 7 9:00am Officer Retreat, Fellowship Hall 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
4 No Sunday School 10:00am Communion Worship Service* 11:30am Congregational Potluck, Fellowship Hall	5 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	6 11:30am Ladies for Lunch 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 3:30pm Communion at Brandon Wilde	7 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Diner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	8 6:00pm Jubellation Ringers	9	10 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
11 Youth Sunday 10:00am Worship Service* 11:00am Equal Exchange Coffee Sale* 11:15am Sunday School*	12 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00pm Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom	13 12:00pm Men's Lunch, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 4:00pm Education Ministry Team, Room 104	14 Ash Wednesday 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 1:30pm Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 1:15pm Preschool Staff Meeting, Room 7 6:00pm Jubellation Ringers	16 No Preschool	17 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
18 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Sunday School*	19 COVENANT CHIMES DEADLINE No Preschool 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	20 9:15am PW Coordinating Team, Room 104 10:30am PW Wings Meeting, Room 7 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Sustainability Ministry Team, Room 7	21 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Diner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	22 6:00pm Jubellation Ringers	23	24 Host Presbytery Meeting, Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
25 Youth, Fourth Sunday Fellowship 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Sunday School* 11:45am Children's Music, Room 5 12:15pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting, Parlor	26 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	27 12:00pm Men's Lunch, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	28 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 1:30pm Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Diner 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program 7:15pm Covenant Choir	29 6:00pm Jubellation Ringers	1	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 9:00am Church Workday 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104

*Childcare available

Developing a Mission Plan

The Mission Ministry Team spent several months last year refining its focus and creating a mission plan. It was exciting to be a part of these meetings and to explore the question of what type of work God is calling us to do here at Covenant Presbyterian Church. In the end, the team discerned a focus on ministries around poverty, creation care, and our stated core values of hospitality, compassion, and inclusiveness. Together, we created the document that you see here and identified what would be our congregation-wide efforts. Our coordinators reaffirmed their commitments to this work as well. In December, the session reviewed and affirmed this mission plan as well.

Looking ahead, it is our hope that the congregation will come together to engage fewer mission opportunities more effectively and with more people rather than to say “yes” to every mission opportunity and have scattered or ineffective efforts. We believe that this is a part of faithful leadership and stewardship. It also reflects our unity as the body of Christ when we work together as a congregation rather than independently on pet projects. That said, groups within the church are certainly welcome to create or continue mission projects as they see fit, but they will not necessarily be guided by the Mission Ministry Team.

We are excited about this new mission plan and I hope that you can share in our excitement. I also hope that you will make every effort to learn, support, and engage these projects and organizations and join us as we build a stronger congregational mission focus in 2024.

Andy Cooke, Co-Pastor

Mission Plan

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As a Covenant community, we are called to serve and care for all of God's creation, from the people we serve to the planet we inhabit and the air that we breath. Mission Ministry seeks to lead Covenant in serving, giving to, and welcoming others. We are especially focused on those who are poor or unhoused, on caring for our planet, and on welcoming others to Covenant with hospitality, compassion, and inclusiveness.

Serving // at least 60% of budget to amplify our mission focus

In living into our mission, it is our goal to involve all Covenant members in at least one of the initiatives listed below. Information about each of these initiatives will be in the Chimes at least quarterly. Coordinators will report to the Mission Ministry Team quarterly. There will be an event to involve the entire congregation in each of these initiatives at least annually.

- Creation Care Task Force (Amy House, Coordinator)
- Matthew 25 Task Force (Elaine Lea, Coordinator)
- GAP Ministries (Mary Beachum and Elaine Lea, Coordinators)
- Meals on Wheels (Phil Humphrey, Coordinator)
- Family Promise (Chuck Baldwin, Coordinator)
- Equal Exchange (Charlotte Ealick and Sabina Widner, Coordinators)
- Mission Trips (Elaine Lea, Coordinator)

Welcoming // roughly 10% of budget

We seek to extend hospitality to those who visit our property, and work to extend our reach beyond the property and into the world.

- A/V Team (Steve Bell, Coordinator)
- Greeters and coffee bar (Lindsay Kircher, Coordinator)
- Signage, communication, and other acts of welcoming

Giving // less than 30% of budget

Benevolences are worthy causes that we fund from the church budget. They may or may not reflect our mission focus. In 2024, these include Light the Future Foundation (Uganda), Mission on the Move (Honduras), PCUSA Mission Partners (Worldwide), and the Presbyterian Student Center/UKirk (Athens, GA). Additional special offerings are approved annually by the session, but they are not included in the church budget.

