

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens> Link
to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER MAY 18, 2025

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

SEASONED SAINTS SUNDAY

Join us as
we celebrate
our older
adults!



**Sunday, May 18
at 11:00 AM**

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Athens, Georgia



For
Presbyterian
Homes of
Georgia resi-

dents who may have a special need,
the *Caring Hands Fund* provides
financial support for medical care,
transportation, food, and other needs as
they arise. Most of all, your gift will
provide peace of mind and financial
security by helping to ensure no
resident will ever be asked to leave a
PHGA community because they have
outlived their resources through no fault
of their own.

Debit/Credit Card: To make a gift by
debit or credit card, please use the form
below. <https://www.phgainc.org/caring-hands-fund/give-now/>

Check or money order: Please make
your check or money order payable to
Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, and
mail to: Presbyterian Homes of Georgia,
P.O. Box 926, Quitman, GA 31643



Beginning Sunday, June 1 the
worship time will change to 10:00am!
(until Rally Day in August)

COOKIES AND PUNCH! Check the bulletin board and
pick a summer Sunday to sign-up to provide Punch and
Cookies in the Portico after 10:00 am church. Grab a friend
or family member and team up to host this summertime
tradition. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to
contact Rebecca Silver, Fellowship Team at 706-207-0118.
Let them eat Cookies!!! Yum!!!

A NEW BEGINNING!

Stewardship 2025 2026

Thank you to all the folks who have al-
ready turned in their pledge for 2025 –
2026. If you have not done so please
turn your pledge in now. Need a
pledge card? Let Karen know in the
office and she will get one for you.
Pledge cards are also available on the
table as you enter the Worship Center.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Erin Stoneburner for complications following surgeries for broken arm; Paige Cummings niece, Kathryn Mercer at North Georgia Medical Center with serious injuries; Family & friends of Laura Johnson (friend of Deb Millwood) who passed away, May 11; Amy Baer's Mom Katie in Kansas City with sudden nerve pain that has made her unable to walk; June Meyers & family. Next treatment scheduled for June 7; Felicia, a neighbor, diagnosed with breast cancer; John Wilkin's brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; our Country.

Congratulations to Paige Cummings, Executive Director and the Athens Wellness Center on their 35th year of providing full health care, including free medications, lab testing and visits to uninsured indigent patients. As Americans are feeling the financial twinges of change, so is the Clinic, and we truly need everyone's support as we do God's work. For more info click this link: <https://www.athenswellnessclinic.org/>

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

**Acts 16: 9-15; Psalm 67; Deut. 34: 1-22;
Psalm 109: 21-31; Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5;
John 14: 23-29; John 5: 1-9**

Financial Summary for Week #45

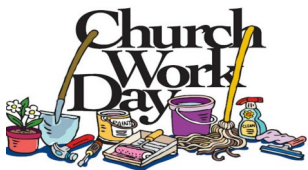
Anticipated Pledges—\$ 385,900.96

Pledges Received—\$ 394,327.08

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Caring Hands—PHGA \$200.00

Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or kwetherington@covpresathens.org or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to the Pastor.



**BUILDINGS AND
GROUNDS** is hosting
a Church wide Work
Day to take place on

Saturday May 17th. Start time 9:00am.

There will be coffee and donuts to get us started. Projects will include, but not limited to: removing brush, organizing the sheds, washing windows, power washing the porticos, and general grounds keeping.

Bring work gloves and stay as long
as you can.

You are invited to Join **NEW FREEDOM**—meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary on Friday, May 30 at 5:30pm. There will be a covered dish dinner and special speaker.

Yes New Freedom has been meeting at Covenant for 50 years and they are very appreciative to Covenant.

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank always needs brown paper grocery bags. You can leave them on the table as you go into the gathering room.
Thank you Covenant!



Save The Date

Covenant Coffeehouse

Wednesday, July 9 at 7:00pm

Covenant has talent and we want to see that on display at this year's Coffeehouse! Sign-up sheets will be posted in early June. If you already know you'd like to share your amazing talent, contact Linda Rogers (706-247-6225, lrogers@uga.edu) or Pam Knox (706-621-1970, pnknox@yahoo.com) **now**.



