

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens> Link
to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER APRIL 27, 2025

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



April is
**EARTH
MONTH**

STEWARDSHIP —SUNDAY—

Sunday, April 27

at 11:00am

We will celebrate God's gifts by offering our
pledge cards during worship.

A New Beginning!

Each gift to One Great Hour of
Sharing supports efforts to relieve
hunger through the Presbyterian
Hunger Program, promote develop-
ment through the Presbyterian
Committee on the Self-
Development of People, and
assist in areas of disaster through
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
All three programs work in
different ways to serve individuals
and communities in need.

Feed the Fish! Remember to help
the children to fill their fish banks
with coins!

You can give thru Covenant or at
[https://pcusa.org/dnate/og999999-
one-great-hour-sharing](https://pcusa.org/dnate/og999999-one-great-hour-sharing)



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

*Little red gems, a vibrant sight, Sweetness bursting, pure delight. Come gather 'round, let's visit
and taste, it is strawberry festival, no time to waste!*

COVENANT'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PICNIC

5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM (bring chairs/blankets)

COVERED DISH—Bring your favorite dishes to share

We will provide: Lemonade, iced tea, coffee and water, utensils, paper plates, cups,
napkins and corn hole games.

Entertainment: The New Horizon Band will play from 5:00 to 5:30

NEW MEMBERS: We hope that you can attend and be introduced as you spend time in fellowship with your
new church family.

CONTEST: Homemade dishes that contain strawberries in any form will automatically be in the running for
one of our three Strawberry Festival prize categories—Yummiest Dish, Prettiest Dish, and Most Springlike
Dessert. Secret judges will be completing the taste test to choose the winners. **(Please have your dish on
the table by 5:30 if you want to be sure it will be part of the judging.)**

Other Items to Bring: Camp chairs and or picnic blankets, water bottles, outdoor games.



IN OUR PRAYERS: Brian Striggow's kidney recipient, Arthur Cannavino, passed away this spring. He is survived by his wife Debbie who is grieving deeply; Carolyn Hatfield and family in the passing of Larry on Friday, March 21; June Meyers & family. June completed her first chemo this week and is scheduled for treatment again on May 13; Family & friends of Christina Smashey Smith, (a friend of DeLynda Tweedell) who passed away Wed. April 16 at the age of 49. She has a daughter in 8th grade; David Knox's ex-wife, Stephanie Richards, recovering from surgery at home; Felicia, a neighbor, diagnosed with breast cancer; Zeb Hendricks will have surgery April 26 to remove cancerous tumor; Kathryn Fowler recovering from surgery on March 24; DeLynda Tweedell's dad with a cyst on his kidney, UTI, and lung infection; William Emerson, friend and mentor of Alice Rose, suffering from kidney failure; 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; students as they prepare for exams; our Country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

**Acts 9: 1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Isaiah 61: 1-3;
Psalm 90: 13-17; Revelation 5: 11-14;
John 21: 1-19**

Financial Summary for Week #42

Anticipated Pledges—\$360,174.23

Pledges Received—\$367,550.15

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$2,000.00

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.



Sunday, May 4 at 11:00am

Mark your calendars. Buildings and Grounds is hosting a Church wide Work Day to take place on Saturday May 17th. We will be sprucing up the grounds and a few other small projects. More details to follow.



You Are Invited!

East Friendship Baptist Church
480 Arch Street,
Athens, Georgia

East Friendship Baptist Church will celebrate Rev. James Kendrick's 64th pastoral anniversary on April 27 at 11:00am.

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!

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.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School
for all ages!

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, April 27

USHERS/GREETERS: Susan & Randy Parish, Caly DePalma, Katy Terry

LITURGIST: Lisa Buchanan

SUNDAY, MAY 4 - Youth Sunday

USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster, Sarah Lamb, Carol & Dennis Calbos

LITURGIST: Youth

Congregational Care for April: Catharine Tyson
for May: Hilda Clark



April 27, 2025

Lily McKay, Richard &
Marcia Page

May 4, 2025 Lily McKay, Ansley Land,
DeLynda Tweedell

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



Covenant Connection April 30, 2025

Family style meal at 5:30pm by our own Chef Patrick—
suggested donation \$3.00

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

LIBRARY CORNER:

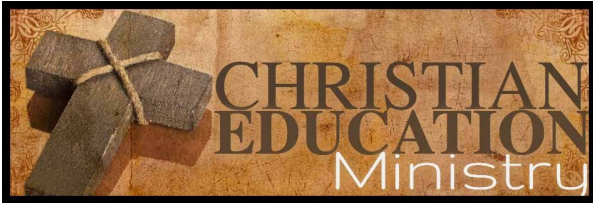
Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work, or Watch or Weep

by Tish Harrison Warren

Framed around a nighttime prayer of Compline, Tish Harrison Warren explores a season of doubt and loss, navigating themes of human vulnerability, suffering, and God's seeming absence. She writes that the power of prayer 'gave words to my anxiety and grief and allowed me to reencounter the doctrines of the church not as tidy little antidotes for pain, but as light in darkness, as good news.'

