

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Sept. 07, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

# THE COVENANTER

## September 07, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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; Trish Engram, friend of Bert & Marie Ballard-Myer having complicated surgeries at Emory, Sept 8th; Steve Rathbun recovering from arm surgery 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's next chemo treatment is Sept. 23;; 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 18: 1-11, Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18,  
Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, Psalm 1,  
Philemon 1: 1-21, Luke 14: 25-33**

**Financial Summary for Week #09**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 77,247.35

Pledges Received— \$ 85,316.99

*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.*

**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](http://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 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

**LINNENTOWN—THE MUSICAL** Sept. 12—14 at the Classic Center Go to this link for tickets and more information:

<https://www.classiccenter.com/events/detail/linnentown-the-musical-lin0912>



### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School  
for all ages

11:00am Worship

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Judy Capie, Bill Rigsby, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

**LITURGIST:** Lisa Buchanan

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Robyn Malone, Stephanie Cahill, Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb

**LITURGIST:** Jim Anderson

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](mailto:ellenstoneburner@gmail.com)



**September 7, 2025**  
Lily McKay, Luanne Rigsby

**September 14, 2025**  
Lily McKay, Susan Parish, Don Bower

**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**  
*Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand* by Jeff Chu

“In his late thirties, Jeff Chu quit his job as a magazine writer and found himself at Princeton Theological Seminary’s ‘Farminary—a twenty-one-acre working farm where students cultivate the earth while examining life’s biggest questions. Now he unpacks what he learned about ‘creating good soil,’ both literally and figuratively, drawing lessons from the rhythms of growth, decay, and regeneration that define life on the land.” This book can be found at Bay G, Shelf 4. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone



**COVENANT CONNECTION**  
 Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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

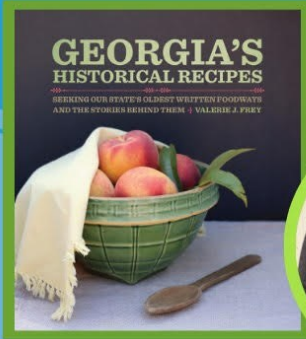
**6:00pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal

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

**7:15pm** Adult Choir Rehearsal

# GEORGIA'S HISTORICAL RECIPES

with the author,  
**Valerie Frey**



Copies will be available for purchase!

3:00pm  
Sunday, September 21  
Appleton Auditorium



Find Your Space with Girl Scouts—Athens

Date: Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6pm

Girl Scouts® Covenant Fellowship Hall

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.

**SUNDAYS  
5-7  
PM**

# COVENANT YOUTH CONNECTION

**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!**

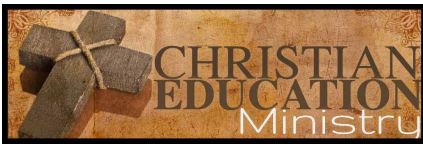
DONATE  
DIAPERS  
FROM THIS  
AMAZON WISHLIST:

DONATE  
DIAPERS  
ONLINE  
ADD "COVENANT PRES"  
DURING CHECKOUT

National Diaper Bank Network

Donate online at: [bit.ly/donatediaperonline](https://bit.ly/donatediaperonline)

Amazon wish list:  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/176C3V6BF74VV/?ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_2](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 Sept 7 at 9:30 am**

**The “UPPER ROOM” Sept 7 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” Sept 7 at 9:30 am.** Read Chapter 2, **Alternatives and Threats to Democracy**, pages 26-42. Bruce will be our facilitator for this important conversation

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class Sept 7 at 9:30am**

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

**Covenant Youth Connection**— see information on page 4

### **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](mailto: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](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!

## 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. Sandy Whitney took the donations for the teachers and the recycle items (batteries and print cartridges) to CHaRM for us. Thank you to all who donated!

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





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](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](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!

**September 7, 2025**

**September 14, 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

**SUNDAY -**

**9:30am Sunday School for all ages**  
**11:00am WORSHIP**  
**12:15pm Visitor Luncheon in Fellowship Hall**  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
5:00pm—7:00pm Covenant Youth Connection  
*dinner & program*  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

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**

6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
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**  
6:45pm Citizens Climate Lobby in Library  
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  
3pm—8pm HERITAGE PHOTOS IN LIBRARY  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

1:30pm—4:30pm OLLI  
3pm—8pm HERITAGE PHOTOS IN LIBRARY  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10AM—7PM HERITAGE PHOTOS IN LIBRARY  
10:30am 12 Step Group