

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER

September 28, 2025

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

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*.

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.

The Elder nominees are: Deb Millwood, Haylee Nunn, Jack Pannecoucke, Kirche Rogers (see insert)

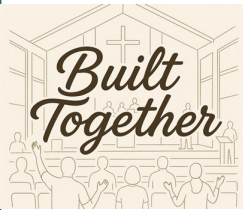
FIRST WEDNESDAYS

EVERY 1ST WED OF THE MONTH

Responding to Christian Nationalism (Part II): Practicing Faithful Conversations
Wednesday, October 1, 6:15-7:15 PM @ Covenant Connection

With Pastor Tom Buchanan

Last month we named the challenge of Christian nationalism. This month, we'll practice concrete skills for responding with curiosity, compassion, and clarity in our own relationships. Through simple role-plays and guided reflection, we'll learn how to ask before arguing, listen for deeper needs, share a three-sentence faith testimony, and set kind boundaries. Join us for this one-hour practicum of courage and grace!



Built Together: A Vision of Welcome & Belonging

A Sermon Series - Sunday Worship, October 5 to November 23

In the heart of this Fall, you are invited into a journey of discovery and renewal as we explore our new vision for ministry. Rooted in *Ephesians 2:19-22*, this eight-week sermon series will trace how God is building us into a household of welcome and belonging - in which worship is our heartbeat, education forms disciples, care and support build beloved community, and justice and service make Christ's love visible. Along the way, we'll also consider the "crossbeams" of communication, volunteers, facilities, and resources that hold the structure together. Join us each Sunday, October 5–November 23, as we seek to be built together into a dwelling place for God, for the blessing of our neighbors and the healing of the world!

World Communion
Sunday
Bread and Grapes
Reception
Sunday, October 5

Bring a Loaf. Share the Table. Celebrate Christ.

Join us in a global celebration of unity in Christ with over two billion Christians around the world. To mark this special day, we invite you to bring a loaf (*all kinds*) of your favorite bread and contribute it to a beautiful display in the church chancel.

You may deliver your bread to Fellowship Hall around 5 pm Saturday, October 4th, or Sunday, October 5 during Sunday School, or before worship.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ann Anderson at Piedmont in ICU; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Asher Hill having kidney transplant October 1; Amy Baer's father, Kenny Tillman undergoing cancer treatment; Alice Roses' friend, Ken Martinez; Trish Engram, friend of Bert & Marie Ballard-Myer recovering from surgeries, Sept 8th; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; 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, having hip replacement surgery Oct 1; June Meyers having a CT scan 10/6 and possibly nor more chemo; 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; our country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

**Jeremiah 18: 18-9:32A: 1-3a, 6-15, Psalm 91,
Amos 6: 1a, 4-7, Psalm 146, I Timothy 6: 1-19,
Luke 16: 19-31**

Financial Summary for Week #12

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 102,996.46

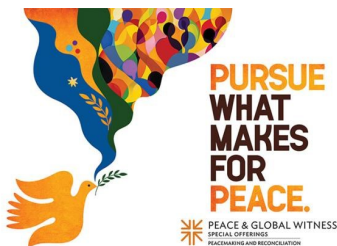
Pledges Received— \$ 103,346.99

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!



The Peace & Global Witness Offering

Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. *Make your checks payable to Covenant with P&G in the comment section or online at pcusa.org/peace-global or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444.*

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.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is still in need of brown paper bags. Please put them on the table as you enter the gathering room. (please no egg cartons) Thank you!





SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

USHERS/GREETERS: Caly DePalma, Katy Terry, Sandy & Jim Whitney

LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5—WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

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 28, 2025
Lily McKay, Adam & Rebecca Rea

October 5, 2025
Lily McKay, Joan & Hannah Baird,
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.

LIBRARY CORNER

The Rested Soul
by Tessa Afshar

“Are you feeling overwhelmed as anxiety and discouragement pound at the door of your heart? Do you long to find solace and safety? Author Tessa Afshra has been there. Dipping into the lessons she learned from battling anxiety in her own life, she takes you on a 30-day devotional journey that helps to cultivate a rested soul.” This book can be found at Bay D, Shelf 4. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone



COVENANT CONNECTION
Wednesday, October 1, 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

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

take them a meal

Meals are needed for Bill Lindstrom, 335 Milledge Terrace, Athens 30606. Sign up today to take Bill a meal at <https://takethemameal.com/LVBN6127>

Recipient Last Name: Lindstrom Password: Lindstrom

Please no beef or pork. For more information contact DeLynda Tweedell, Susan Parish or Dell Whitehead.

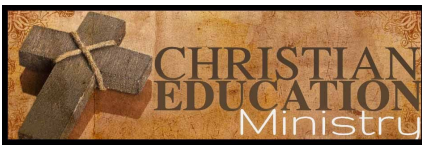
SAVE THE DATE!

This year's **Fall Picnic** is set for Oct 26th from 5:30 pm – 8 pm, rain or shine. Phil Hale has offered once again to cook up some amazing BBQ and Coleslaw, so you don't want to miss it! Please plan to bring a side or dessert to share. We hope to be outside if it's not too chilly, so bring a camp chair or 2. If you can also help with set up or take down, please let Caly DePalma know at calyd44@gmail.com. Many hands make light work.

ATHENS AREA DIAPER BANK

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 Sept 28 at 9:30 am

The “UPPER ROOM” Sept 28 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 28 at 9:30 am. We will discuss **Chapter 4—Secular Revolutions and Religious Counterrevolutions, pages 59-71**. This foundational chapter will help prepare us for the next few weeks when we will consider seven other countries where democracies have been weakened under the impact of authoritarian reactionary Christianity.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class Sept 28 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) Sept 28 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—Sept. 28 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

FAMILY PROMISE! 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.



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/>



Covenant sells Fair Trade Organic Coffee. This coffee helps small farmers from around the world get a fair price for their efforts. We sell it (at the moment) for \$10/bag for 10-12 ounces (cheaper than Jittery Joe's last time I looked), in either whole beans or ground. If you see a flavor that looks interesting let me know and I can order some. Sandy Whitney\



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 28, 2025

SUNDAY - FIRST GRADE BREAKFAST

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am WORSHIP

12:15pm Green Dream Team Luncheon in FH

2:30pm 12 Step Group

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

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

46:00pm 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 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

October 05, 2025

SUNDAY - WORLD COMMUNION 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

4pm—7pm Athen's 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

12:30pm Lunch Bunch at De Palma's (eastside)

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

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

7:00pm Covenant Book Club

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

11:00am Charlie Martin's Memorial Service