GAP Ministries Volunteer Opportunity

GAP has recently begun a new service offering laundry facilities to our clients-- and we need volunteers to staff the facility. There are no requirements and training on the machines is easy. If you have love and compassion, you are hired! You will not be alone with clients in the building while they are doing their laundry. You are simply there to assist if the clients need help working the machines. The laundry is open Monday 9:00-11:30 a.m., Tuesday 12:00-2:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00-11:30 a.m. Check with us to see what days are open by contacting Nomi at gapmined@att.net.

Goodies for GAP

Special thanks to all who baked homemade cookies and brownies for the clients at the GAP Food Pantry. It is always a big hit for them to get something special for the holidays. We appreciate Judy Grieve, Lola Bell, Paula, Reardon, Mary Beachum, Sue Monk, and Ellie Petkas for helping to assemble the baked goodies into Christmas bags for distribution. We made over 160 bags!





NEW CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

- Jim Buckalew** - back surgery on January 16 (0111)
- Joe Griffin** – cancer diagnosis (0103)
- Terry Bowers** - home recovering from surgery (0104)
- Ella Davis** - surgery on January 16 (0104)

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS

Continued prayer concerns will be removed after three months. Please contact the church office to have them renewed or moved to enduring concerns.

All of Covenant's Missionaries

All who serve in the U.S. Military

- Anne Huff** - back pain (0104)
- Jill Greiner** (Chris Henry's cousin) - who was diagnosed with lung cancer (1221)
- David Rhoades** - healing after knee replacement surgery (1218)
- Kevin O'Kula** - upon the death of his sister Joan Gatz (1219)
- Kaye Petkas**, on the death of her brother, Dan Freeman (1211)
- Sascha Hagerman** (Liz Weckel Hagerman's husband) – home (1211)
- Claire and Eddie Hancock** - for a healthy pregnancy (1211)
- Mary McCarter** - recovering after a knee replacement (1207)
- Debbie van Tuyll** - upcoming hip replacement (1208)
- Diane Griffin** – recovering in North Carolina (1211)
- Family of Heidi Sue Shinstine Pedro** (friend of Charles and LJ Jay) - who recently died during childbirth (1130)
- Sam and Maddie McCarter**, on the birth of their daughter, Scarlett Rose McCarter, on November 16 (1116)
- Bonnie Given**, on the death of Joe Leonard (1105)
- Blake Pittman**, who is deploying to Kosovo (1030)
- Vivian Silver**, who was kidnapped by Hamas from Kibbutz Nahal Oz in Israel. She is friend of a Robyn Dudley, a volunteer at GAP (1023)
- James Golden** (Friend of Angela & Bobby Vernoy) - Morgan, GA (1101)
- Jennifer Shook** (Elaine Lea's sister) – Bandon, OR (1201)

- Sue Walsh** (friend of Diane Griffin) – Cancer treatment (1201)
- James Golden** (Friend of Angela & Bobby Vernoy) - Morgan, GA (1101)
- Charles Teffeteller** (Friend of Angela & Bobby Vernoy) - Birmingham, AL (1101)
- Fred Gehle** – At home (0906)
- Jennifer Shook** (Elaine Lea's sister) – Bandon, OR (0901)
- Sue Walsh** (friend of Diane Griffin) – Cancer treatment (0901)

ENDURING CONCERNS

- Priscilla Gilman** - Aurora, CO
- Polly Hendrix** (Aunt of Angela Hobby) - Nashville, GA
- Fred Gehle** - At home
- Betty Johnston** - Brandon Wilde
- Dorris Andrews** (Elaine Lea's mother) – Brandon Wilde
- Joe and Eunice Cook** – Brandon Wilde
- Bill Cornes** – At home
- Phyllis Daniels** – Brandon Wilde
- Erroll Hatcher** – Adairsville, GA
- Leah Mannel** – Brandon Wilde
- Jocelyn Martin-Moses** (Karell Moses' mother) – At home
- Anita Parker** (Joslyn Fields' cousin) – Beaufort, SC
- Elizabeth Swink** – At home
- Jane Terry** (Chris Terry's mother) – Lake Wales, FL
- Danny Williams** – Benton House



Oftentimes we struggle with Paul's command in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing". Obviously, it's not practical to be in a head-bowed, eyes-closed posture all day long. Rather think about it as having an attitude of "God-consciousness", living with an awareness that God is with us and is actively engaged in our thoughts and actions.