Family Promise Host Week—May 18-24

Covenant's next host week begins on May 18.

During this week, you may help in several ways:

There are still slots open. Check it out today...

1. *Volunteers from Covenant sign up to provide three evening meals (Tues, Wed, and Thurs) for each of the two families currently in the Program. These meals are prepared and then delivered to the families at their apartments on Magnolia Terrace.*
2. *There are sometimes opportunities to drive the families to pre-arranged appointments (using the Family Promise van) during the week.*
3. *On some Saturday afternoons, volunteers drive the families to and from the Family Promise Resource Center and spend time there with the children while parents do laundry or take a break onsite.*

To get more information about the specific opportunities during our week beginning May 18, please contact Coordinators Phil and Sallie Hale at phale50@hotmail.com or visit the Family Promise Athens sign-up sheet online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/>

Covenant PW met on Thursday, May 15, for our final meeting of the school year. Pastor

Tom led our Bible Study lesson on Environmental Justice. We hope to carry our knowledge and enthusiasm for Earth Care forward in the coming year.

We also celebrated the Birthday of PW with a special offering and dedication service.

In addition to a delightful celebratory luncheon, two of our long-time PW members, Betsy Burmeister and Barbara Burnett were honored with PW Life Membership Pins and Certificates. We are thankful for these dedicated women and their example of loving and giving followers of Christ. Our next PW Meeting will be in September.

Please join us in the Fall!





SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School
for all ages!

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, MAY 18— SEASONED SAINTS SUNDAY

USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Robyn Malone, Bill & Luanne Rigsby

LITURGIST: various

SUNDAY, MAY 25

USHERS/GREETERS: Catharine Tyson, Bill Barstow,
Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

LITURGIST: Claire Bruner

Congregational Care for May: Hilda Clark



May 18, 2025

Nancy Alila, Luanne
Rigsby, Susan Parish

May 25, 2025

Marie Ballard-Myer, Jacob Page

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson	1st Sunday	Judy Capie	2nd Sunday
Pam Knox	3rd Sunday	Tim Foutz	4th Sunday
Brian Striggow	5th Sunday		

GROUPS STEWARDS

First Monday Week—Katy Terry & Chris Wilson

Second Monday Week—Don Bower & Alex Clark

Third Monday Week—Phil Hale & Phil Koehler

Fourth Monday Week—Susan & Randy Parish

5th Monday Week—Ellen Stoneburner & June Meyers

LIBRARY CORNER:

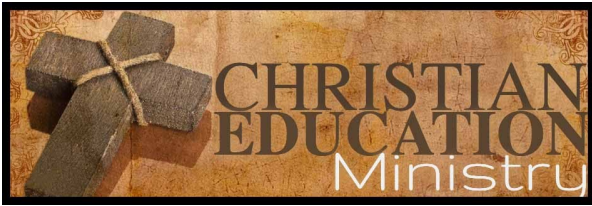
The Interior Castle by St. Teresa of Avila

Christian mystic Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) observed, "If you want to make progress on the path and ascend to the places you have longed for, the important thing is not to think much but to love much, and so to do whatever best awakens you to love. If you fall sometimes, do not lose heart. Keep striving to walk your path with integrity. God will draw out the good even from your fall..."

This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 3. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone



Congratulations to Eli Stone who passed the Eagle board on May 15 and is now officially an Eagle Scout. His project was a memorial garden on the grounds of Athens Montessori School to honor longtime teacher Tita Gatrell who passed away. It offers benches for quiet reflection and has a planter box with some perennials as well as room for students to add annuals.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class at 9:30am. (final class; will resume on Rally Day) Join us in the library for this exciting class facilitated by Pastor Tom. This class is for anyone of any age who wrestles with tough questions. We are currently reading and discussing Josh Scott’s, Bible Stories for Grown-ups. (and the Bible stories covered in it)

The “UPPER ROOM” at 9:30am. (Beginning June 1 we will meet at 8:30am) Location: “Upper Room” Classroom at the top of the ramp and Via Zoom. James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, via Zoom please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The “JOURNEY” at 9:30am (Beginning June 1 we will meet at 8:45am)
Location: “Journey” Classroom Room 216. We will begin *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*. Please read the preface and the first 2 portions of Chapter 1 (through mid-page 11) before class.

