

# COVENANT CHIMES

Covenant Presbyterian Church • Augusta, Georgia • December 2024

## From Our Pastor

### Christmas/New Year's

#### Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and on Wednesday, January 1.



### 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:**

Alexandria Dillahunt, Sherry Nash, and Sara van Plew

**Church Administrator:**

Rachel Gregory

**Finance Secretary:** Jenn Harrison

**Preschool Director:** Jill Reeves Garren

### Covenant Presbyterian Church

3131 Walton Way  
Augusta, GA 30909  
(706) 733-0513

[info@covenantaugusta.org](mailto:info@covenantaugusta.org)

[www.covenantaugusta.org](http://www.covenantaugusta.org)

[www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta](https://www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta)

Instagram: @covenantpresbyaugusta

Office Hours:

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

I've often said from the pulpit that it is hard for those of us who live in the relative comfort of an affluent democracy to really understand the longing of Advent. When you have plenty to eat, feel safe, and live in a comfortable home, then why would you want a messiah to come into the world? This fall, we got a glimpse of that Advent longing when we had holes in our roofs, no power or internet, and an inability to get to the grocery store. "Come, Lord Jesus, and save us from all that would harm us!" Perhaps we can remember some of those moments as we begin the season of Advent together.

While many of you are still cleaning up and rebuilding after the storm, I'm happy to report that our recovery continues to go well here at Covenant. In November, we had many volunteers working to temporarily reestablish half of our playground for the preschool. The Session appointed the Playground Task Force to create and implement a plan for a new playground in 2025. Serving on this task force are Jim Buckalew, Andy Cooke, Katelyn Gordon Cooke, Dalton Cooper, Jill Reeves Garren, Chloe James, and Tara Swim. Of these seven, six of us are preschool parents and four are on the session. I am excited about what this group will do in the coming year!

We will also be getting roof repairs in early December. Tree and stump work are ongoing, as well as debris removal. We have reestablished most outdoor lighting, which makes the property much more navigable in the evenings. Other smaller repairs may not begin until the new year. On December 7, we will have a church workday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We hope that you can join us for that as we continue to clean up the property.

Finally, I want to say how excited I am about the class of incoming officers that you elected at the congregational meeting on November 17. Please join me in praying for Jimmy Carson, Dalton Cooper, Jeff Heck, Amy House, David Ross, Lindsay Southwell, and Debbie van Tuyll as they prepare to serve as deacons and elders at Covenant. Officer training will be in January. The officer retreat is February 7-8, and they will be ordained and installed on that Sunday, February 9, during worship.

Even as we long for the Messiah this Advent—even in the midst of pain and loss—we still have much to be excited about here at Covenant. I'm grateful to each of you for this ministry we share and for the community that God has given us.

Grace and peace,

Andy

# Clerk's Corner

- Thank you notes, created by Judy Grieve, were sent to the following churches who have helped us since Hurricane Helene: Madison Presbyterian, Covenant Athens, First Presbyterian Athens, Lawrenceville Presbyterian, Acworth Presbyterian, Independent Presbyterian (Birmingham), and Northeast Georgia Presbytery.
- Jennifer and Gabe Fuller joined the church on November 17, 2024 by reaffirmation of faith.
- Anne Ealick Henry, Commissioner for Presbytery meeting October 22, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church Cleveland provided information from the meeting. The message for the meeting was given by Rev. Nikki Collins, Coordinator for 1001 New Worshiping Communities. Proceeds from sale of Carnesville Church property is going to new church development. Next meeting will be February 2025 at Reid Memorial.
- Communion servers for December 8, 2024 are Amelia Hall, William Davis, and Judy Grieve.

### Motions:

- Worship Ministry Team recommended that the session sanction our hand bell ringers to attend the Hand Bell Workshop at Lutheridge on 2/28/25-3/2/25 and that the church's hand bells be allowed to be transported for that workshop. Motion passed.
- Motion made and passed to create a Playground Task Force to plan for the new playground. Task Force members are Jim Buckalew, Dalton Cooper, Andy Cooke, Katelyn Gordon Cooke and Jill Reeves Garren. Two additional members will be named at a later date.

