

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 at 11am**: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER

September 14, 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.

FIRST GRADE BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 28 is a special day for our First Graders—Uchendu Carter-Enyi

The children will have a special tour of the Worship Center, during which time will be spent talking about baptism and communion. Our first graders will be introduced to the congregation during the service and will be presented with their very own copy of our Presbyterian Hymnal, Glory to God. (If you know of any first graders that are not listed above and would like to be included please let the church office know.)

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!

Congregational Meeting Sunday September 28 immediately following worship for the purpose of receiving the report from the Nominating Committee and to elect four (4) candidates for the office of elder.

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 Rhaskell 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:jnofrey@gmail.com). Books are (Regular \$11; Large Print \$20) and begin reading!

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).

IN OUR PRAYERS: Pam Knox and family in the passing of her mother, Nancy Naber August 20 in Michigan; Wanda & Larry Minton's daughter, Kristi Craven, recovering at home; Trish Ingram, friend of Bert & Marie Ballard-Myer recovering from surgeries, Sept 8th; Steve Rathbun recovering from arm surgery and for his elderly father; Pam & Bruce Butts' son, Chris Butts recovering from 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; Cheryl Gazlay recovering at home from brain surgery; peace in the Middle East; all those affected by the recent shootings; our Country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

**Jeremiah 14: 11-12, 22-28, Psalm 14,
Exodus 32: 7-14, Psalm 51: 1-20,
I Timothy 1: 12-17, Luke 15: 1—10**

Financial Summary for Week #10

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 85, 830.38

Pledges Received— \$ 93,706.99

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 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!

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

CHECK IT OUT! the mail boxes have been put in alphabetical order. Please look for your new placement.

Thank you to my wonderful office volunteers that made this possible.

Covenant Presbyterian 2024-2025 Treasurer's Report

The 2024-2025 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2025. The following is a summary of income and expenses for the year.

While \$445,930 was pledged in tithes, \$471,230.62 was received. The excess pledged tithes of \$25,300 was primarily the result of a single generous end-of-year gift. Unpledged tithes of \$14,305.92 were received while \$17,289 was budgeted. Note that while unpledged gifts are expected, the exact amount specified in the budget is generally used as a mechanism for balancing the budget. Rents and other minor income totaled \$2781. Total income from all sources was \$488,317.54 with \$465,219 budgeted, representing an income surplus of \$23,098.54.

Total expenditures for the year were \$440,415.87 against a budgeted amount of \$465,219, resulting in unspent funds of \$24,803.13.

Reserve operating funds in the amount of \$150,000 have been kept in interest bearing certificates of deposits. The accrued interest is shown in financial reports by the increasing amounts held in the accounts but is not currently accounted for as income. The total interest accrued in these accounts over time is \$3,839.02. For the current fiscal year the amount held in these accounts has been increased to \$200,000 and an effort has been made to maximize interest. Discussions continue on the matter of accounting for the interest as income.

The net amount of excess income and unspent budgeted funds is \$47,901.67. Generous giving and thoughtful stewardship of funds has left the church in the black for the 24-25 fiscal year and positions us to embrace opportunity in the coming year.

Sincerely submitted,

Brian

Brian Striggow, Treasurer



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

USHERS/GREETERS: Randy & Susan Parish, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

LITURGIST: Claire Bruner

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



September 14, 2025

Lily McKay, Susan Parish, Don Bower

September 21, 2025

Lily McKay, Marie Ballard-Myer, Brian Herndon

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

Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times by Katherine May

“Sometimes you slip through the cracks: unforeseen circumstances like an abrupt illness, the death of a loved one, a breakup, or a job loss can derail a life. These periods of dislocation can be lonely and unexpected. For May, her husband fell ill, her son stopped attending school, and her own medical issues led her to leave a demanding job. Wintering explores how she not only endured this painful time but embraced the singular opportunities it offered.” This book can be found at Bay G, Shelf 6. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone



COVENANT CONNECTION

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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

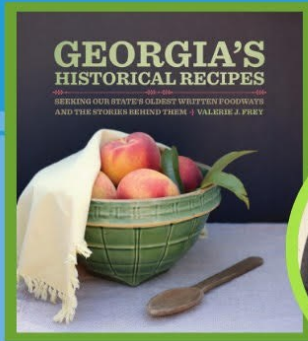
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

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



COVENANT DIAPER DRIVE: DONATE HERE!