"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."
- *George Herbert*

Your Diaconate Prayer Action Team
Joyce Bowers, LJ Jay, and Kathy Ordelt

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Kathy Ordelt, Joyce Bowers, and Linda-Jean Jay. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at rgregory@covenantaugusta.org The prayer team will pray for these and other confidential/unlisted prayer concerns on a weekly basis. To add a confidential/unlisted prayer concern, please contact a pastor or a deacon.

January/February Worship Schedule

PREACHER

1/21: Andy Cooke
 1/28: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
 2/4: Andy Cooke
 2/11: Youth/Katelyn Gordon Cooke
 2/14: Andy Cooke
 2/18: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
 2/25: Andy Cooke

GREETERS

1/21: Lola Bell
 1/28: Jimmy Carson
 2/4: Kadie Cheeks & Kathryn Crandall
 2/11: Jim Crimmins
 2/18: Jane & Fred Gehle
 2/25: Naomi Gillies

LITURGIST/READER

1/21: Jim Crimmins
 1/28: Beverly Dorn
 2/4: Chuck Baldwin
 2/11: Youth Sunday
 2/18: Judy Grieve
 2/25: Steve Bell

A/V TEAM

Steve Bell, Terry Bowers, Miller Cooke, John Ealick, Charles Jay, and Ralph Gillies

USHERS

1/21: Shirley Gilleland, Judy Grieve, Chris Henry, Ruth Mayhall, Philip Monk, Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry
 1/28: Steve Bell, Jimmy Carson, Dalton Cooper, John Ealick, Angela Hobby, Rubén Rosa
 2/4: Jim Buckalew, Jim Crimmins, William Davis, Jimmy Lea, Beau Southwell, Charlie Terry
 2/11: Hugh Dobbins, Lucyle Ferris, Dave Lapp, Johnny Lowe, Edwin Scott, Beth Wilson
 2/14: Shirley Gilleland, Judy Grieve, Chris Henry, Ruth Mayhall, Philip Monk, Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry
 2/18: Steve Bell, Jimmy Carson, Dalton Cooper, John Ealick, Angela Hobby, Rubén Rosa
 2/25: Jim Buckalew, Jim Crimmins, William Davis, Jimmy Lea, Beau Southwell, Charlie Terry

COORDINATORS

Lindsay Kircher, *Greeter Coordinator*
 Steve Bell, *A/V Team Coordinator*
 Chris Henry, *Usher Coordinator*
 Kaye Petkas, *Liturgist/Reader Coordinator*
 Cindy Wallerich, *Flower Coordinator*

Mission

GAP ITEM OF THE MONTH

The GAP item for the month of January is hot chocolate. The item for the month of February is canned pork and beans. We always need food that goes into the "walking bags" that we give to the homeless and to the working poor who come by to get something for lunch. We provide two sandwiches, chips or crackers, water with flavoring, fruit and a sweet. Some of these items are seldom available from Golden Harvest at their special pricing, so we really appreciate donations of packs of crackers, small packs of cookies, flavor packets for water bottles, chips, and small containers of fruit.

List of Items by Month

January: Hot chocolate
 February: Canned pork and beans
 March: Canned chicken or ham
 April: Boxes of cereal
 May: Toothbrushes & toothpaste
 June: Deodorant
 July: Canned fruit
 August: Canned pork and beans
 September: Canned soup
 October: Instant grits or oatmeal (Individual packets)
 November: Stuffing mix (type which only needs water added)
 December: Beef stew or chili

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women would like to thank all members who contributed items for Treats for Troops. The goodie bags were delivered to the new recruits at Fort Eisenhower returning home at Christmas. With your generosity we were able to pack 332 goodie bags.



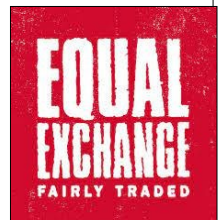
EQUAL EXCHANGE

COFFEE AND

CHOCOLATE SALE

Mission Ministry will be hosting a sale of coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange on Sunday, February 11. Look for the table in the narthex after the worship service.

Charlotte Ealick
 and
 Sabina Widner





Covenant Chimes
Covenant Presbyterian Church
3131 Walton Way at Aumond Road
Augusta, GA 30909-3266

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Presbyterian Women's
Lunch, December 12, 2023



Goodies for GAP