*But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory and the one who lifts up my head. Psalm 3:3*

Susan Monk  
Clerk of Session

## 2025 Stewardship Campaign

We had a wonderful dedication Sunday and potluck lunch on November 10! Thank you to everyone who turned in a passion/pledge card. If you haven't turned in your passion/pledge card yet, then you may drop it by the church office, mail it in, or put it in the offering plate. We are grateful to be *Here in This Place* together and we are looking forward to another year of faithful witness with you!



# Treasurer's Report

Covenant Presbyterian Church			
3rd Quarter Financial Report - January 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024			
With 75% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects revenue performance to date.			
Revenues	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Goal ≥ 75%
<b>Income Accounts</b>			
Pledges	\$ 355,236.60	\$ 506,400.00	70.1%
Non-Pledge Gifts	32,560.61	62,000.00	52.5%
Loose Plate Offering	3,603.00	2,100.00	171.6%
Other Income	2,063.16	7,300.00	28.3%
<b>Total Income Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 393,463.37</b>	<b>\$ 577,800.00</b>	<b>68.1%</b>
<b>Designated Funds Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 5,082.57</b>	<b>\$ 6,776.75</b>	<b>75.0%</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 398,545.94</b>	<b>\$ 584,576.75</b>	<b>68.2%</b>
<b>With 75% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects expense performance to date.</b>			
Expenses	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Goal ≤ 75%
<b>Ministry Teams</b>			
Building & Grounds	\$ 122,192.70	\$ 182,333.00	67.0%
Congregational Life	1,408.70	2,500.00	56.3%
Education	7,762.03	13,450.00	57.7%
Mission	29,823.12	42,500.00	70.2%
Sustainability	242,683.70	330,193.36	73.5%
Worship	5,928.10	13,600.00	43.6%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 409,798.35</b>	<b>\$ 584,576.36</b>	<b>70.1%</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (11,252.41)</b>	<b>\$ 0.39</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>

Note: Year-to-date pledge receipts are down \$27,603.85 compared to Sept. 30, 2023. Other Income is down \$4,435.09. Non-Pledge Gifts and Loose Plate Offering are comparable to 2023. Spending is down \$15,977 compared to a year ago. As of Sept. 30, 2024, our net operating loss was \$11,252.41. Please note, this summary reflects operating budget revenues and expenses only, and not funds held in restricted accounts. Covenantally remains definitively in the black, yet we still need your ongoing operational support. With gratitude and thanks, Aubrey Moore, Treas.

## Brokerage Account

Friends,

I am pleased to announce that we have reactivated our brokerage account with Morgan Stanley. We took this action after receiving multiple inquiries about the possibility of making a gift of stock to Covenant in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Whatever your reasons for giving, whether it be to support hurricane recovery efforts or to support some other aspect of our church finances and operations, we are pleased to be able to offer this new avenue for giving.

Thank you and God bless,

Aubrey Moore, Sustainability Ministry Team Chair

# Advent

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

**Advent 1 // Hope**  
Hanging of the Greens

**Advent Workshop** at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

**Wednesday Night Fellowship**  
Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Advent program at 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

**Advent 2 // Peace**  
Communion

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**Covenant/Belle Terrace Joint PW Circle Meeting & Lunch**  
Fellowship Hall  
at 10:30 a.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

**Preschool Staff Christmas Party**  
Room 7 at 1:15 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

**Youth Christmas Party**  
On-Site at 6:00 p.m.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

**Young Adult Christmas Party**  
3013 Stratford Drive at 6:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

**Advent 3 // Joy**

*Lessons & Carols* will feature specially chosen Old and New Testament Scriptures interspersed with season choral and instrumental music.

**Music Ministry Christmas Gathering**  
Brandon Wilde Clubhouse at 5:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

**Staff Christmas Lunch** at 11:30 a.m.

**Christmas Caroling**, Covenant parking lot at 4:45 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

**Preschool Christmas Program**  
Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Longest Night Service** at 7:00 p.m.  
A service for those who are experiencing grief or loss.

