

November 2022 Newsletter

Your Part in God's Plans



The guiding scripture passage for the 2023 Stewardship Campaign is Jeremiah 29:11 –

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

As you read those words, consider how you will participate in God's plans for Covenant's hope-filled future.

And as you think about your part in God's plans for this church we all love, remember that your weekly offering is not merely an offering to the church but an offering to God. Your annual pledge is one very real way you commit to taking part in all that God is doing in this community of faith.

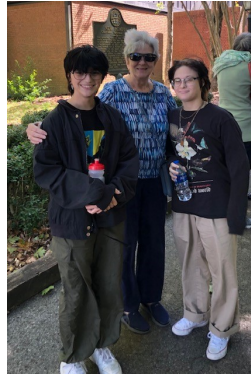
An especially exciting component of our hope-filled future with God is the opportunity to serve with our new pastor, the Reverend Jamie Butcher! So, we're thrilled that Stewardship Dedication Sunday is also Jamie's first Sunday at Covenant! [RSVP](#) now for a very special Celebration Breakfast at 9:30AM on November 13.

And in the meantime, please be sure your 2022 pledge is up-to-date. Need to confirm? Just ask Magalie (bookkeeper@covpresatl.org).

Thank You!
Your Stewardship Committee
Delicia Grimmesey & John Greeley,
Co-Chairs

Christian Ed & Youth

FIELD TRIP TO NEW ECHOTA



After teaching a series of Sunday School classes on Indigenous Peoples and their faith systems (and how Christianity interacted with them) Will Simson led a Covenant group on a field trip to New Echota, the historic capital of the Cherokee Nation.

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Our 9:30 Sunday School hour offers opportunities for learning and for fellowship. Join us for these upcoming intergenerational mornings:

- 11-6 Carson Meredith teaches on Confronting Climate Change
- 11-13 no Sunday School due to Celebration Breakfast
- 11-20 Covenant's Youth take the lead
- 11-27 no Sunday School due to Thanksgiving holiday weekend



On October 16, Alan and Sue Colussy hosted the youth in their home for dinner and fellowship. The youth got to make pasta from scratch with Alan and Sue's help, and spend time together over dinner. If you would like to host the youth in your home next semester, please reach out to Suzannah!

NOVEMBER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Group this year will meet 2 Sundays per month, usually from 12:30-2pm in the youth room. If you would like to be involved with youth activities as a youth or an adult, please contact Suzannah at youth@covpresatl.org!

- November 6th 12:30-2pm Lunch & Discussion of Indigenous People
In cooperation with the adult Sunday School class, we will be researching and discussing the history of our local land and its indigenous roots.
- November 20th Time TBD Arcade

Mission Update



Led by Debi Anderson, Covenant again helped feed our neighbors in need. Here's Debi's recap:

"Covenant members donated 1 1/2 carloads of fresh, frozen, and canned foods to the last remaining Free Fridge in the Atlanta metro area on Sunday, October 23rd. We additionally donated pet food and toiletries to those in need. North Decatur Presbyterian at 611 Medlock Road houses this donation site. We encourage anyone to visit it and see the good it is doing in the community."

Many thanks to the congregation and special thanks to Debi, Keelin & Karen!

How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.

- Morgan Freeman

When we look at the world today, it is easy to be discouraged and see nothing but evil and wrong. It can be so disheartening and make you feel dismayed and defeated.

The truth is though that there is something that we can do. We can be Kind! An act of kindness can truly change lives, yours and others.

The Mission Committee is challenging our community to do one intentional Act of Kindness each day in November. It can be as simple as saying hello to a neighbor who you often overlook. It can be buying a cup coffee for the stranger in line behind you. It can be giving of your time to charity. It just must be an act of kindness.

If just 50 of us do one act of kindness each day in November 1,500 people in this world can feel God's love. And just imagine if those 1,500 people pass that along... think of the changes that can happen.

Please consider taking on this challenge. For ideas of what you can do, please review this [list](#).

Your Mission Committee

Memorial Drive Ministries Kitchenware Drive!

As increasing numbers of refugees arrive from Ukraine and other parts of the world, the needs of resettlement agencies grow. Memorial Drive Ministries (MDM) is asking us to help by collecting the following:

1. Boxed cookware sets with several pots and pans with lids
2. Kitchen utensil sets
3. Flatware sets for 4-6 people
4. Mixing bowl sets that are plastic or metal of 3-5 bowls
5. Dinnerware sets for 4-6 people that include large plate, small plate, bowl, cup, mug, etc.
6. Baking pan sets of metal or glass

We will be dropping these items off at MDM on December 11. Please bring items to church and place them on the pew outside the Clerk's office. Another option is ordering online where MDM has a wish list at smile.amazon.com. You can select Memorial Drive Ministries as your charity of choice and MDM will then get a donation from Amazon at no cost to you. Thank you for standing with refugees.



