

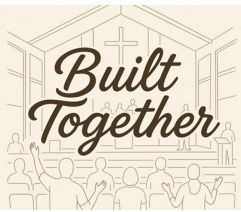
Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANT October 12, 2025

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

Midstreamers! Join us for a "brown bag lunch" Social gathering on Sunday, Oct 12th after the 11 am worship service. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, and Tea, Lemonade, and Water will be provided.

Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
Tuesday, October 14 at 12:30pm
Join us for a good time of fellowship, food and program. We will hear from a representative from Micah's Creek (Athen's Area Habitat for Humanity). Bring a friend and your favorite dish to share. Beverages will be provided. *See You There!*



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!

Sunday, October 5 Covenant received 13 new members:

Christopher, Lia, Claire and Cullen Bruner, Sammi Godwin, Cathi Lancaster, Tim & Suzi Mersmann, Robert Meyer, Jason, Addie, Jacob and Quinton Roberts.

Welcome them to the Covenant family.

Ministry Team of the Month - Buildings and Grounds

The buildings and grounds team is all about taking good care of our church property - keeping everything maintained and making improvements where needed. We want to create a space that feels welcoming and uplifting for everyone who walks through our doors. So as part of the team or occasionally help with a project we are always looking for volunteers to join in to help.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Ann Anderson at PVA; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Asher Hill recovering well from kidney transplant; Amy Baer's father, Kenny Tillman undergoing cancer treatment; Alice Rose's friend, Kim Martinez; Trish Ingram, 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; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's step-mom, Clarice Davis, in rehab, and DeLynda as care giver; June Meyers waiting for results from CAT scan, possibly no 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 29: 1, 4-7, Psalm 66: 1-12,
2 Kings 5: 1, -3, 7-15c, Psalm 111:2,
2 Timothy 2: 8-15, Luke 17: 11-19**

Financial Summary for Week #13

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 111,579.50

Pledges Received— \$ 113,029.64

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 an 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!

NE Georgia Presbytery is looking for someone who would be interested in serving a 4-year term as a Georgia Lodge Representative from our Presbytery. Covenant has a long history with the Georgia Lodge at Montreat, and so if you are interested or have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study on Thursday, Oct 16, at 9:30am, in the Covenant Library. Our Bible Study Lesson (#2), titled, Mary, "of a Certain Village", will be led by Sandy Whitney. Refreshments will be provided by Alice McMaster and Kay Brooks. Thank you, Sandy, Alice, and Kay! And thank you all for filling the volunteer spots for PW lessons and refreshments for the year!

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.*

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

OCTOBER 12, 2025

USHERS/GREETERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

OCTOBER 19, 2025

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

LITURGIST: Jim Newland



**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

YOU ARE INVITED!

We would like to invite you to join the Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at 4 pm at Covenant. We need additional hands to help carry out the many fun events designed to bring us together and to help us get to know one another. Our next event is the Fall Picnic.

We look forward to working with you as we create many activities.


Questions? See Rebecca Silver, Chair

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



October 12, 2025
Dell Whitehead, Pam Knox
October 19, 2025
Lily McKay, Ansley Land,
Stephanie Cahill

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, October 15 & 22

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

PARTNERSHIP: WHY? HOW?

ECCB x PCUSA NETWORK ONLINE CONFERENCE, Sunday, October 19, 2025.
2 PM EST / 8 PM CT. LINK: <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>

Two well-versed speakers with extensive Ecumenical partnership background will discuss Partnerships: "why" and "how". The conference will be approximately 90 minutes and in English. The program will include Devotions, brief overview ECCB PCUSA Partnership, Partnership Speeches, Questions and Answers, Closing announcements and prayer. ALL are welcome.

IVANA NOBLE is Professor of Ecumenical Theology at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague, where she is currently Director of the Ecumenical Institute and a chair of the Charles University Centre of Excellence: Theological Anthropology in Intercultural Perspective. She is a former president of Societas Oecumenica. For five years, she oversaw a research project investigating Orthodox Theology in the West. As well, she is the author of numerous books on Ecumenical relations. Apart from her academic work, she is a priest in the Hussite church, she accompanies retreats, paints and writes poetry.

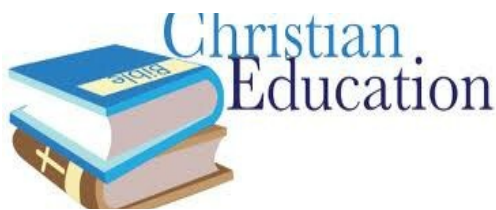
HUNTER FARRELL is Director of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative, was a missionary in DR Congo and Peru, Director of World Mission for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and professor of mission and intercultural studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. While living overseas, he received numerous groups and studied complex and nuanced interactions between visitors and hosts. He wrote articles on congregational mission engagement, and co-authored "Freeing Congregational Mission: A Practical Vision for Companionship, Cultural Humility and Co-development." Hunter is married and has three children.