A reception will be held in the parlor after the service.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

**Advent 4 // Love**  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Christmas Eve Family Service**  
5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service** at 9:00 p.m.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

\*Please note there is no Sunday School on December 29.

## Wednesdays in December

Get into the Advent spirit with us on Wednesday evenings in December! Mark your calendars for the following events:

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

5:30-6:15 p.m. – Dinner

6:15-7:00 p.m. – Advent Program

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Long before Buddy the Elf declared, “The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear,” the angels sang the good news of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds as they tended their sheep in the fields. Now it’s our turn to bring joyful tidings to our friends and neighbors as we go Christmas caroling together on Wednesday, December 18. We’ll meet at the church at 4:45 p.m. and organize ourselves into two groups to go caroling at Brandon Wilde and other Covenant members’ homes.

All ages are welcome, and you don’t have to be a great singer to join us! Let us know if you plan to participate by RSVPing at <https://tinyurl.com/CovCaroling24>.

## Young Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14 // 6:00 p.m.  
3013 Stratford Drive

Covenant young adults are invited to celebrate the season together and enjoy good company and festivities. Young adults, keep an eye out for an Evite with more information coming to your inbox soon!



# Education Ministry

## Emmaus Class

Facilitators: Kathryn Crandall, Matt Crowe, Karla Conditt Daniels, and Katelyn Gordon Cooke

Sunday mornings  
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Room 12

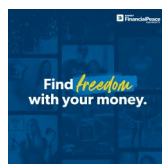
During the month of December, the Emmaus class will hear and share personal stories of hope, peace, joy, and love. All are welcome to join us for these times of Advent reflection.

## Presbyterians 101

On Sunday mornings in January, Andy Cooke will lead a 4-week series for the Emmaus Class on the history and theology of the Presbyterian Church. Many people in our congregation do not have a long history with our denomination, and they are curious to know what makes us different from other denominations. Others may want a refresher on our history and theology. Because our incoming elders and deacons will also be participating in this class as a part of their training, we are moving from the normal meeting space to the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can join us!

## Financial Peace University

Have you been looking for a way to finally get on top of your money? Do you have questions about the right insurance for your family? Do you want a proven plan to avoid debt and create lasting wealth? This. Is. Your. Time. And you don't even have to leave your home to do it! Just visit <https://www.fpu.com/727FA8> to join our virtual Financial Peace University class starting on Monday January 20th at 6:00pm for 9 weeks. Make today the day you decide to own your money—not the other way around. You've got this!



## SALT Class

Facilitators: Kathy Ordelt, Judy Grieve, and Steve Bell

Sunday mornings  
11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Room 7

On November 24, we will begin a new 4-week series for Advent entitled *Because of Bethlehem* by Max Lucado. We will utilize videos, study guides (provided), and discussions to better understand God coming into our world in a very personal and meaningful way. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates - the child in the cradle becomes the King on the cross. Please join us in preparing our hearts for the Christ child's birth!

**NOTE:** We will not have class on December 1. We will instead gather in the fellowship hall for fun and fellowship with our annual Advent Workshop.

## Coffee and Conversation

Sunday Mornings  
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!

## Men's Breakfast

The Men of the Church will have a Saturday morning breakfast on December 7 at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

December 7 is also a Building and Grounds workday, and everyone is welcome to stay and help.

## Save the Date: Weekend Workshop & Worship



The Education Ministry Team invites you to save the date for Covenant's first Weekend Workshop and Worship event on March 28 and 29, 2025!

Over the course of Saturday and Sunday, we'll go deeper in exploring the stories we tell as people of faith as well as the stories that Jesus told. We're excited to welcome The Reverend Gail Henderson-Belsito as our guest speaker for this event. She'll lead the Saturday workshop, preach in worship on Sunday morning, and then meet with Covenant youth during the Sunday School time.

