

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, Aug 31, 2025 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER August 31, 2025



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

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.

Whether you are an interested seeker, or visiting different churches, or you've even been considering making Covenant your church home, this lunch is a great chance to explore what your next steps might look like.

You may RSVP for lunch by simply responding to pastortom@covpresathens.org.

Hope to see you for lunch on the 14th!

Don't forget to sign up for your picture for the new directory. See Page 7 for more info! And don't forget to check your contact info in the notebook on the table in the gathering room!



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.

Presbyterian Women News: Our Bible Study Books have arrived! They are in the Covenant Copy Room, by the Office. We ordered some Regular and some Large Print books. So choose your book (Regular \$11; Large Print \$20) and begin reading!

Covenant PW's first meeting will be on **Thursday, Sept 18, 9:30am in the Covenant Library**. Gloria and Jennifer will lead the first lesson of our PW/ Horizons Bible study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. Refreshments will be provided. Please read the Introduction and Lesson #1 for our discussion. We will also begin discussing our PW Projects for the year. Join us for fellowship, study, and service! Hope to see you there! For questions, see Gloria or Jennifer, or email Jennifer at jenofrey@gmail.com.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Pam Knox and family in the passing of her mother, Nancy Naber August 20 in Michigan; Jim & Dorothy Newland in the passing of her sister in law, Sally Sams; Wanda & Larry Minton's daughter, Kristi Craven, recovering from emergency surgery; Steve Rathbun having arm surgery Wed. Sept. 3 at St. Mary's and for his elderly father; Pam & Bruce Butts' son, Chris Butts having back surgery, September 11; 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; 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; peace in the Middle East; all those affected by the recent school shootings; our Country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Jeremiah 2: 4-13, Psalm 81: 1, 10-16,

Proverbs 25: 6-7, Psalm 112,

Hebrews 13: 1-8, 15—16, Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Financial Summary for Week #08

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 68,664.30

Pledges Received— \$ 72,190.66

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!

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

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



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

USHERS/GREETERS: Alan Edwards, Judy Capie, Jim Newland, Paige Cummings
LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

USHERS/GREETERS: Judy Capie, Bill Rigsby, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell
LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney

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



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



August 31, 2025
 Lily McKay, Ansley Land,
 DeLynda Tweedell
September 7, 2025
 Lily McKay, Luanne Rigsby

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

Leaving My Father's House: A Journey to Conscious Femininity
 by Marion Woodman

Since it was written over thirty years ago, this book has become a classic for those wishing to explore the nature of patriarchal culture and its alternatives. The book uses three women's stories as examples of seeking wholeness and balance. This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 2. — Church Librarian Valerie Stone



COVENANT CONNECTION
 Wednesday, September 03, 2025

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

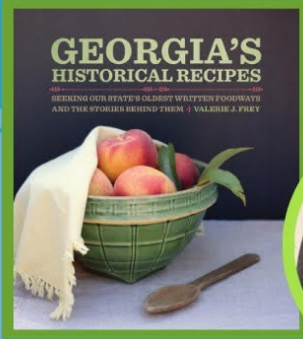

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm First Wednesday Program facilitated by Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

GEORGIA'S HISTORICAL RECIPES

with the author, Valerie Frey

Copies will be available for purchase!

3:00pm
Sunday, September 21
Appleton Auditorium




- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Frey | 16 Mary Barnett |
| Dennis Calbos | 20 Pastor Tom Buchanan |
| 3 Beecher Mathes | 23 Paula Williams |
| 4 Adam Brooks | 25 Janet Smith |
| 8 Shari Cobb | Chaz Rooks |
| 9 Nami Kisaalita | 27 Asher Hill |
| 12 Joyce Placek | 28 Alice Herndon |
| Steve Follin | Christina Noel Reaves |

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



COVENANT DIAPER DRIVE: DONATE HERE!

DONATE DIAPERS FROM THIS AMAZON WISHLIST:



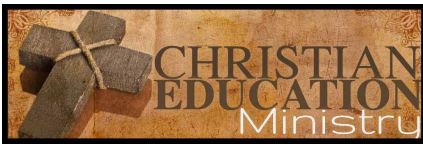
DONATE DIAPERS ONLINE
ADD "COVENANT PRES" DURING CHECKOUT



National Diaper Bank Network

Donate online at: bit.ly/donatediaperonline

Amazon wish list:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/176C3V6BF74VV/?ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2



All classes begin at 9:30am

“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet August 31 at 9:30 am

The “UPPER ROOM” August 31 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” August 31 at 9:30 am. We will continue our discussion of **Defending Democracy from its Christian Enemies** by considering Chapter 1, *Defining and Defending Democracy*, pages 7-25. Jim McMinn will be our discussion leader. Thank you, Jim!