DONATE DIAPERS
FROM THIS
AMAZON WISHLIST:



DONATE DIAPERS
ONLINE
ADD "COVENANT PRES"
DURING CHECKOUT



Donate online at: [bit.ly/donatediapersonline](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/176C3V6BF74VV/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2)

Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/176C3V6BF74VV/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2

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.

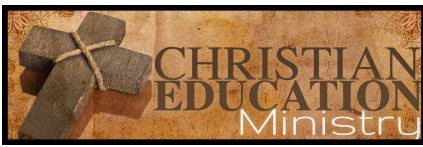
DISCIPLESHIP
Guiding youth, by word and example, along a journey with Christ in which they hear and respond to the Good News in their daily lives, and grow into young adults of faith and character.

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



All classes begin at 9:30am

“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet Sept 14 at 9:30 am

The “UPPER ROOM” Sept 14 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” Sept 14 at 9:30 am. Read Chapter 3, **Authoritarian Reactionary Christianity**, pages 43-58. Tim has volunteered to get our conversation going on this key topic (Thanks, Tim!!).

Juniors (K-3rd) Class Sept 14 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) Sept 14 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—Sept. 14 at 5 pm (see 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 by Oct. 14:

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025

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

Our next opportunity to host the families housed in the Family Promise program is **September 28 to October 5**. As hosts in the Family Promise program, Covenant is responsible for hosting four times per year, and the ways that we serve can change a little each time a family moves in or out of the program. We currently have two families living in the Magnolia Terrace apartments, and we are seeking a few folks who would enjoy preparing a meal and delivering it to these two families. Covenant will deliver meals on Tuesday (Sept. 30), Wednesday (Oct 1), and Thursday (Oct. 2), between 6:00 and 6:30 PM.

We presently have a family of three (mom, dad, and 5-week-old baby), and a family of two (mom and her 16-year-old son). We look forward to our week of hosting and hope to meet all five of our guests in the program. The 16-year-old boy will be going to homecoming soon, and he is very excited about that. We may also get to take a peek at that new baby in the family of three. Both families have so much to be excited about as life unfolds around them.

If you would like to jump in and help with meals for our upcoming week as hosts, please follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/>. If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Julie and Don Bower. 706-296-5050 (Julie's cell). We will be in touch with each one who sign up, to make sure you have all the info that you need.



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 September 2025

Come join us for a Field Trip to the Recycling Center in Athens and we will take a tour and learn about what can be recycled, how and where it goes! We will meet at the Church at 1:30 on Friday, September 19th. We will carpool from Church. Reach out to Shari Cobb, Jennifer Frey or Jere Bowden if you have any questions about this educational and fun trip!

Remember to bring ink cartridges and batteries for us to take to CHaRM for recycling and bring plastic grocery bags to be reused by the food pantry.

Have you heard about the Annual Athens "Vulture Festival"? This program, on Saturday, October 25th from 8-12 is held at the ACC Landfill and highlights the importance of vultures, "nature's clean-up crew" and the excellent work done by the landfill to reduce waste and compost. This program will feature tours of the composting and landfill operations, a bird walk with the Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, a raptor program and other fun and educational activities. For more information, go to: <https://www.accgov.com/6785/Vulture-Festival>

Recycling tip for September: Use reusable coffee filters instead of paper and have better tasting coffee!

You can make a big impact with a small change by switching from paper to reusable coffee filters. Paper filters and coffee grounds sent to landfills release methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, and most paper filters come wrapped in single-use plastic packaging. By choosing reusable filters, you reduce landfill waste, cut your carbon footprint, and lessen the demand for tree harvesting. Plus, coffee often tastes better with metal mesh filters, which let more natural oils and fine grounds into your cup for a richer, more flavorful brew. And if possible, compost your coffee grounds – they're nitrogen-rich and make excellent compost material. Learn more here: <https://southernsustainabilityinstitute.org/brew-better-why-its-time-to-switch-to-reusable-coffee-filters/>

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 or sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes by September 21



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!

September 14, 2025

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 Worship Ministry Team Meeting
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 *PASTOR TOM'S BIRTHDAY!*

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

September 21, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am WORSHIP
1:00pm—6:00pm Heritage Photos in library
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm—7:00pm Covenant Youth Connection
dinner & program
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

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

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
2:00pm—4:00pm OLLI
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
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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