Gail has a lengthy history of storytelling. Her older three brothers would say that she told stories on them throughout their years growing up together. Nowadays Gail dedicates most of her time to telling children, youth, and adults the wonder-filled stories of God's love for them and all creation. Gail hopes and prays that all people will learn to ponder, appreciate, and tell their own stories within in the larger narrative of God's amazing grace and boundless love.

More information about the event and registration will be available in the new year!

# Education Ministry

## Children

### Preschool

Children ages 2 through kindergarten

Sunday mornings

11:15 - 11:35 a.m. // Room 2

During their time together, preschoolers hear a Bible story, sing a song or make a craft, and say a prayer together. The activities are geared to preschoolers' learning styles and attention spans, and we also have a lot of fun together! After their 20-minute lesson, children play together until the end of the Sunday School time.

### Elementary School

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders

Sunday mornings

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. // Room 103

This year, elementary students are learning about God's big story in the Bible. Each week, we dive into a story from Scripture to see what it can teach us about who God is and who we are called to be. Here are the stories we'll be learning about in December:

December 8 – Surprised by Grace  
(Luke 1:5-25, 57-66)

December 15 – God's Gift of Love  
(Luke 2:1-7)

December 22 – Rejoice and Ponder  
(Luke 2:8-20)

### Preschool and Elementary

#### Music

2nd and 4th Sunday mornings

11:40 a.m.-12:00 p.m. // Room 3

Preschool and elementary students come together for 20 minutes of music with Ms. Sarah, Ms. Lyn, and other special guests on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

## Youth Ministry

### Sunday Morning Small Groups

Sunday mornings // 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. // Rooms 203 and 204

God loves a good story, and that's evident throughout the stories of Scripture. The Bible includes stories of triumph and stories of defeat, stories of heartbreak and stories of miracles. All of these individual stories are part of God's big story with humanity, and this fall, we're getting an overview of the Bible as we study 12 stories and themes of Scripture. Here are our topics for the month of December:

December 8 – God's Kingdom (Matthew 5, 12-13, 18, 20, 22; Mark 2, 10; Luke 11, 13-14, 17)

December 15 – Death-to-Life (Matthew 26-28; Luke 19, 22-24; John 11, 15)

December 22 – The Church (Acts 1-2)

### Youth Christmas Party

Friday, December 13 // 6:00 p.m. // On-Site

Do you love Christmas movies? Christmas cookies? Christmas gifts? Then you should come to the Covenant youth Christmas party! All middle and high school youth are invited for dinner, a gift exchange (please bring a \$10 gift card), and other Christmas merriment. We hope to see you there!

### Summer Trips

Youth families, keep an eye on your email inboxes next month for information about summer 2025 trips! Here are dates to add to your family calendars:

Montreat Youth Conference (rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade-graduated senior)

Theme: Light My Path

Sunday, July 6-Saturday, July 12, 2025

Montreat Middle School (rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade-rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Theme: Wonder-full

Wednesday, July 16-Sunday, July 20, 2025

### Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 1

11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Covenant members and friends of all ages are invited to an Advent Workshop on the first Sunday of Advent. You'll have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath for your family and other crafts, including an Advent calendar and a Nativity story ornament. The Education Ministry Team is hosting this event, and all are welcome!

Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on this Sunday.

# December Spotlight

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



Getting to know  
**Elaine Lea, Elder**

A few fun facts about Elaine:

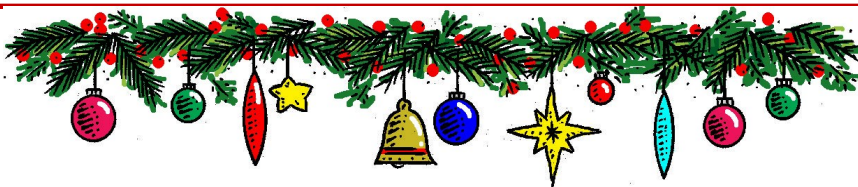
- My favorite Bible verse - Psalm 51:9-12
- My favorite place I've traveled to is Scotland.
- I like to read, go hiking, and go to the beach.