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





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The “GOD-BOTHERERS” Class at 9:30am. 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. 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

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. Starting this Sunday, April 27th we will do 3 stand-alone sessions (2 films and a videoed talk from YouTube; participants will watch these on their own) This Sunday, April 27 we will discuss **The Danger of a Single Story** by Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She says, “The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.” Her 2010 talk is nineteen minutes long and available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg?si=NfW1tafzw7ejvIOq>. Click on the link and watch this short YouTube video before we meet, then come and share your thoughts with one another. Beginning May 18 we begin **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times**

Author: Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams **Amazon Link:** <https://a.co/d/hJnNZZw>
Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

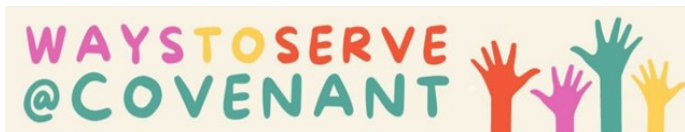
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—

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, April 27—5:00pm Road Pick-Up Project and dinner

Green Dream Team News – The Green Dream Team met April 13, 2025 in the church library following the Sunday Worship service. There were eight members present. Gloria Pylant and Barbara Burnett shared information from The Clean and Renewable Energy Act Workshop in which they had participated. Five GDT members had attended the five session workshop held in the library of our church. The purpose of the workshop was to keep the community aware of the resolution passed by the city-county government in 2019. Many of the proposals in the act have been funded by our local SPLOST Act. The electric buses driven by the city transportation system. an integrated data system to monitor energy usage in city -county facilities, solar installations in selected city-county facilities and loans for energy efficiency remodeling for lower income homes are all part of proposals in the act. It was exciting to hear of these efforts to combat climate change here in our city and county, The business session included plans for a Minute for Missions in the April 27 church service, an update on buckets placed in the alcove to collect plastic shopping bags for the Food Pantry and plans to add additional buckets for recyclable materials to be taken to Charm as well as plans for a field trip to Charm. The next meeting of the GDT will be **May 18** after the church service. *Gloria Pylant for the Green Dream Team*



Or click on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0548A9A82FA1FA7-56481463-cedar/21990313#/>

COVENANT FOOD PANTRY

NEEDS YOUR HELP



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Covenant Food Pantry
(Every Thursday)

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

Thank you to all who bring their plastic bags to the Pantry. It is a great help. Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*



Pre-Order your Covenant, "You Are Beloved" T-Shirt by May 14! Covenant is an official PRIDE sponsor and we are forming a group from Covenant to march in the Athens Pride Parade on Saturday, June 7.

Click on the link below to preorder and you can leave a check on Amy's desk (\$16.25 @ add \$2 for 2X, \$3 for 3X, etc) Please fill out this [order form](#) by Wednesday, May 14.



Thank You to the PW from Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Project Safe and Family Promise! The Presbyterian Women of Covenant and of First Presbyterian Church created these beautiful Easter Baskets for the 28 children at Athens Area Homeless Shelter, 6 children at Project Safe and 4 children at Family Promise. All three agencies reported that the baskets were such a heart-warming gift for their families with children. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity to our most vulnerable little neighbors, Covenant Presbyterian Women!



