

December 2022 Newsletter

Attending to Advent



SEEK | SERVE | CELEBRATE
COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 11/27 | <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u>
9:30 AM Advent for All
10:30 AM Westminster Fellowship
11:00 AM Worship Service | 12/18 | <u>4th Sunday of Advent</u>
9:30 AM Seeing Mary Series
10:30 AM Westminster Fellowship
11:00 AM Worship |
| 12/4 | <u>2nd Sunday of Advent</u>
No Sunday School
10:30 AM Westminster Fellowship
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Session Lunch Meeting
2:00 PM Brass Concert | 12/24 | <u>Christmas Eve</u>
5:00 pm Candlelight Worship
Service
(Music begins at 4:30pm) |
| 12/11 | <u>3rd Sunday of Advent</u>
9:30 AM Seeing Mary Series
10:30 AM Westminster Fellowship
11:00 AM Worship | 12/25 | <u>Christmas Day</u>
11:00 AM Worship in Chapel
(No livestream) |
| 12/17 | <i>Covenant Christmas Party (6-8 PM)*</i>
*RSVP by December 9th | | Visit covpresatl.org for more information |

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Stewardship



Thanks to all who offered gifts this Stewardship season. We had a wonderful response and are incredibly grateful. If you've already made your 2023 pledge, thank you so much! If you've not yet done so, please do – while we deeply appreciate unpledged gifts that come in during the year, we are more effective when we have upfront commitments and can plan accordingly.

We're off to a great start and will be in touch as we wrap up the stewardship campaign by Christmas. Grateful to God, grateful for you!
2023 Stewardship Committee
(Jamie Butcher, John Greeley, Delicia Grimmesey, and Luanne Miller)

Other Stewardship Notes:

December is a good time to review your giving for the year:

- If you give online and have changed your pledge amount from what it was in 2022, be sure to make that adjustment online (it does not change automatically).
- Need to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from retirement plans? Did you know you can give to charity -- including the church! -- at Fair Market Value without paying tax on gains? Consult your tax professional for details. Magalie can assist with the donation process.
- Stock gifts can also be made at Fair Market Value without paying tax on gains. Magalie can assist with the donation process.



A huge thanks to Jim Ingvoldstad, Peggy Fillio, Condit Lotz, Luanne Miller, Karen Turney, Rena Marroquin who joined Lee Wilder to prepare 50 sack lunches for the Bashor Night Shelter on December 1st. We will also be doing this on March 20th and welcome your help. The shelter is an all-volunteer organization, open from Nov 1st through March. Guests receive a hot meal, a sack lunch, a warm place to sleep and access to shower facilities. You can learn more at bashorhomelessshelter.org.

Congregational Life

HOLIDAY TREATS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

You've asked and they've answered! The brass concert has returned and will grace the community with their wonderful gifts of song, so put it on your calendar now! Join us in the front plaza at 2:00pm on December 4th. Invite friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers to join the fun!



COVENANT'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Contact the office to RSVP by December 9th: office@covpresatl.org

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Contact the office to RSVP by December 9th, including details on what you're bringing: office@covpresatl.org



Mark your calendar for December 17th to join us for our Annual Christmas Party! This year's festivities starts at 6pm with hosts, Robert Taylor and Scott Kubie, at the Club Room. Please **RSVP by Dec. 9th** by emailing office@covpresatl.org with details on what you're bringing. Hope to see you there!

Music Update



Covenant welcomes Dr. James Koehler to the staff as the Director of Music and Organist. James comes to us from Northwest Presbyterian Church. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists who has served Methodist, PCUSA and UCC congregations for over 34 years. We are delighted he is part of the ministry and leadership at Covenant. Welcome, James!

A special thank you goes to the search committee headed up by Sue Colussey with Claude Cox, Kelley Day, Beth Price and Lara Smith Sitton. See below for more information.

James is also a full-time Assistant Professor at the Jamat Emory University School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics and is Assistant Director for Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Scientific Working Group for Next Generation Therapeutics with a research focus on HIV and antiretroviral therapy. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Kohler's alma mater is the University of Florida (Go Gators!) where he earned his B.S. in Microbiology and Cell Sciences with a minor in Organ Performance, and his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences. While in Florida, James sang with the Willis Bodine Chorale, the University of Florida Chorus, and Jacksonville Symphony Chorus. Since 2014, James lives in Buckhead and is a member of Collegium Vocale (an Atlanta community chorus). James' hobbies include music, reading, movies, theatre, travel, and dining.

Mission Update

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.

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



Session Update

From Your Clerk:

The Session met for a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 22 where we welcomed our new pastor Rev. Jamie Butcher to the Moderator's role. Jamie's pastor's report outlined her activities in the first weeks that she has been at Covenant - visits to members who are ill or in the hospital; meetings with staff and committee chairs; and planning the upcoming Advent season - "Attending to Advent"

Session heard a report from Building & Grounds regarding a co-project with Spanish Academy about the playground equipment that is due to be replaced in the next few months. Also in the Building & Grounds report was a new, streamlined process for reporting repair or maintenance requests through Shanita in the church office.