Getting to know  
**Rachel Gregory,  
Church Administrator**

A few fun facts about Rachel:

- My favorite place to travel to is Big Bear, CA to visit family.
- My favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31.
- I am related to Daniel Boone.



Christmas Luncheon for All Presbyterian Women  
A Christmas devotional will be given by The Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
Menu includes Chicken Salad, Croissants, Fruit and Pasta Salads, Desserts

December 10, 2024, 11:00 a.m. // Fellowship Hall  
We will collect canned goods for the GAP pantry.

Canned fruits are especially appreciated.

RSVP to Cindy Wallerich via email: [cswallerich@gmail.com](mailto:cswallerich@gmail.com)  
by December 5, 2024

## Trunk or Treat October 30, 2024



## Year-end Giving

It's hard to believe the 2024 holiday season is here and for the first time in my 41 years of life I'll NOT be waking up Christmas morning here in Augusta. Since our first visit to Europe in 2019, spending Christmas in Europe has been on my bucket list, and Christmas 2024 is the year! But as we approach the end of the fiscal year, I wanted to remind you that gifts must be received in the church office by the end of the day on Tuesday, December 31 to be credited to 2024. Gifts that are postmarked by December 31, or which are made online by December 31, will also be credited to 2024. In mid-January, I will mail and email 2024 giving statements. If you have any questions, then please email me at [jharrison@covenantaugusta.org](mailto:jharrison@covenantaugusta.org). Until then, I hope you and yours have a joyful holiday season!

Jenn Harrison,  
Finance Secretary

## Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, January 26 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, we will hold our annual congregational meeting for the purposes of receiving the 2024 annual report, receiving the 2025 budget, voting to elect our 2025 corporate officers (President and Treasurer), and voting to approve the terms of call for the Co-Pastors. More information about this meeting will be available in the bulletin and in the weekly email as the date approaches.

## Preschool

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas along the halls of Covenant Preschool and CDO! The children are filled with the Christmas spirit, and we have a lot of fun learning about winter holidays and hearing the story of Jesus' birth in chapel. This year's preschool Christmas program is on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. The students are excited to share some of their favorite holiday songs with their families. As always, Covenant Preschool alumni are welcome to join us and help sing the final song, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!"

We want to extend a special thank you to the Education Ministry Team for providing lunch for the preschool staff Christmas party and for helping with the Christmas program reception. The love and support between the Covenant school and congregation is special, and it's wonderful to be able to celebrate this season together!

Blessings,  
Jill Reeves Garren  
Preschool Director



### January/February Chimes Deadline

The January/February *Chimes* deadline is January 7. The newsletter will be mailed out as soon as possible following the deadline.

