

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, Aug 17, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

# THE COVENANTER

## August 17, 2025

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



### Sunday, August 17, 2025

**9:00am RALLY DAY BREAKFAST**

**HELP NEEDED:** Please sign-up to bring some delicious breakfast items to share as we learn about the upcoming opportunities at Covenant. Muffins, biscuits, sweet or savory breads, egg casseroles, fruit, etc. would all be enjoyed. The Fellowship team will provide coffee, juice, tea and water to drink, along with plates, napkins, cups and utensils. We look forward to breaking

bread together. Food can be dropped off at 9:00 am Sunday morning or at 4:00 pm Saturday afternoon during set-up.

**Set-up for Rally Day will begin at 4:00,** Saturday afternoon, 8/16. Many hands make light work. Please drop by to help set up the tables and chairs so that we can sit together for breakfast and learn about Covenant's new year.

**9:30am – 10:30am** Presentations about all of Covenants Programs

\*\*\*\*\* **11:00am WORSHIP** \*\*\*\*\*



**RETIREES**  
**Covered Dish Luncheon!**

**Tuesday, September 9 at 12:30pm**

Join us for good food and Sophia Waters will instruct us on Chair Yoga! Bring a covered dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.



**WEDNESDAYS!**

**COVENANT CONNECTION**  
beginning August 20, 2025

**5:30pm** with a family style meal prepared by our own Chef Patrick (donation \$3 each)

**6:00pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**6:15pm** Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

**7:15pm** Adult Choir Rehearsal

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Family and friends in the passing of Ann Mathis, Tues., Aug. 12th; Clarice Davis' family & friends in the passing of Shiela Land, Friday Aug. 8th; Cheryl Gazlay recovering at home from brain surgery; Pam & Bruce Butts' grandchildren and their mother; The Bowen family facing difficult decisions; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's step-mom, Clarice Davis, with severe hip and knee pain, hoping for a hip replacement; DeLynda Tweedell's sister Brandy going through some difficulties; June and Joe Meyers as June recovers from surgery and her next chemo treatment September 2; John Wilkins' brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; Carol & Charlie Huber who have moved to an assisted living facility in John's Creek; Mary Anne & Ellen Ferguson with the loss of their Mother; peace in the Middle East; Teachers & students as they return to school; our Country.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

**Jeremiah 1: 4-10, Psalm 71: 1-6,**

**Isaiah 58: 9b-14, Psalm 103: 1-8,**

**Hebrews 12: 18-29, Luke 13: 10-17**

**Financial Summary for Week #06**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 51,498.23

Pledges Received— \$ 50,485.51

*Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!*

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

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**  
**A MARCH OF FAITH**  
*IN RESISTANCE TO MASS DEPORTATION*



MY FAITH SUPPORTS IMMIGRANT FAMILIES  
GOD'S LOVE HAS NO BORDERS  
FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE IMMIGRANTS  
DEPORTATIONS WITHOUT DUE PROCESS IS IMMORAL  
SPLITTING FAMILIES IS AGAINST MY RELIGION  
MASS DEPORTATION IS NOT DIVINE LAW  
HATRED FOR IMMIGRANTS IS NOT HOLY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> 2:00pm**

We will gather across the street from the School District, 595 Prince Avenue, and march to the Federal Courthouse. (US Post Office on Hancock)

**For more information call 706-589-5568**

*Sponsored by the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition and Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens*



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**9:00am Covered Dish Break-fast in the fellowship hall**

**9:30am – 10:30am  
Presentation about Covenant Programs**

**11:00am Worship**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 RALLY DAY**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Jim & Sandy Whitney, Susan & Randy Parish

**LITURGIST:** Jim Newland

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Dennis & Carol Calbos, Caly DePalma, Katy Terry

**LITURGIST:** Luanne Rigsby

**Congregational Care Coordinators for Aug. & Sept:** Susan Parish, Dell Whitehead

**OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING**

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


**GROUNDS 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




**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](mailto:ellenstoneburner@gmail.com)



**August 17, 2025—Rally Day**  
Richard & Jacob Page  
**August 24, 2025**  
Lily McKay, Ellen Stoneburner, Sandy Whitney

**KNITTERS & KNOTTERS**—Every Thursday, 2 p.m. in the Library Join us for a great time of fellowship and ministry as we gather to make blankets, hats, scarves, pillows, etc. for those in need. Everyone is invited and beginners are welcome.

**LIBRARY CORNER**

*Sacred Nature: Restoring Our Ancient Bond with the Natural World*

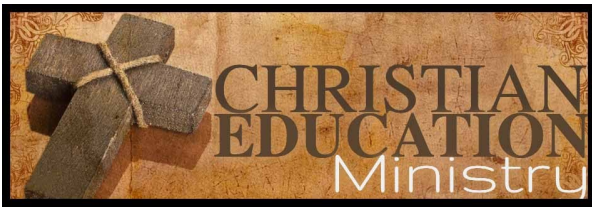
by Karen Armstrong

“Since the beginning of time, humankind has looked upon nature and seen the divine...In this short but deeply powerful book, the bestselling historian of religion

Karen Armstrong re-sacralizes nature for modern times.” This book can be found at Bay G, Shelf 4.

—Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

**“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class (will resume August 24th)**

**The “UPPER ROOM” August 24 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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com).

**The “JOURNEY” class** will resume next week, 8/24, and will begin with an introduction to the new book, **Defending Democracy From its Christian Enemies** by David Gushee. Make arrangements on your own to acquire the book and join us in the Journey Classroom on 8/24 at 9:30.

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class August 24 at 9:30am**

**Middlers (4th—7th) August 24 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection**— will resume in the fall!

### **Introducing *Midstream*: A New Fellowship Group for the “In-Betweeners”**

Life doesn't slow down in mid-life – if anything, it flows faster, deeper, and sometimes a little more chaotically. Whether you're navigating careers, caring for kids or aging parents, finding your way through transitions, or simply seeking friendship and meaningful connection, you're not alone.

We're starting something new at Covenant: a social and spiritual fellowship group for those of us in the “midstream” of life. Think: casual gatherings, good conversation, shared snacks, maybe a book or a glass of wine, and always a place to belong. Join us for an **organizational conversation** to help shape what *Midstream* will become!

We'll announce soon a day, time, and place to dream, share ideas, and connect. Whether you're a longtime member or just dipping your toe into Covenant life, you're warmly invited. And feel free to bring a friend – because building community is what we're all about.

Questions? Contact Caly DePalma ([calyd44@gmail.com](mailto:calyd44@gmail.com)) or Pastor Tom Buchanan ([pastortom@covpresathens.org](mailto:pastortom@covpresathens.org)).



# Church Photo Directory

## Covenant Presbyterian Church Picture Directory

Members & Friends - Be a Part of Our Family Album!

Join us for professional photo sessions for new church directory.

**Sign up on the sheet next to the mailboxes to pick your time for pics:**

**September 18, 3pm-8pm**

**September 19, 3pm-8pm**

**September 20, 10am-7pm (with lunch break 1pm-2pm)**

**September 21, 1pm-6pm**

There will be 20 minute sessions starting on the hour.

Bring your smile, your family, and your church friends!  
Every participant will receive a complimentary directory photo.

**Don't forget! Sign Up Today!**

***Please check your contact information on the directory in the gathering room for accuracy. Make any changes as necessary.  
Thank you!***

### **JUBILEE PARTNERS needs these Items right now:**

- Plungers
- Fitted queen sheets or queen sets. Cotton preferred or mix
- Queen waterproof mattress covers (zip around)
- Quilted mattress covers, single, double and queen
- Dressers (3)
- Book shelves, medium and small
- Coffee table/ end table
- Small dehumidifiers
- Swim suits and swim shirts for kids : boys 3T, 5T and 8 and girls size 5 or 6. Any child size swim suite is helpful.
- Girls shorts size 5 and 6
- Boys shorts size 5 and 6



Want to know more about Jubilee Partners?  
Check out their website: [jubileepartners.org](http://jubileepartners.org)

Contact DeLynda Tweedell for more information. Thanks!



**Covenant Food Pantry (weekly) Food distributed each Thursday to food insecure neighbors.** Sign up [here](#) to volunteer for an upcoming shift at the weekly Covenant Food Pantry!

For the month of July Covenant served 2,418 food insecure neighbors.

Thank you to those who give of their time and finances. *And may we all have enough.*

### **Athens Free Clinic @ Covenant**

Our Fall Clinic dates have been set and we need front desk volunteers. Sign up [here](#):  
All Mondays: Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oc. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17

**Covenant Cooks: First Tuesday Meals at AAHS and The Table** We will continue serving dinner on the First Tuesday of the month at either The Table @ UGA or Athens Area Homeless Shelter. Sign up [here](#) to help!

**August Collection for CHaRM Teacher Reuse Store** Leave donations of school supplies and materials that could be useful to teachers on the table outside the church office. Members of the Green Dream Team will deliver them to the CHaRM Teacher Reuse Store during the month.

**September Diaper Drive for Athens Area Diaper Bank** Stay tuned for details...in September, Covenant will be Collecting Diapers all month-long for the Athens Area Diaper Bank

### **Covenant Saturday Build with Habitat**

Next Date: September 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., lunch provided  
Sign up [here](#) to join us on 9/27.

### **Athens Access to Justice Legal Pop-Up Clinic @ Covenant**

Saturday, Oct. 25

Sign up [here](#) to volunteer for a shift that morning.

**Covenant Birthday Brigade** This is a new group that started up in April 2025 preparing birthday cakes for children experiencing homelessness at Athens Area Homeless Shelter. *Please let Amy know if you would like to be a part of the Covenant Birthday Brigade.*

### **East Side Schools Outreach: Gaines Elementary and Cedar Shoals High School**

Stay tuned for collections for the Cedar Shoals Care Center, a holiday gift card drive in November for families in need at Gaines, and to donate meal items for teacher appreciation events at both schools.