There was a written report on the HVAC project; a report from the Presbytery meeting in November; a letter of appreciation from Thornwell; and an update from the Nominating Committee. Session also received and wholly supported Elder Lara Smith-Sitton (Worship Committee chair) in her request to take a "holy pause" from session matters and worship duties for a few months following the death of her husband.

The Personnel Committee reported on progress being made in amending the Personnel Manual regarding leave policies. Session approved a motion from personnel to establish a temporary paid "hospitality position" for Sunday mornings through the advent/Christmas season to assist with setups, door monitoring, coffee preparation, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Turney



October 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	\$33,314.34	\$324,957.70	\$305,846.26	\$303,000.00	\$2,846.26
Non Pledged Revenue	\$1,695.40	\$18,481.48	\$25,900.78	\$19,400.00	\$6,500.78
Other Revenue (rent, etc)	<u>\$23,234.38</u>	<u>\$193,997.20</u>	<u>\$165,172.77</u>	<u>\$174,330.00</u>	<u>(\$9,157.23)</u>
Total Revenue	\$58,244.12	\$537,436.38	\$496,919.81	\$496,730.00	\$189.81
Total Expenses	<u>\$43,277.10</u>	<u>\$429,838.39</u>	<u>\$453,716.14</u>	<u>\$505,223.78</u>	<u>(\$51,507.64)</u>
Net Total	\$14,967.02	\$107,597.99	\$43,203.67	(\$8,493.78)	\$51,697.45

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

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

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
- Leo Buscaglia

How can you live God's word and teaching today?

Please consider taking up the challenge we have set.



Building & Grounds



A Quick & Easy Way to Report Work Orders

Covenant now has a quick and easy way to report maintenance and facility issues. See a light out on the property? Submit a work order. Toilet not working? Submit a work order. A/C or heat not working? You guess it ... simply submit a work order.

The work order alerts the office and the appropriate departments of the issues that needs to be addressed. The form can be accessed by clicking bit.ly/2RqstSvc.

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!



Worship Update

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 office@covpresatl.org. Many thanks!



Refreshments and Fellowship

Sunday morning coffee is a hit!
Please accept this as an invitation to join us for a little coffee, tea, lemonade, warm greetings and conversations before worship.



HAPPY



- | | |
|--|---|
| 12/1 - Joan Palmer | 12/15 - Kelly Lloyd |
| 12/2 - Maude Bradford,
Bill Elsea,
Katie Lloyd, & Kate Price | 12/18 - Edward Lloyd |
| 12/3 - Matt Allemani | 12/19 - Janet Kellet |
| 12/7 - Mandy Eidson | 12/23 - Abby O'Callaghan & Andrew Roper |
| 12/8 - Owen Lloyd | 12/24 - Brent Adams |
| 12/10 - Blair Blincoe | 12/25 - David Beale |
| 12/11 - Philip Pritchard | 12/26 - Lynne Anderson & Alan Colussy |
| 12/12 - Jewel Sanders | 12/27 - Matthew Price |
| | 12/28 - Reg Lansberry |
| | 12/29 - George McCord & Claire Manning |

December 2022

				1 9:30a Gigi's Playhouse 10a Mission Lunch Assembly (WSG) in Fellowship Hall	2 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:30a Fellowship (Westminster) 11a Worship w/ Communion 12p Session Lunch (offsite) 2p Brass Concert 8p AA Mtg	5 9:30a Al Anon 10:30a Al Anon 6p Yoga	6 7p Stewardship Meeting	7 7a Men's Bible Study 10a Worship Review Mtg (Zoom) 12:30p Staff Meeting	8 10a Women's Spirituality Group	9 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship (Westminster) 11a Worship 12p Committee Sunday (Fellowship) 4p Barbara Brown Recital 8p AA Mtg	12 9:30a Al Anon 10a Women's Spirituality Group 10:30a Al Anon 6p Yoga 6:30p Interfaith Atlanta Board Mtg	13	14 7a Men's Bible Study 10a Worship Review Mtg (Zoom) 12:30p Staff Meeting 3:30p Admin Mtg 7p Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30a Gigi's Playhouse 10a Women's Spirituality Group	16 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting	17 Covenant's Christmas Party 6-8pm Please RSVP by 12/9 
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 Sunday School 10:30a Fellowship (Westminster) 11a Worship 8p AA Mtg	19 9:30a Al Anon 10:30a Al Anon 6p Yoga	20 7p Session Meeting	21 7a Men's Bible Study 10a Worship Review Mtg (Zoom) 12:30p Staff Meeting 7p Choir Rehearsal	22 10a Women's Spirituality Group	23 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5p Candlelight Worship Service
25 CHRISTMAS <i>No Sunday School or Westminster Fellowship due to holiday</i> 11a Worship in Chapel* *No livestream 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Holiday 9:30a Al Anon 10:30a Al Anon 6p Yoga	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Holiday	28 7a Men's Bible Study	29	30 7p NA Meeting 9p AA Meeting	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE