

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, Aug 24, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER

August 24, 2025

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



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RETIREES Covered Dish Luncheon! Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 12:30pm

Join us for good food, stimulating conversation, and a wonderful program by Sophia Waters, a physical therapist for 31 years. We will use our chairs to assess our balance and ways to decrease our risk of falling, a common occurrence among retirees. Wear comfortable clothing. Bring a dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.

Visitor Luncheon

**Visitors' Luncheon
Sunday, September 14 - immediately following worship
Fellowship Hall @ Covenant Presbyterian Church**

For all of you who are frequent or occasional visitors to Covenant Church:
The Congregational Care Team invites you to an informal Visitors' Lunch at 12:15 after worship on Sunday, September 14 in the Fellowship Hall! Join us to learn more and ask questions about Covenant and its many opportunities for fellowship, growth, and service. Hope to see you for lunch on the 14th!

IN OUR PRAYERS: Pam Knox and family in the passing of her mother, Nancy Naber August 20 in Michigan; 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; Bill Lindstrom recovering at home from emergency surgery; Cheryl Gazlay recovering at home from brain surgery; 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 #07

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 60,081.27

Pledges Received— \$ 61,142.02

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 or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to the Pastor.

HOW TO GIVE. There is a online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office or give in person. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Congratulations to Heather & Brian Rosso on the birth of their son Bowen William Rosso. Happy grandparents are Dedee & Steve Bowden. And great grandmother Jere Bowden welcoming her 6th great grandchild.

Bells of Northeast Georgia

Saturday September 13 at 4:00pm

at Ashford Memorial Methodist Church

1 South Main Street, Watkinsville

The new handbell piece commissioned in Sally Boardman's memory, "Holy!, Holy!

Holy! Lord God Almighty!" will be premiered at this concert. Free Admission.

Come celebrate with us!

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 21st 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

COVENANT YOUTH CONNECTION

SUNDAYS
**5-7
PM**

**STARTS
SEPT. 7!**

INSPIRED AND EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT, THE COVENANT YOUTH CONNECTION IS GUIDED BY OUR ABIDING VALUES OF:

WELCOME

Providing a safe and welcoming space where all youth, regardless of background or gender identity, are included, accepted, and celebrated as they are.

BELONGING

Fostering a deep sense of connection and belonging in which youth feel loved and supported.

COMPASSION

Encouraging youth to live out their faith through acts of compassion and justice, reflecting Christ's Love for the world.

DISCIPLESHIP

Guiding youth, by word and example, along a journey with Christ in which they hear and respond to the Good News in their daily lives, and grow into young adults of faith and character.

Our Vision is to build an inclusive, nurturing fellowship of young people, connected to God and one another, and called into a life-affirming and life-sharing walk with Christ through friendships, spiritual growth, and service.

**SPECIAL
OUTINGS**

CELEBRATIONS

**MISSION
PROJECTS**

**PRESBYTERY
GATHERINGS**

YOUR COVENANT ADULT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor Tom Buchanan • Bert Ballard-Myer • Brian Herndon • DeLynda Tweedell



MORE INFO:

PASTORTOM@COVPRESATHENS.ORG



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

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

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

USHERS/GREETERS: Alan Edwards, Judy Capie, Jim Newland, Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

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

NURSERY MINISTRY
August 24, 2025
 Lily McKay, Ellen Stoneburner, Sandy Whitney
August 31, 2025
 Lily McKay, Ansley Land, DeLynda Tweedell

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.



COVENANT CONNECTION
Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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

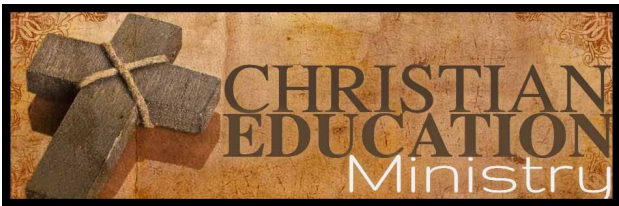
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

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 best-selling 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



All classes begin at 9:30am

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet August 24 at 9:30 am

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.

The “JOURNEY” class @We 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— see information on page 3

Midstream: A New Fellowship Group for the “In-Betweeners” **Organizational Conversation – after worship on Sunday, September 21** **Fellowship Hall**

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 right after worship on Sunday, September 21, to help shape what *Midstream* will become! We will dream, share ideas, and connect!

Questions? Contact Caly DePalma (calyd44@gmail.com) or Pastor Tom Buchanan (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

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**

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/>

sept 6, 2025
GROOVY NIGHTS LIP SYNC BATTLE

PRESENTING TEAM 1, THE DOJANG DAWGS!

Support Project Safe's mission of empowering survivors of domestic violence (& their pets) to find peace and happiness in their homes and relationships.

VOTE FOR TEAM 1
\$1 = 1 vote!

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.

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 by Sept. 21, 2025



Covenant by the Week!

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

2pm—4pm OLLI—(Dan Zins) in Fellowship Hall

4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic

6:00pm Campus Kitchen

6:30pm Scouts

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

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—upstairs

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 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

August 31, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

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 CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's (eastside)

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 First Wednesday Program 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 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group