# DECEMBER

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Advent 1, Hanging of the Greens 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Advent Workshop, Fellowship Hall 12:15pm Diaconate Meeting, Parlor	2 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	3 9:00am Preschool PTO Meeting, Fellowship Hall 11:30am Ladies for Lunch 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 7:00pm Stated Session Meeting, Room 7	4 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 5:30pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Dinner* 6:15pm Wednesday Night Fellowship, Program* 7:15pm Covenant Choir, Balcony	5 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Jubilation Ringers	6 10:00am Packing Bags for Treats for Troops, Fellowship Hall	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall 10:00am Church Workday 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
8	Advent 2, Communion 10:00am Communion Worship Service* 11:00am Equal Exchange Coffee Sale* 11:15am Sunday School* 11:40am Children's Music, Room 3	9 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	10 10:30am PW/Belle Terrace Luncheon, Fellowship Hall 12:00pm Men's Lunch, Rm 7 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 4:30pm Education Ministry Team, Room 7 6:30pm P.E.O. Meeting, Parlor	11 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 1:00pm Disciples Bible Study, Rm 104 1:30pm Covenant Staff Meeting, Work Room 7:15pm Covenant Choir, Balcony	12 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 1:15pm Preschool Staff Christmas Party, Room 7 6:30pm Jubilation Ringers	13 5:30pm Ballet Performance, Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Youth Christmas Party	14 10:00am Meals on Wheels 11:00am Gehle Family Christmas Gathering, Fellowship Hall 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104 7:00pm Young Adult Christmas Party
15	Advent 3, Lessons & Carols Special Offering, Christmas Joy 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Sunday School* 5:00pm Music Ministry Christmas Gathering, Brandon Wilde Clubhouse	16 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00pm Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom	17 10:00am Goodies for GAP, Fellowship Hall 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Sustainability Ministry Team, Room 7	18 9:30am Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 11:30am Covenant Staff Christmas Lunch 4:45pm Caroling 7:15pm Covenant Choir, Balcony	19 11:00am Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall 1:00pm Preschool Soccer Shots, Gym 6:30pm Jubilation Ringers	20 Preschool Christmas Break 7:00pm Longest Night Service	21 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
22	Advent 4 10:00am Worship Service* 11:15am Sunday School* 11:40am Children's Music, Room 3 12:15pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting, Parlor*	23 Preschool Christmas Break 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	24 Preschool Christmas Break 5:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary 9:00pm Candlelight Communion Service, Sanctuary	25 Christmas, Office Closed Preschool Christmas Break	26 Preschool Christmas Break	27 Preschool Christmas Break	28 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104
29	10:00am Worship Service*	30 Preschool Christmas Break 5:00pm Companions in Christ, Parlor	31 Preschool Christmas Break	1 New Year's Day, Office Closed Preschool Christmas Break	2 Preschool Christmas Break	3 Preschool Christmas Break	4 10:00am Meals on Wheels 1:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Rm 104

\*Childcare available



# Mission

## Congregational Life

### GAP Ministries

GAP needs our help to keep the food pantry stocked amongst rising food costs! On your next trip to the grocery store, look out for “Buy One Get One” deals and other sales on all non-perishable foods to make the most of your donations. Everything helps, but some specific needs are instant grits, instant oatmeal, canned chili, and canned soup. Let’s see if we can fill our donation boxes — they’re located at the main entrance of the church and underneath the mailboxes near the church office. If we all add a couple items to our carts, we can make a big difference in the community!

Claire Welborn  
Hancock



### Goodies for GAP

It is time to be thinking about baking Christmas Goodies for GAP. If you would like to participate, you can bake cookies, make or buy candies or other treats.

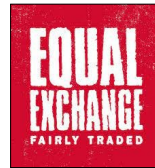
Bring your items to the main kitchen area by December 16th. We will package the foods in bags on December 17 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join in the fun as we work together.

The GAP clients have appreciated these bags and boxes so very much in the past.

### Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate Sale

Mission Ministry will be hosting a sale of coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange on December 8. Look for the table in the narthex after the worship service.

Charlotte Ealick and  
Sabina Widner



### Ladies for Lunch

Ladies for Lunch will meet Tuesday, December 3 at 11:30 a.m. Women and friends of Covenant will gather at Sweet Azaleas, 2569 Central Avenue, Augusta. Contact Phoebe Crimmins at 706-738-7820 or by email at [pbjcrim.949@gmail.com](mailto:pbjcrim.949@gmail.com) to make your reservation for this gathering so that we may have space for you.

### Men’s Brownbag Lunch

Men’s lunch meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our study of J. Ellsworth Kalas’ book, The Thirteen Apostles. On December 10, Charles Jay will lead our study on the Apostle Philip. We will not meet on December 24. On January 14, Andy Cooke will lead our study on the Apostle James the Lesser, or James son of Alphaus. Bring your own bagged lunch and join us if you can!

## Building and Grounds

- B&G is forming a Landscaping Task Force to create a vision for the landscaping around our church post-Hurricane clean up. Anyone who wishes to join is welcome. Please contact Dalton Cooper or Mary McCarter for more information.
- B&G will be having a church workday on December 7 from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Focus will be on recovery from the Hurricane, and lunch will be provided. Please contact Chuck Baldwin or Mary McCarter for more information.