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR TEXAS

As you know, there was severe flooding over the July 4th weekend in Kerr County, Texas. Massive rainfall resulted in the Guadalupe River rising 26 feet in 45 minutes. Flash flood warnings did not reach all in the path of the torrent, and at this point 136 people are confirmed dead, including at least 27 campers and counselors from Camp Mystic, a Christian camp for girls. There are still three people who remain missing.

The Coordinating Team of the Presbytery has authorized a \$5000.00 contribution to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on behalf of the flood victims and the recovery effort, and we hope that each of our congregations will prayerfully consider how they might aid in this work as well. Donations can be made through this link :mail to:

<https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000191-disaster-relief-us-flooding>

Thanks in advance for your partnership in serving others through the love of Christ.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



### Groovy Nights 2025 | Retro Lip Sync Battle

Are you ready to boogie  
down and support a  
great cause? Groovy

Nights returns to the VFW on Saturday, September 6th, 2025! This year's funky event features the biggest Lip Sync Battle in Athens! We'll also have a dance floor with all the greatest hits from the 70s, 80s, and 90s so grab a partner and show off your best moves. But the best part? All proceeds from the event will go directly to **Project Safe**, providing much-needed support to those affected by domestic violence. So, dust off your disco ball and join us for a night of fun and fundraising. Support our Covenant folks who are on Team #1 Dojang Dawgs - *Joan Prittie and Bert & Marie Ballard-Myer*. Spread the word and invite your friends - the more, the merrier! Together, we can make a difference and dance the night away. We'll see you Saturday, September 6th at the **VFW!**

For more information and to vote click on this link:

<https://www.project-safe.org/ways-to-donate/groovy-nights/>

### Presbyterian Women's WORKSHOP – August 23, 2025

**Eatonton Presbyterian Church  
307 N Madison Ave, Eatonton, GA**

**TIME FOR REGISTRATION: 9:30am**

**TIME FOR WORSHIP TO BEGIN: 10:00am**

If you haven't registered YET -- NOW would be a good time to do it. Click on this link to register:

Bobbie Pate, Mission Haven Rep for Georgia, will give a presentation about Mission Haven during lunch. We hope this will better inform you of the future of our missionary housing as well as give you an opportunity to ask questions.

Click on this link for Information and Registration Form: *scroll to the last page for the registration form. They are due by August 17.*

<https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/newsletter/PW-Fall-Workshop-2025.pdf>

## Green Dream Team News - August 2025

### Happy End of summer

Please remember to bring your used ink cartridges and batteries; we will take them to CHARM for recycling. And bring your plastic grocery bags to be reused by the food pantry. Also, for the month of August, remember to bring donations of school supplies for teachers to pick up at CHARM. Please bring any school supplies, gently used or new, such as crayons, notebooks, construction paper, office supplies, art supplies, and markers to the donation table in the hallway.

In these challenging times where we have seen the rolling back of most of the climate friendly policies that would have helped us to be good stewards of our beautiful planet, it is even more important that we, as individuals, do all we can. Here are a few fairly easy steps you can take in your kitchen:

Switch to cloth towels - The EPA estimates that paper towels and tissue create about 7.6 billion lbs. of waste per year.

Use plant-based trash bags- The EPA estimates that traditional plastic bags can take up to 1000 years to decompose.

Use beeswax food wrap

Participate in Meatless Mondays

Compost! Athens Clarke County has a FREE Food Scraps Drop off program - according to the website, you can compost "anything that used to be alive" including hair, meat, used napkins and even laundry dryer lint (was it ever alive?).

For more ideas and details go to <https://www.oneearth.org/101-climate-solutions-you-can-do-at-home/> or email me at [skcobb588@gmail.com](mailto:skcobb588@gmail.com).

### The Covenant Green Dream Team Invites you to a Green Dream Team Event!

What: En-Roads Workshop with Laura Lyer, Chair and Founder of Southern Sustainability Institute in Athens, GA

To explore meaningful climate solutions and strategies for us as individuals and as a church. To learn more about Micah's Creek Project, a local project with Habitat for Humanity and the Southern Sustainability Institute.

When: September 28, 2025, 12:15pm  
Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

Details: Lunch will be provided - Sub Sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, drinks

Suggested donation of \$10.00 for lunch

RSVP: Jennifer Frey: [jenofrey@gmail.com](mailto:jenofrey@gmail.com) by Sept. 21, 2025



# Covenant by the Week!

**August 17, 2025**

**SUNDAY - RALLY DAY**

9:00am Covered Dish Breakfast  
9:30am—10:30am Programs  
11:00am WORSHIP  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

**TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

10:00am NEGA Meeting in Library  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
5:30pm Covenant Connection-Family Dinner  
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal  
6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom  
7:15pm 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  
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution  
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters  
7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**August 24, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
11:00am WORSHIP  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

**TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

4:00pm Socrates Café  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
6:15pm Stated Session Meeting  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

10:00am NEGA Meeting in Library  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
2pm—4pm OLLI Class in Fellowship Hall  
5:30pm Covenant Connection-Family Dinner  
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal  
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**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

(Office closed September 2 for Labor Day!)