A HOLIDAY TREAT RETURNS!

Many of you will remember the brass concerts held on the front plaza in recent Decembers. It's a wonderful gift to the entire neighborhood, so put it on your calendar now! Join us out front at 2:00pm on December 4th. And please invite friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers to join the fun!



Two of our Women's Spirituality Groups are seeking new members. The Monday morning group meets at the church at 10:00am on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, and the Thursday morning group meets online every Thursday at 10am. Both plan to move to a hybrid meeting model with Zoom and in-person options for group members.

In a caring and supportive environment, we strive to have open and frank discussions about our beliefs, the role of the church and God in our lives, and our joys and concerns. Join us!

If you're interested, contact office@covpresatl.org



Being the Body of Christ

During the week and on Sundays, Covenant may be visited by individuals in need of assistance. These folks, each one a child of God, may need food or water, access to a bathroom or a safe place to catch their breath; they may need lodging or transportation, healthcare or IDs. The needs are great!

Our call to extend Christian hospitality is also great, even when it doesn't exactly align with the needs presented by these visitors. What are we to do?

First, experts in compassionate intervention urge against handing out cash. Instead, please offer non-perishable food from the closet that's just inside the workroom where the copier is. You'll also find bottles of water and hand sanitizer to share.

Additionally, we have compiled a list of reputable organizations, many of which Covenant directly supports. Printouts of this info are located at each entrance to the sanctuary. Please offer these resources to any visitor in need.

Living as the body of Christ is not always easy. Yet everyone one of us -- elders, staff, congregation -- we are all called and empowered to offer Christian hospitality to all our neighbors. Thanks for all you do to help!

For other hopeful news and activities, click [HERE](#).

Worship Update



On November 6, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, lifting before God the names of Covenant members who have joined the great cloud of witnesses during the past year. Please share any names you would like remembered by contacting office@covpresatl.org by Wednesday, 11/2.



Volunteers Needed & Welcome!

Interested in helping with a worship service? We'd love some additional helpers to serve as greeters, passing the offering plate, and a few other things.

If you are willing to contribute in these ways, please reach out to Lara Smith-Sitton via worship@covpresatl.org. Many thanks!

Suzannah is also looking for a few volunteers to be trained on operating the sound board and streaming technology. If you would like to participate in training before worship on November 13th, please email Suzannah at youth@covpresatl.org.



SUNDAY MORNING PARKING ON PEACHTREE!

Especially as the construction gets underway across Terrace Drive, we encourage you to park in front of the church's property on Peachtree Road. It gives you convenient Sunday access and also reminds the neighborhood that we are here!



Session Update

From Your Clerk:

The Session met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 25. We were pleased to have a half-hour “meet and greet” with our new pastor, Jamie Butcher, as the session assembled in the Westminster Room. Jamie’s first meeting as moderator of session will be November 22.

Session reviewed and approved a revised job description for the Director of Music and Organist and also approved a salary package for the position.

Fall of the year is budget preparation time so the process for Budget 2023 was outlined for session members/committee chairs. Also at the end of the year the membership roll is reviewed and the Clerk reported on the process for that.

Since this was Leigh’s last session meeting to moderate she shared some reflections from her time with the session noting that she has particularly enjoyed working with the current session which in May took in 6 new members. Leigh has met with Jamie to acquaint her with all matters of the church and is confident of a smooth transition. Leigh encouraged session to continue to celebrate the work of the committees and to be entrepreneurial - to take initiative and “try stuff”. She cited as examples the work of the Faith Formation Committee in developing adult Sunday School topics and leadership and the “Kindness Challenge” from Mission Committee.

Joys and Concerns were shared as well as reminders of upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Turney



September 2022 Financials

| | <u>MTD Actuals</u> <u>2022</u> | <u>YTD Actuals</u> <u>2021</u> | <u>YTD Actuals</u> <u>2022</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> <u>2022</u> | <u>YTD Difference</u> <u>2022</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pledged Revenue | \$13,217.00 | \$268,297.42 | \$272,531.92 | \$286,000.00 | (\$13,468.08) |
| Non Pledged Revenue | \$6,302.90 | \$17,528.08 | \$24,205.38 | \$17,800.00 | \$6,405.38 |
| Other Revenue (rent, etc) | \$21,484.65 | \$172,394.79 | \$141,938.39 | \$151,835.00 | (\$9,896.61) |
| Total Revenue | \$41,004.55 | \$458,220.29 | \$438,675.69 | \$455,635.00 | (\$16,959.31) |
| Total Expenses | \$39,182.93 | \$385,560.25 | \$410,439.04 | \$454,108.46 | (\$43,669.42) |
| Net Total | \$1,821.62 | \$72,660.04 | \$28,236.65 | \$1,526.54 | \$26,710.11 |