Join Covenant Cooks: First Tuesdays! Every first Tuesday of the month Covenant members join together to provide a meal for the students at The Table @UGA or for the families with children at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. If you would like to join us by making a side dish or a dessert, it's supper easy! Just sign up at the link below and be sure to note which location we are serving on the month you sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>



| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ann Anderson | 12 Marcia Verbrugge | 23 Corky Callaway | 31 Ssemwa Kisaalita |
| Arnelle Combs | 13 Catharine Tyson | 24 Dick Zimdars | |
| Karen Wetherington | 14 Louie Boyd | Ntumwa Kisaalita | |
| Hannah Baird | Teresa Mauldin | 25 Carol Calbos | |
| 2 Elsie Bothwell | Rich Kimmich | Emily Ballard-Myer | |
| Linda VanSickle | 15 David Boardman | 26 Tim Bemisderfer | |
| 3 Alex Clark | 16 Scott Rigsby | Luke Shannon | |
| Wesley Whitehead | 19 Annie Meyers | 27 Joan Prittie | |
| 6 Evan Knox | Ansley Land | 28 Spencer Baird | |
| 12 Abby Horvath | 22 Kent Silver | Eric Zimdars | |



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

Size 8 boys clothes, 1 nightstand (bedside table), 1 very small living room end table, a few sturdy bookshelves of various sizes, car seat for 8 month old, pillow protectors, plastic/waterproof mattress covers that sip all the way around (twin, full, and queen), dish soap (small bottles) 2-3 mops with sponge bottoms, dish towels, wash cloths, diaper wipes, 2-3 headlamps (for residents walking around property at night)

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#/>

Highlights of the April 22, 2025, Stated Session Meeting

Kathryn Fowler opened the meeting with a devotional based on Romans 12 and the communion of saints. We are one body with many different parts, and each member belongs to God and to each other. We are to be devoted to each other and honor one another.

Luanne Rigsby reported that with the passing of Larry Hatfield, our new membership total is 217. Family Promise expressed its thanks for our donation of \$650.00.

As of the end of March, pledges received and non-pledged income exceeded the anticipated income, and expenditures were less than expected. Giving Sunday is April 27th. After reviewing the pledges, the Finance Ministry Team will prepare a finalized budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year which begins July 1.

Building and Grounds has selected Lewis Company Floors to replace the tile flooring in the fellowship hall, kitchen, and hall in front of the food pantry, pending available funds. The Finance Ministry Team will discuss funding for the flooring at their May 1st meeting.

Session discussed the problem of excessive trash being left on the property by passers through. The first step to address this will be obtaining a security assessment for the church property.

The Athens Clarke Planning Department recommended that the property next door to Covenant be rezoned to Commercial-Neighborhood and the county commission will consider it at their May 6th meeting. Tom Buchanan, Caly DePalma, and Kathryn Fowler will try to meet District 8 County Commissioner, Carol Myers, to discuss the rezoning.

Karl Barnett and Kathryn Fowler will be Covenant's commissioners to the NEGA Stated Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, GA, on May 20, 2025. There will be two hybrid town hall meetings at Oconee Presbyterian on May 1st at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. to discuss an anti-racism policy the commissioners will be voting on.

Building and Grounds are planning a workday for May 17th. Help is needed!

Brian Herndon will visit all adult church school classes for feedback.

Covenant Youth and adult leaders are attending the Montreat Youth Conference June 1 – 7. We will be joining the youth group from Milledgeville Presbyterian, and all are staying at the Bowden house.

Session approved beginning the summer schedule on June 1st with worship starting at 10:00 a.m. We will revert to the 11:00 a.m. worship time on Rally Day, August 17, 2025.

The Spring Picnic/Strawberry Festival will be May 4th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. New members will be hosted and introduced by "old" members.

May 11th is the date for the High School and College Graduate Reception honoring Delaney Braswell, George McMaster, Carrie Tweedell and Micah Shannon.

This year's Pride Parade and Pride Fest will be a combined event held on June 7th with the parade at 5:00. Covenant hope to have a float.

Tom is planning a summer sermon series entitled "Summer Saints" June 22nd through July 27th.

Session approved Tom's request for time off May 23-26, 2025. Following discussion, motion passed. Rev. Ron Gilreath will be guest preacher.

Covenant by the Week!

April 27, 2025

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

9:30am Nursery
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
5:00pm Bells of NEGA in Worship Center
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

1:30pm OLLI—Craft & Chat with Mimi
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
5:30pm Covenant Connection
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:15pm Adult Bible Study
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am—11am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1pm Covenant Food Distribution
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

**SET UP FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL—SPRING PICNIC
FOR MAY 4 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AND KITCHEN**

10:30am 12 Step Group

May 4, 2025

YOUTH SUNDAY

9:30am Nursery
9:30am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
12:30pm 12 Step Group
NO Covenant Youth
5pm Strawberry Festival/Spring Picnic
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall
5:00pm Bells of NEGA in Worship Center
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
5:30pm Covenant Connection
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
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FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group