

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER January 4, 2026

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



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING For the month of January Covenant receives the Christmas Joy offering. The offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering you prepare the way for leaders of our Church – past, present and future.

WAYS TO GIVE:

By credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give

Or through Covenant, indicate on your check for the Christmas Joy Offering.

UNDECORATE DAY 1/4/26

The Fellowship team sends wishes for a very Merry Christmas. After the holidays, we sadly must take down the decorations and our tree in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to help, this task will take a very short time. Please join us on Sunday, January 4, 2026, right after the church service to help complete this task and sip a cool beverage. May your Christmas season be filled with blessings!

Rebecca Silver and Caly DePalma,
Fellowship Ministry Team Co-Chairs

Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 5pm – 6pm

SAVE THE DATE: La Table 2026 in Athens, GA,
The signature annual fundraising luncheon for [Family Promise of Athens](#), featuring decorated tables, a meal, and a program to support homeless families, scheduled for **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 11 AM to 1 PM at the 1055 Barber Event Space**, where guests can host tables, invite friends, and contribute to a great cause.

This time of year offers many opportunities to help others, and so many families need help to share a memorable holiday with their kids. There are a multitude of opportunities for each of us to give to others and one you might consider is Family Promise.

Below are opportunities to give your time or financial support to Family Promise families:

Financially and In-Kind...

1. Donate \$25 Walmart Gift Cards - drop by Resource Center (205 Bray Street, Bldg 100) or mail to PO Box 581 Athens, GA 30603
2. Buy a \$25 Family Promise ornament for your tree or for a gift! <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/events>
3. Donate online: <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/donate-now>
4. Amazon Wish list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FIKASQITIFKK?ref =abls_nvfly_yl
5. Participate or support the Family Promise Holiday party! Join in spreading holiday cheer in our community as Family Promise hosts an afternoon of fun for families. Kids and parents will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for the family as well as participate in activities, and get pictures with Santa! Looking for a variety of gifts for different ages/genders including parents. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/>

VOLUNTEERING...

1. Volunteers are needed to help with the activities on Monday, December 22nd, from 2 pm - 5pm. We will have a holiday party here at the resource center for families in our program; there are a variety of ways to volunteer on our sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/>
2. December is an open month for the shelter, sign up for an additional meal during the month: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/>

COVENANT
“EEK” SQUAD

Join the Covenant "Eek" Squad!

We have Covenant members who sometimes need a ride or assistance with last-minute needs. This volunteer group would essentially be willing to be a member of a group-communication-thread (kind of like a prayer chain) where we can broadcast needs by phone and members can respond in real-time if they are able to help. We imagine that most of the needs in the thread will be for our senior Covenant members who may occasionally need a ride to a doctor appointment, help moving a piece of furniture, etc. Please message Amy to join the Covenant Eek Squad!

COVENANT
“EEK”
SQUAD

MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED:
COVENANT
YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY EVENINGS • 5-6:30 PM

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BRING A MEAL TO THE COVENANT YOUTH GROUP, SCAN THE CODE AND SIGN UP!



DINNER NEEDED (FOR APPROX. 15) SERVED AT 5:30 P.M., CLEAN-UP NEEDS TO BE DONE BY 6:30 P.M.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Pastor Tom's mother, Becky Buchanan recovering from a kidney infection; Warren & Arnell Combs' 20 year old granddaughter, Avery Van Note hospitalized with acute hand infection from a cat bite; Austin Cooper, friend of Brian and Valerie Stone, with a cancer diagnosis; Kirk Blumenshine, Ansley Tweedell's uncle in law, at and having rehab; Ann Anderson at home; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's sister, Brandy going through a difficult time; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; our country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Jeremiah 31: 7– 14, Psalm 147: 12-20
 Ephesians 1: 3-14, John 1: 1-9, 10-18
 Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12

Financial Summary for Week #24

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 205,992.928

Pledges Received— \$ 213,543.73

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Meals on Wheels: \$ 8,018.25



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

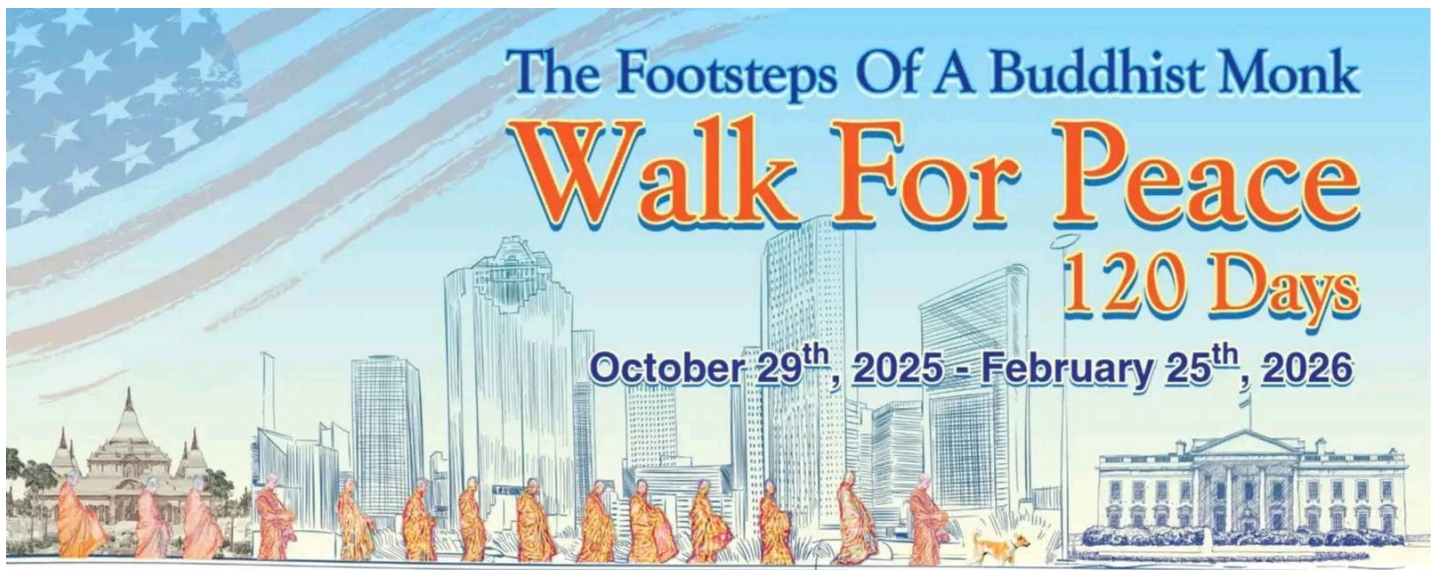
LET'S GATHER TOGETHER FOR
 OUR ANNUAL GATHERING

First Presbyterian, Monticello GA

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is still in need of brown paper bags.

Please put them on the table as you enter the gathering room. (please no egg cartons) Thank you!



Huong Dao
 Buddhist Temple
 Dhammacetiya
 Fort Worth, Texas

Austin
 Texas State Capitol

Baton Rouge
 Louisiana
 State Capitol

Jackson
 Mississippi
 State Capitol

Montgomery
 Alabama
 State Capitol

Atlanta
 Georgia
 State Capitol

Columbia
 South Carolina
 State Capitol

Raleigh
 North Carolina
 State Capitol

Richmond
 Virginia
 State Capitol

Annapolis
 Maryland
 State Capitol

White House - US Capitol
 Washington, D.C.

For more information or register to walk please contact:
 Venerable Bhikkhu Paññākāra Tuệ Nhân +1 972-859-0086
 Email: Pannakara@dhammacetiya.com

For food offering and donation please contact:
 Ms. Hạnh Thúy +1 817-262-9998
 Email: financial@dhammacetiya.com



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship –
4th Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

GREETERS/USHERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Jim & Dorothy Newland

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

GREETERS/USHERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Susan & Randy Parish

Congregational Care Coordinator for January:



**JOIN OUR
NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS**



We're looking for caring, dependable volunteers to serve in our church nursery.



Commitment: Once every four months



Times: 9:30AM 11:00AM



Where: Church Nursery Room

If you love little ones and want to support young families in our congregation, this is the perfect opportunity!

No experience necessary – just a willing heart.

For more information or to sign up contact Ellen Stoneburner at ellenstoneburner@gmail.com

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

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

GROUND'S 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



January 4, 2026 Nancy Alila,
Ellen Stoneburner, Luanne Rigsby

January 11, 2026 Lily McKay, Pam Knox,
Paula Williams



COVENANT CONNECTION

January 7, 2026

5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
 6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:15pm First Wednesday with Pastor Tom
 7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

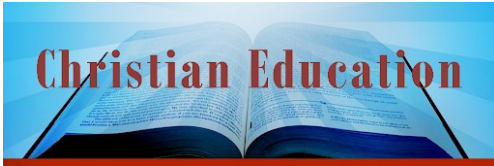
KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Join us in the library every Thursday at 2pm.

We Knit & Knot and have lots of laughs.

No experience necessary.



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” January 4th at 9:30am. We will continue our study of “troubling texts” of the Bible.

The “UPPER ROOM” January 4 at 9:30am 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” January 4 at 9:30 am. This Sunday we will begin a study on the book, *The Road to Wisdom* by Francis Collins. We will begin with an introduction to Francis Collins and a discussion of chapter 1.\

Juniors (K-3rd) Class January 4 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) January 4 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—January 4th at 5:00pm Covenant Youth Group dinner and



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)

Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>

For Christmas week the Food Pantry Distribution will be on Tuesday, Dec 23rd and New Year’s week it will be on Tuesday, Dec 30th.