### Undue Medical Debt

This past summer, the Matthew 25 Task Force challenged the congregation to raise \$10,000, alongside Westminster Presbyterian (Waynesboro) and Christ Presbyterian, to abolish medical debt for those being burdened by it in our community. We exceeded our goal and raised \$10,077. Working the organization Undue Medical Debt, we were able to purchase over \$1.8 million in medical debt affecting 1,945 people in eleven counties in the CSRA!

Abolishment Date: August 2024  
Donation Amount: \$10,077.90

**Matthew 25:36 Challenge Debt Fulfillment Report**

State	County	Recipients	Amount abolished	Avg abolished
GA	Burke County	8	\$7,313.90	\$914.24
GA	Columbia County	254	\$171,318.12	\$674.48
GA	Richmond County	464	\$277,737.05	\$598.57
GA	Warren County	153	\$107,208.20	\$700.71
GA	Washington County	246	\$223,390.23	\$908.09
SC	Aiken County	453	\$565,434.73	\$1,248.20
SC	Allendale County	22	\$21,404.07	\$972.91
SC	Barnberg County	35	\$63,300.04	\$1,808.57
SC	Barnwell County	58	\$106,046.29	\$1,828.38
SC	Edgefield County	208	\$232,499.79	\$1,117.79
SC	McCormick County	44	\$43,495.49	\$988.53
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,945</b>	<b>\$1,819,147.91</b>	<b>\$935.29</b>



## NEW CELEBRATIONS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

**Family of Gwen Ewing** (sister of Lucyle Ferris) - who passed away on November 17 (1118)

## 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**, and all who serve in the U.S. Military

**All the victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton**

**Beth Wilson** - shingles (1113)

**Suzanne Hobby-Shippen and family** - on the death of her mother-in-law (1114)

**Doris Charnoch** (friend of Marian Moseley and Aldersgate UMC member) - in poor health at Brandon Wilde

**Charlotte Works** (cousin of Beth Ashmore) - corticobasal degeneration disease (1104)

**Nancy Ferenacz** (sister of Kathy Ordelt) - on the death of her husband (1104)

**Stu Ritter** - continuing effects of Parkinson's disease (1024)

**Andy Cooke** - healing after foot surgery (1011)

**Sam and Maddie McCarter** - celebration and prayers for a healthy pregnancy (0911)

**Jim Wade** - recent hospitalization and recovery from fall (1122)

**Ellen Moore** (mother of Aubrey Moore) - at home, making good progress, and receiving home health care (0820)

**Bobby Vernoy** - hospice care (1115)

**Sue Walsh** (friend of Diane Griffin) - recurrent cancer (1115)

**Bob Yost** (Pat Ritter's brother) - cancer diagnosis (1122)

**Corinne Russell** (Diane Griffin's sister) - cancer treatment (1115)

**Bill Simmermon** (friend of Andrea & Nick Butt) - Winter Park, FL - pancreatic cancer (1015)

**Dana and Rob Johnson** - celebration and prayers for a healthy pregnancy (1015)

**Gloria Melvin** (mother of Matthew Crowe) - experiencing pain after a fall (1015)

## ENDURING CONCERNS

**Jacquie Allison** - Brandon Wilde

**Dorris Andrews** (Elaine Lea's mother) - Brandon Wilde

**Buster Boshears** - Brandon Wilde

**Beverly Carpenter** (stepmother of Paula Reardon) - At home

**Joe and Eunice Cook** - Brandon Wilde

**Bill Cornes** - At home

**Phyllis Daniels** - Brandon Wilde

**Wally Dill** - suffering from dementia, and his wife Marilyn (friends of Joanie McCraw)

**Fred Gehle** - at home

**Polly Hendrix** (Aunt of Angela Hobby) - Nashville, GA

**Betty Johnston** - Brandon Wilde

**Jocelyn Martin-Moses** (Karell Moses' mother) - At home

**Anita Parker** (Joslyn Fields' cousin) - Beaufort, SC

**Jennifer Shook** (Elaine Lea's sister) - treatment for cancer

**Elizabeth Swink** - At home

**Jane Terry** (Chris Terry's mother) - Lake Wales, FL

**Sue and Jim Wade** - At home

**Danny Williams** - Barclay House



In the busyness of the season, it's easy to get swept up in everything but the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Feel free to use the prayer below each day as you begin your talks with God.