Juniors (K-3rd) Class August 31 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) August 31 at 9:30am

Covenant Annual Child Protection Training

The Cottage will be facilitating our annual training for all volunteers for Covenant's children and youth programs again this year. Covenant will provide a boxed lunch.

Please RSVP to Amy at abaer@covpresathens.org by Oct. 14:

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025

12:30-2:30 p.m. The Cottage 3019 Lexington Rd, Athens, GA 30605

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).



Find Your Space with Girl Scouts—Athens Region I

Date: Thursday, September 11 at 6:00pm

Where: Covenant Fellowship Hall

Girl Scouts®

For Daisy, Brownie, Junior Cadette, Senior, Ambassador, & Adults

Join us for a fun and engaging event where families can learn all about the Girl Scouts!

While adults discover the many benefits of Girl Scouting—including leadership development, community service, and lifelong friendships—girls will blast off on a space-themed adventure. They’ll take part in hands-on, edible activities that are both fun and educational, sparking curiosity and creativity. It is the perfect opportunity to explore what Girl Scouts is all about and see how it inspires girls to reach for the stars! This is not a drop-off event. Adults must attend with their girls.



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/>

FIRST WEDNESDAYS

EVERY 1ST WED OF THE MONTH

First Wednesdays @ Covenant

“Responding to the Challenge of Christian Nationalism” – with Pastor Tom

Wednesday, September 3, 6:15–7:15 PM

Christian nationalism is one of the most pressing challenges facing the American church today—confusing political ideology with the gospel of Jesus Christ. How do we as Christians faithfully respond? How can we resist this distortion of faith both as individuals and as a congregation committed to justice, inclusion, and the way of peace?

Join Pastor Tom for an hour of biblical and theological grounding, thoughtful conversation, and practical steps. Together we will explore how Covenant can embody a different witness—rooted in love of neighbor, gospel courage, and public faithfulness.

“First Wednesdays” is a new feature of Wednesday Night Covenant Connection! On the first Wednesday of each month, we will feature a special program in the Fellowship Hall, instead of having Bible Study in the Journey Classroom (which will be held on all other Wednesday nights). It will highlight speakers from the congregation and from the wider community, and offers a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and then the program at 6:15 PM!



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!

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





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

1. DONATIONS NEEDED: August Collection for Cedar Shoals Care Center

I got a call from Mrs. Gay at Cedar Shoals that they have only 4 containers of deodorant left in the Care Center and it's an urgent need. If you are able to help, you can order through this link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_3

2. DONATIONS NEEDED: September Collection for Athens Area Diaper Bank

Covenant is collecting diapers for the Athens Area Diaper Bank and there are three ways to contribute:

1. **Bring a package of diapers** and drop them off at the collection table in the hallway at church (*all sizes of diapers and pull-ups accepted as well as open packs*).
2. Click below and order diapers from our **Amazon Wishlist** to be delivered directly to the church: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/176C3V6BF74VV/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2
3. Click below to **donate diapers online** (*be sure to enter "Covenant Presbyterian Church" at checkout*): <https://www.athensareadiaperbank.com/buy-diapers-online.html>

3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 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: 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#/>

5. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)

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

6. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Habitat Saturday Build Group, Sat. Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., lunch provided

Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-57590519-covenant#/>

7. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant hosting Athens Access to Justice (AATJ) Legal Pop-Up Clinic, Sat. Oct. 25, 8 a.m. to noon

Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-57590490-athens#/>

Covenant by the Week!

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

4:30pm—5:30pm Mission & Outreach Meeting

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

September 7, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am WORSHIP

2:30pm 12 Step Group

5:00pm—7:00pm Covenant Youth Connection
dinner & program

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

1:30pm—4:30pm Athens Free Clinic

4:00pm—7:00pm Athens Free Clinic

6:00pm Campus Kitchen

6:00pm Scouts

7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

7:00pm Bells of NEGA

TUESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

12:00pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

4:00pm Socrates Café

6:00pm Campus Kitchen

6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting via ZOOM

7:00pm Stamp Club Meeting in FH

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

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

4:00pm B & G Ministry Team Meeting

6:00pm Girl Scouts Family Night in FH

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group