COMMITTEE EMAIL ADDRESSES

Admin@covpresatl.org rolls Peggy Fillio, Chair of Administration & Finance

BandG@covpresatl.org rolls to Marti Blincoe & JoAnn Hartin, Co-Chairs of Buildings & Grounds

Clerk@covpresatl.org rolls to Karen Turney, Clerk of Session

CongregationalLife@covpresatl.org rolls to Jennifer Manning, Chair of Congregational Life & Parish Care

FaithFormation@covpresatl.org rolls to Keelin Roper, Chair of the Committee Formerly Known As “Christian Education & Youth”

Mission@covpresatl.org rolls to Heather Grimsley & Jim Ingvaldstad, Co-Chairs of Mission

[NewMembers@covpresatl.org](mailto>NewMembers@covpresatl.org) rolls to Fran Pughsley & Mary Allen, Co-Chairs of New Members & Publicity

Personnel@covpresatl.org rolls to Justin Colussy-Estes, Chair of Personnel

Retreat@covpresatl.org rolls to Brooke Taylor, Retreat Subcommittee

Stewardship@covpresatl.org rolls to John Greeley & Delicia Grimesey, Co-Chairs of Stewardship

Worship@covpresatl.org rolls to Lara Smith Sitton, Chair of Worship

Youth@covpresatl.org rolls to Suzannah Haasbroek, Director of Youth & Technology



I was grinning with excitement when I took this photo and texted it to Jamie!

ONE MORE BENEDICTION

When I arrived at Covenant, there was no heat and no elevator and no people and no fun. All of that has changed over the past 21 months – thanks be to God! And thanks to you for however you’ve contributed to this change. I can now say that I am thrilled for Covenant and thrilled for Jamie as y’all begin your journey together.

Please participate, y’all. Please be generous (in spirit and in finances, in time and in talent). Please be flexible. Please be faithful to God’s vision.

And as you go forward, may you know the love of the one true God, who is the Source, the Son, and the Spirit, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Your sister in Christ,

P.S. Many, many thanks for the lovely farewell reception & all your kind words & gifts. I’ll think of you every time I’m at the Botanical Gardens!



11/2 - Lewis Jaynes

11/4 - Carol DeMars

11/9 - Martha Chanaberry

11/12 - Barbarba Kaines

11/14 - Elizabeth Day

11/18 - Leigh Anne Douglas

11/23 - Ruth Jorgensen


11/27 - Allen Provens

11/28 - Kari Saunders



Many of you will remember Lauren Scott, our Youth Intern during the pandemic. She is now the Associate Pastor for Youth & Families at Riverside Presbyterian in Jacksonville, Florida. Covenant played a role in her pastoral education and we celebrate her new call!

November 2022

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | 1 10a Women's Spirituality Group 7p Stewardship Meeting | 2 7a Men's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal | 3 Gigi's Playhouse 10a Women's Spirituality Group | 4 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting | 5 |
| 6 ALL SAINTS 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Front Plaza Refreshments 11a Worship w/ Communion 8p AA Mtg | 7 9:30a AI Anon 10:30a AI Anon 1p Staff Meeting 6p Yoga | 8 ELECTION DAY 10a Women's Spirituality Group | 9 7a Men's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal Jamie's 1st Day! | 10 10a Women's Spirituality Group 1p Admin Committee | 11 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting | 12 9a - 1p Quarterly Presbytery Meeting |
| 13 9:30 Celebration Breakfast (no Sunday School) 11a Worship 8p AA Mtg | 14 9:30a AI Anon 10a Women's Spirituality Group 10:30a AI Anon 1p Staff Meeting 6p Yoga | 15 10a Women's Spirituality Group | 16 7a Men's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal | 17 Gigi's Playhouse 10a Women's Spirituality Group | 18 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting | 19 |
| 20 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Front Plaza Refreshments 11a Worship 12p Committee Sunday 8p AA Mtg | 21 9:30a AI Anon 10:30a AI Anon 1p Staff Meeting 6p Yoga | 22 10a Women's Spirituality Group 7p Session Meeting | 23 7a Men's Bible Study | 24 THANKSGIVING  | 25 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting | 26 |
| 27 1st Sunday of Advent No Sunday School due to holiday weekend 10:30 Front Plaza Refreshments 11a Worship 8p AA Mtg | 28 9:30a AI Anon 10:30a AI Anon 1p Staff Meeting 6p Yoga | 29 10a Women's Spirituality Group | 30 7a Men's Bible Study 7p Choir Rehearsal | | | |