*God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love shine bright in me as I approach his coming, that I may be ready to welcome him on Christmas day and every day. Amen.*

Your Diaconate Prayer Action Team  
Kadie Cheeks, LJ Jay, and Kathy Ordelt

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Kadie Cheeks, Kathy Ordelt, and Linda-Jean Jay. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at [rgregory@covenantaugusta.org](mailto: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.

# December Worship Schedule

## PREACHER

12/1: Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
 12/8: Andy Cooke  
 12/15: Andy Cooke  
 12/22: Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
 12/24: **5:00 p.m.**  
 Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
 12/24: **9:00 p.m.**  
 Andy Cooke  
 12/29: Karla Conditt Daniels

## GREETERS

12/1: Sabina Widner  
 12/8: Beth Wilson  
 12/15: Gail Baker  
 12/22: Lola Bell  
 12/29: Jimmy Carson

## A/V TEAM

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

## COORDINATORS

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

## LITURGIST/READER

12/1: Hanging of the Greens  
 12/8: Steve Bell  
 12/15: Lessons & Carols  
 12/22: Audrey Baldwin  
 12/29: Lori Rogers

## USHERS

12/1: Judy Grieve, Philip Monk, Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry  
 12/8: Steve Bell, Jimmy Carson, Dalton Cooper, John Ealick, Angela Hobby, Rubén Rosa  
 12/15: Jim Buckalew, William Davis, Chris Henry, Beau Southwell, Charlie Terry  
 12/22: Hugh Dobbins, Lucyle Ferris, Dave Lapp, Johnny Lowe, Edwin Scott, Beth Wilson  
 12/24: **5:00 p.m.**  
 Judy Grieve, Philip Monk, Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry  
 12/24: **9:00 p.m.**  
 Steve Bell, Jimmy Carson, Dalton Cooper, John Ealick, Angela Hobby, Rubén Rosa  
 12/29: Jim Buckalew, William Davis, Chris Henry, Beau Southwell, Charlie Terry

## Poinsettias

If you would like to remember or honor family or friends this Christmas through the gift of poinsettias, you are invited to make a contribution to the Christmas Poinsettias Fund. Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary December 1 through Christmas Eve. (A separate plant may not be purchased for each contribution.) Any excess money received goes into the general flower fund to be used to purchase arrangements for Sundays when there is no donor, or to enhance the beauty of the Covenant grounds through the purchase of plants.

To cover the cost of the poinsettias, we request a contribution of at least \$15.00 for each dedication.

Dedications will be printed in the bulletins on December 8, 15, 22, and Christmas Eve. If you want to take a poinsettia with you, please wait until after the Christmas Eve evening service. Orders should be in the church office no later than **Thursday, December 5**. You may donate online or send checks to the church office made payable to Covenant Presbyterian Church and note for the Christmas Poinsettias Fund. To fill out the form and pay online go to <https://tinyurl.com/2s4hdvkw>

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I would like to contribute to the Christmas Poinsettias Fund as follows:

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Festival Service of Lessons & Carols 2024

Sunday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m. the Covenant Festival Choir, instrumental and vocal soloists, percussion, and organ will offer our annual Festival Service of Lessons and Carols. Choral music includes selections from Robert A. Hobby's service *Holy Light*. The congregation will also be invited to join in singing seasonal carols as with Word and music we anticipate and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, our Savior.



LESSONS & CAROLS

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## Treats for Troops

Covenant Presbyterian Women will be collecting treats to make 300 snack bags for soldiers at Fort Eisenhower who will be traveling home for the holidays. Please consider donating individually wrapped food items such as cheese or peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit roll-ups, candy or cookies. Place your items in the boxes that will be in front of the office from November 1st to December 6th. Thanks to everyone who has supported this mission in the past.



## Covenant Chimes

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Augusta, GA  
Permit No. 81

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Volunteers helping to  
reestablish a portion of  
our playground  
November 8 & 9, 2024