Author: Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams

Amazon Link: <https://a.co/d/hJnNZZw>

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—

Juniors (K-3rd) Class at 9:30am. Taught by Katy Arora and volunteer shepherds meet each week downstairs in the “Temple Courtyard” classroom.

Middlers (4th—7th) Class at 9:30am. Betsy Burmeister facilitates this class downstairs in the “Potter’s Workshop” classroom.

Covenant Youth Connection—Sunday, May 18—5pm dinner and a program
(final youth meeting of the year; will resume on Rally Day)



Green Dream Team News

One aim of the GDT is to stay abreast of climate issues and its effects. One source of information that addressed hunger and poverty was the Presbyterian Advocacy Hour presented by the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness. This

monthly program addresses various issues such as immigration, hunger, education and others to be announced. In April, the topic was fighting hunger and poverty. A speaker from Sudan shared information about her organization, Hope Restoration, and the efforts the organization exerts to combat hunger in an area greatly impacted by climate change. The second speaker was from upstate New York, representing Soul Fire Farms, an afro-indigenous farm and learning center dedicated to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty in our food system. For additional information about these upcoming programs, consult the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness or Catherine Gordan (Catherine.Gordan@pcusa.org). The May topic is Education. **The May meeting has been rescheduled to the Fall.** Check out the Green Dream Teams new bulletin board. It looks fantastic!

-Gloria and Jennifer

Check out the Green Dream Team table for ways to recycle batteries, plastic bags, and ink cartridges.

**COVENANT
FOOD
PANTRY**
NEEDS YOUR HELP



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

**Covenant Food Pantry
(Every Thursday)**

Sign-up to volunteer here:

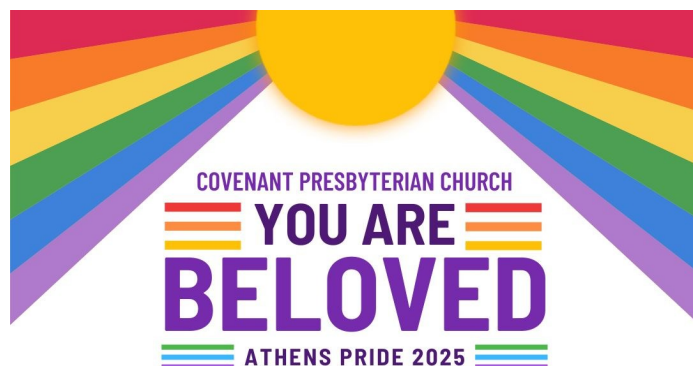
[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/409084AA5AA22A20-](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/)

[covenant#/](#)

For the month of April Covenant volunteers served 1,453 food insecure neighbors.

*Thank you Covenant and
May We All Have Enough!*

**WAYSTOSERVE
@COVENANT**



**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS AN OFFICIAL SPONSOR
OF ATHENS PRIDE + QUEER COLLECTIVE!
JOIN COVENANT MEMBERS TO MARCH TOGETHER IN
SOLIDARITY WITH OUR LGBTQAI+ COMMUNITY**



**DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 7
RESOURCE TABLE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
PARADE: 5 P.M.
LOCATION: DOWNTOWN ATHENS
SIGN UP AT QR CODE AT LEFT!**

Join Covenant for Athens Pride 2025

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an official Sponsor of Athens Pride + Queer Collective! Join Covenant members to march together in solidarity with our LGBTQAI+ community!

Date: Saturday, June 7 **Time:** 3 p.m.-10 p.m.
Location: Downtown Athens, GA

Please sign up on the sheet next to the mailboxes in the hallway to volunteer time at the table or march in the parade. Thanks!

**OUR FRIENDS AT JUBILEE PARTNERS ARE IN NEED
OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**WATERPROOF ZIP UP PILLOW PROTECTORS,
WATERPROOF ZIP UP TWIN AND FULL SIZE MAT-
TRESS COVERS AND TOILET BOWL CLEANER.**

If you would like to help with passports please make your check out to JUBILEE PARTNERS with passport in the memo portion. Mail to Jubilee Partners, P. O. Box 68, Comer, GA 30629.