Charles
University



● www.etf.cuni.cz
f @etfunikarlova
@etf_unikarlova



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet October 12 at 9:30 am

The "UPPER ROOM" October 12 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” October 12 at 9:30 am. we will discuss **Chapter 6, The Politics of Cultural Despair in Germany, 1853-1933, pages 84-95**. Dick and Paula will be our capable discussion starters this week and we are grateful for their leadership.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class October 12 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) October 12 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—October 12 at 5 pm with dinner and a program

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.

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025

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



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.

Congratulations to our own Pastor Tom on his 32nd Ordination Anniversary on October 24th!

**KAREN WILL BE ON VACATION
OCTOBER 14–21 AND WILL RETURN
WEDNESDAY, OCT 22.**





Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center @ Covenant

Tuesdays from Noon - 3 p.m.

Location: Covenant parking lot near Gaines School Road

What is the Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center @ Covenant?

Starting next week, Covenant is partnering with Bigger Vision of Athens by hosting their Mobile Day Center in our parking lot. The staff of Bigger Vision of Athens will park their van at the entrance to our parking lot and distribute bag lunches, water, and hygiene kits to our neighbors experiencing homelessness on the East Side of Athens.

Why is Covenant doing this?

It is well-known that the East Side of Athens is a "Services Desert" for people experiencing homelessness. Our hope is that this new Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center will satisfy some of the basic needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness while entrusting that effort to the professionals at Bigger Vision who understand the unmet needs and are qualified to assist them. This partnership also puts parameters around the help provided on our campus so that over time people living unsheltered begin to understand that services are only provided at Covenant for those 3 hours per week.

What other community partners will come alongside this effort and are in support of it?

The Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center has the support of Athens PD Behavioral Health Unit, our East Side ACC Commissioner and Advantage Behavioral Health. In addition, the Athens Homeless Coalition has been actively seeking partnerships with faith-based groups to make sure people living unsheltered on the East Side are known and getting needed services. The hope is that the Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center will be a place to connect folks with appropriate services from other direct service providers in Athens like Advantage Day Center, Athens Wellness Clinic, and etc.

Green Dream Team News October 2025

The GDT had a great trip to the ACC Recycling Center. We learned about exactly what can be recycled and how it is done. We also had a very informative event about our changing climate featuring Laura Iyer of the Southern Sustainability Institute on September 28th. Thanks to all who came!

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.

Are you interested in learning how Data Centers will affect local communities and how we can influence their impact in sustainable and equitable ways? If so, please come to this workshop: **Data Centers in Our Backyard –a Community Workshop on Advocacy, Policy and Fairness**. It will be held on Tuesday, October 7th from 4-5:30 at the First AME Church on Hull St. in Athens. To RSVP, email RSVP@sosu.in.org or call 706-613-0122.

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>

Please reach out to Shari Cobb, Jennifer Frey or Gloria Pylant if you have any questions about GDT updates.



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

1. DONATIONS NEEDED: Halloween Treat Buckets for Athens Children Experiencing Homelessness—This month we are assembling treat buckets for the children being served by Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Family Promise and Project Safe. Because of their situations, the children being served by these programs are not able to go out and enjoy the typical "Halloween Trick-or-Treat Experience" like most children. Please order from this [LIST](#) to be delivered directly to the church to be assembled into buckets during Covenant Connection later this month. You can also pick up these items at your nearby store and leave them on the Collection table outside the church office.

2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Athens Access to Justice (AATJ) Legal Pop-Up Clinic @ Covenant, Sat. Oct. 25, 8 a.m. to noon
Sign-up to volunteer [HERE](#).

3. BAKERS NEEDED: Covenant Birthday Brigade
The Covenant Birthday Brigade makes birthday cakes for children with a birthday while living at the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. Please email Amy at abaer@covpresathens.org if you are interested in joining the Birthday Brigade!

4. 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](#).

5. 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](#).

6. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)
Sign-up to volunteer [HERE](#).

For the month of September Covenant Volunteers served 2,115 food insecure neighbors. Thank you Covenant and May we all have enough!



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*

Covenant by the Week!

October 12, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am WORSHIP

12:15pm Midstream Brown Bag Luncheon in FH

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

12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

4:00pm Socrates Café OLLI—Mimi

6:00pm Campus Kitchen

6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

4:00pm Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting

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 PW Bible Study

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution

2:00pm Knitters & Knotters

7:00pm Worship Ministry Team

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

October 19, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am WORSHIP

12:30-2:30 p.m. The Cottage 3019 Lexington Rd

2:30pm 12 Step Group

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

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

1pm—4pm & 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

10am NEGA Presbytery Meeting at Sautee Nacoochee

6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs in WoRM Rooms

6:00pm Campus Kitchen

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

4:00pm Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting

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

FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

1:30pm—4:30pm Crafts & Talk—OLLI

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

8am—12noon Legal Clinic in Fellowship Hall

10:30am 12 Step Group