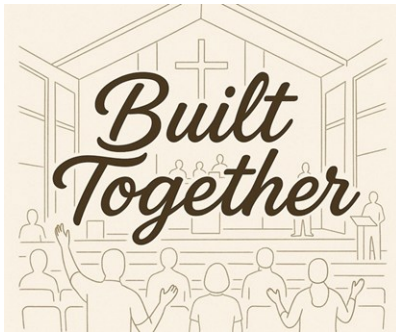


Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for
Sunday, Oct. 19, 2025 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER October 17, 2025

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



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!



DIAPER DRIVE WINNER!

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2025 DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK
 DIAPER DRIVE CHAMPION
 CATEGORY: CHURCH

DIAPERS COLLECTED
 4,485



Thank you for your extravagant generosity collecting diapers for the Athens Area Diaper Bank! You have truly helped to keep babies clean, dry and healthy in our community!

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 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 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 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!

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 am Worship

**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 and 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

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.

OCTOBER 19, 2025

USHERS/GREETERS: Robyn Malone, Bob Brewster, Sarah Lamb, Stephanie Cahill
LITURGIST: Jim Newland

OCTOBER 26, 2025


USHERS/GREETERS: Carol Calbos, Dennis Calbos, Randy Parish, Susan Parish
LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

OPEN & CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday
 Judy Capie 2nd Sunday
 Pam Knox 3rd Sunday
 Tim Foutz 4th Sunday
 Brian Striggow 5th Sunday

GROUND 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
 Fifth Monday Week–Ellen Stoneburner



October 19, 2025
 Lily McKay, Ansley Land, Stephanie Cahill

October 26, 2025
 Sandy Whitney, Larson and Ada Brock



**COVENANT CONNECTION
Wednesday, October 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.

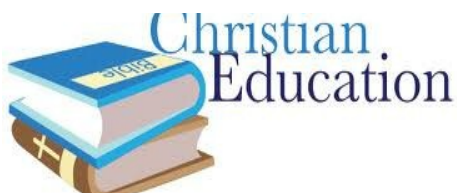
HUNTER FARRELL is Director of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative, was a missionary in DR Congo and Peru, Director of World Mission for the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and professor of mission and intercultural studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. While living overseas, 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 19 at 9:30 am

The "UPPER ROOM" October 19 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 19 at 9:30 am. we will discuss **Chapter 8, Authoritarian Reactionary Christianity in the Recent Politics of Poland, pages 104-113.** Randy will be our capable discussion starter this week and we are grateful for his leadership.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class October 19 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th–7th) October 19 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection–October 19 at 5 pm with dinner and a program

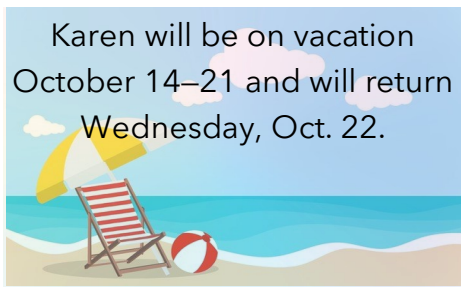
SAVE THE DATE!

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.



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*

Congratulations to
Pastor Tom on his 32nd Ordination Anniversary
on October 24th and
Amy on her 16th Ordination Anniversary
on November 1!



Karen will be on vacation
October 14–21 and will return
Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center

@ COVENANT
TUESDAYS, NOON-3 P.M.



What is the Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center @ Covenant? 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 create a space to connect folks with appropriate services from other direct service providers in Athens.

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.

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 look through these volunteer opportunities 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!

7. MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED: Covenant Youth Group this Fall

Please consider bringing a meal to share with the Covenant Youth Group! You can sign up [HERE](#).

Covenant by the Week!

October 19, 2025

October 26, 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 Na-
coochee
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 Athens Access to Justice Legal
Pop-Up Clinic in Fellowship Hall
10:30am 12 Step Group

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
5:30pm Fall Picnic (rain or shine)
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

6:15pm Session
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am-4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
**5:00pm Covenant assembly of Halloween
Treat Buckets for children being served by
Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Family Prom-
ise and Project Safe (Fellowship Hall)**
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
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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