Here are some general needs that your contributions will also help:

Counseling for moms and children who have experienced abuse, Clothing for new families (that they do not have in their clothing store), weekly groceries for families, medicine and vaccinations, legal fees, gas for appointments.

Contact DeLynda Tweedell for more info!




Join the
**Covenant
Birthday
Brigade**

Starting in April, our Covenant Birthday Brigade will begin making birthday cakes for children with a birthday while living at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. Please let Amy know if you are willing to bake a cake once or twice a year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
Athens Free Clinic @ Covenant

Volunteers are needed to welcome the medical team into the church building and to sit at the front desk to greet clients as they arrive for their appointments. Here is the link to sign up for all of our upcoming volunteer spots: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>




Garden Gala: Celebrating 15 Years of UGArden

Saturday, June 7, 2025 • 6-10pm • Flinchum's Phoenix, 650 Phoenix Rd, Athens, GA 30605

UGArden invites you to celebrate 15 years of hands-on student learning, fresh produce for the community, and K-12 field trips for Clarke county students at the Garden Gala! Purchase tickets at link below and help support UGArden for years to come!

<https://gail.uga.edu/events/caes/garden-gala-2025>



In gratitude for your friendship
Jubilee Partners
invites you and your family for
FREE BLUEBERRY PICKING



Please come on any 1 of the following dates:

Tuesday, June 10, 5pm-dark	Saturday, June 14, 8am-11am
Tuesday, June 17, 5pm-dark	Monday, June 23, 5pm-dark
Saturday, June 28, 8am-11am	

Jubilee is located at 427 Jubilee Road in Comer (near Mad. Co Fair Grounds)

What to bring: this coupon, picking buckets, and closed-toe shoes.

Name: _____ # in your party: _____

Your employer/church: _____

**Jubilee Partners,
Comer, Georgia...**

Is expecting a bumper crop of blueberries and has invited Covenant to come and pick on the dates that are on the coupon. Please remember your coupon, picking bucket and closed toed shoes. *(there are ants)*



Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Workshop

(a part of Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition)

What: A workshop with Anton Flores from Casa Aleterna entitled *Midwives of Justice: Hospitality and Resistance in an Era of Mass Deportation*.

When: Saturday, June 7th from 9:00 to noon

Where: Milledge Avenue Baptist Church

Contact Person: Greg Davis 306-589-5568 rawsondavis@gmail.com

What to Expect:

We'll explore the liberating theology of hospitality and resistance through Exodus 1:1-3:10 and the example of the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, who disobeyed Pharaoh to save generations and were blessed by God. We will delve into how we can name, unmask, and resist the Powers in a time of harsh injustice toward our immigrant friends. Together, we'll discuss principles to help us shift from charity to solidarity with immigrants.

A little about Anton Flores

I am the founder of Casa Alternativa, a grassroots organization grounded in justice, solidarity, and liberation that offers hospitality, support, and advocacy to vulnerable immigrants. With over twenty years of experience in intentional community and solidarity with immigrant communities, I am also a former social work professor and a certified spiritual director. Since 2019, my spouse, Charlotte, and I have served as Friend-in-Residence at Atlanta Friends Meeting, where we have hosted nearly 600 immigrants.

Covenant by the Week!

May 18, 2025

SUNDAY

9:30am Nursery
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—Seasoned Saints Sunday
12:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom
6:30pm Campus Kitchen
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
6:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
9:30am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm—5pm Athens Free Clinic
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

May 25, 2025

SUNDAY

9:30am Nursery
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Worship—
Guest Preacher, Rev. Ron Gilreath
2:30pm 12 Step Group

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Closed for Memorial Day
9:30am Soccer Camp
4:30pm Socrates Café
6:15pm Stated Session Meeting
6:30pm Campus Kitchen
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
9:30am Soccer Camp
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
6:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
9:30am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm—5pm Athens Free Clinic
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm
9:30am Soccer Camp
1:30pm—4:30pm OLLI Arts and Crafts with Mimi
5:30pm New Freedom 50th Anniversary Celebration

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group