The students will be gone until January 12 and we need your help to pack up and distribute food on Thursdays for Covenants Food Distribution.

Thank you!

For the month of November Covenant served 2,487 food insecure neighbors.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

UPDATE ON THE PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Due to the diligence of DeLynda and Ansley we have received digital copies of the directory photos. If you would like yours please bring in a memory stick and I will download them for you.



Covenant's Green Dream Team—Update – December 2025—

Thank you to everyone for embracing composting. Since starting this fall, we have composted over 30 five-gallon bags of food scraps and paper—an amazing accomplishment!

Unfortunately, the holiday season is not so kind to our planet. Did you know we produce 25% more waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day? Here are some simple ways we can reduce waste during the holidays:

Holiday Waste-Reduction Tips

- Wrapping paper: Avoid shiny, glittery, or flocked paper, as these often contain metal or plastic and cannot be recycled.
- Carefully unwrap gifts and save wrapping paper and bows for next year—this can even become a fun game for kids! Mix leftover paper to create colorful, whimsical gift wrap.
- Use newspaper, magazines, or paper bags, decorated with natural items like sprigs, pinecones, or dried flowers.
- Use saved wrapping paper to protect delicate ornaments during storage.
- Shred wrapping paper for use as shipping or packing material.
- Recycle all cardboard boxes.
- Shop locally and sustainably whenever possible.
- Recycle your Christmas tree, or place it in your yard or garden to provide winter shelter for birds.
- Bring ink cartridges and batteries for CHaRM recycling, and plastic grocery bags to be reused by the food pantry.

Upcoming Events – 2026

1. Athens Clean and Renewable Energy Plan Workshop

Wednesdays in January, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Covenant Library—see the flyer on the bulletin board

2. Community Discussion on Data Centers

January 6 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

First AME Church, Hull Street, Athens

3. Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) Summit: "Let Justice Grow"

Saturday, February 7 | 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Atlanta

Email skcobb588@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions about any of these events.

Inspiration:

"We are called to foster life in defiance of all that seeks to diminish it. This is not a passive observance but an active call to push your hands deep into the earth, deep into the heart of the Divine, deep into your own life, and continue to nurture that which sustains life in you, in us, and in every inhabitant of this place we call home."

-Codi Norred, Executive Director of GIPL

Happy and Peaceful Holidays to you!



Please look through these volunteer opportunities at Covenant in November and sign up if you can help!

1. DONATIONS NEEDED: Holiday Gift Cards for 25 families at Athens Area Homeless Shelter
The 25 families (including 55 children) being served by Athens Area Homeless Shelter are in need of Holiday Gift Cards for food and gifts for the children. If you are able to help, you can donate funds at this [link](#) OR drop off \$25 Walmart Gift Cards at Athens Area Homeless Shelter (620 Barber Street, Athens, GA) or leave them with Karen or Amy at the Church Office marked for "AAHS Holiday Gift Cards."

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (January): 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. Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>

3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (January): Covenant Cooks "First Tuesday" Dinners (*Alternating between Athens Area Homeless Shelter for children and families and The Table*) Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)
Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>
The students will be gone until January 12 and we need your help to pack up and distribute food on Thursdays for Covenants Food Distribution. Thank you!

5. MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED: Covenant Youth Group
Please sign up below if you are able to bring dinner to the Covenant Youth Group on a Sunday evening (approx. 15 people). Sign up at this link if you can help:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-54091633-covenant>

6. BAKERS NEEDED: Covenant Birthday Brigade
The Covenant Birthday Brigade makes birthday cakes for children with a birthday while living at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. Please email Amy at abaer@covpresathens.org if you are interested in joining the Covenant Birthday Brigade!

7. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Join the Covenant "Eek" Squad!
We have Covenant members who sometimes need a ride or assistance with last-minute needs. This volunteer group would essentially be willing to be on a group-communication-thread (kind of like a prayer chain) where we can broadcast needs by phone and members can respond in real-time if they are able to help. We imagine that most of the needs in the thread will be for our senior Covenant members who may occasionally need a ride to a doctor appointment, help moving a piece of furniture, etc. **Please message Amy to join the Covenant "Eek" Squad!**

Join us for our next meeting:
Mission & Outreach Ministry
Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026,
5pm – 6pm in the fellowship hall

Covenant by the Week!

January 4, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
Following Worship undecorate in Fellowship Hall
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth Group dinner & program

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

TUESDAY

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

11:30am—1:00pm Clean & Renewable Meeting
5:00pm Mission & Outreach Meeting
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm First Wednesday with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY—

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

January 11, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth Group dinner & program

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

TUESDAY

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
4pm Socrates Café
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting
7:00pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY

11:30am—1:00pm Clean & Renewable Meeting
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm Bible Study with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY—

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group