

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

# THE COVENANTER October 26, 2025

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

## JOIN US!

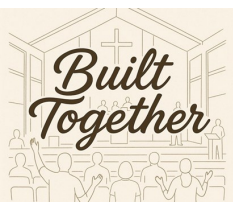
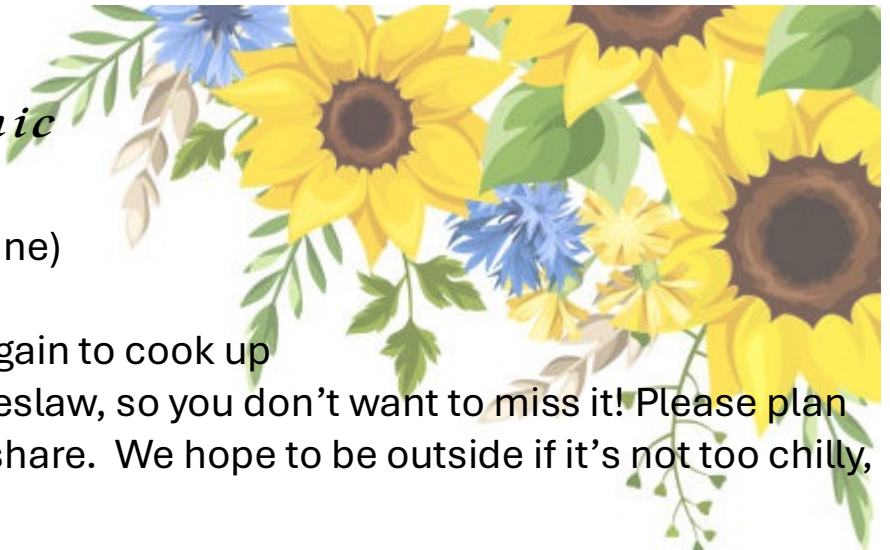
### *Covenant's Fall Picnic*

Sunday, October 26  
5:30pm—8:00pm (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.

Help with set up Saturday at 4pm

Help with Clean Up Sunday at 8pm



### **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, November 02, 2025**

The commemoration of the saints goes to the heart of our faith; death has not won (1 Corinthians 15: 55-57); in all we do we are accompanied by fellow Christians, living and dead (Hebrews 12:1); and in the end we will join others in praising God eternally (Revelation 7: 9-10). In worship we will refer to them during a moment of recognition and prayer. Please check the list in the gathering room for additions or corrections.

**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; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's step-mom, Clarice Davis, in rehab, and DeLynda as care giver; 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; ; peace in the middle east; our country.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

Joel 2: 23-32, Psalm 65, Jeremiah 14: 7-10,  
19-22, Psalm 84: 1-7, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18,  
Luke 18: 9-14

*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.*

**Financial Summary for Week #16**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 137,328.62

Pledges Received— \$ 143,442.37

*Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!*

*We greatly appreciate the congregations cards, visits, meals, and prayers during June's cancer treatments. June had an excellent post-surgery and chemo report recently. She will continue to see her oncologist periodically.*

*Joe & June Meyers*

**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!

**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.**

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!



**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](http://pcusa.org/peace-global) or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444.*

**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.



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School  
for all ages

11:00am Worship

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Ada Brock Rea

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Carol & Dennis Calbos, Susan & Randy Parish

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Luanne Rigsby

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Caly DePalma, Katy Terry, Luanne & Bill Rigsby

**Congregational Care Coordinator for October:** Linda Koehler

**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




**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](mailto:ellenstoneburner@gmail.com)



**October 26, 2025**  
Lily McKay, Sandy Whitney,  
Larson & Ada Rea

**November 2, 2025**  
Nancy Alila, Ellen Stoneburner, Susan Parish



**COVENANT CONNECTION**  
Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Join us at 5pm to help assemble Halloween buckets for Athens children experiencing Homelessness

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

**6:00pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal

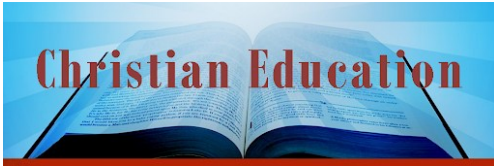
**6:15pm** Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

**7:15pm** Adult Choir Rehearsal

**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.

Dr. John Coble, Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Athens, will perform an organ recital on **Saturday, October 25, at 3 pm**, in the Sanctuary. The recital includes the music of J. S. Bach, Dan Locklair, Felix Mendelssohn, and Louis Vierne. The recital is free and open to the public.



**“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet October 26 at 9:30 am**

**The "UPPER ROOM" October 26 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” October 26 at 9:30 am.** This Sunday we will consider **Chapter 9, Authoritarian Reactionary Christianity in Orbán’s Hungary, pp. 114-122.** Please read ahead of time so as to contribute to our discussion.

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class October 26 at 9:30am**

**Middlers (4th—7th) October 26 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection—October 26 at 5 pm Covenant’s Fall Picnic**

### **Green Dream Team Update**

#### **Covenant Is Composting!**

The Green Dream Team (GDT) is excited to launch a new composting initiative! You will now see compost buckets at Youth Group, Covenant Connection, and other church gatherings.

**How It Works:** It’s easy—just place your food scraps (including meat and dairy) and paper products (anything that once came from a living thing) into the buckets. GDT members will then take the buckets to local compost drop-off sites in Athens-Clarke County (ACC). The ACC Solid Waste Department collects these materials and turns them into nutrient-rich compost, which is used in landscaping and sold to businesses and individuals.

**Did You Know?** Athens is one of only two publicly owned commercial composting facilities in the entire state of Georgia—something can be proud of!

**Why Compost?** Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills , lowering our carbon footprint, Preventing methane emissions, a powerful greenhouse gas produced when organic waste decomposes in landfills Returning carbon to the soil, improving its health and helping combat climate change Creating nutrient-rich soil that helps prevent erosion, absorbs moisture, supports plant growth, and even helps clean contaminated soil

**Want to Learn More?** If you have questions or concerns about this new initiative, please contact the GDT. Thank you for supporting our Earth Care Congregation commitment and for helping us care for God’s beautiful creation.

#### **Reminders:**

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>



**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.

**Project Safe is proud to present the first annual Acoustic Autumn!**

Are you ready for an evening of good food, good company, and good music? Then come out to the Colbert-Benton Guest House and join us on **Saturday, October 25 from 5:00-8:00 PM!** We'll be serving food from Boss Dawg BBQ along with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages while the Comer String Collective along with Rick Fowler & Friends serve up amazing acoustic performances! We'll have a silent auction with signed UGA football merch and other goodies, and every dollar raised goes directly to support Project Safe's work to empower survivors of domestic violence! Adult tickets include entry, meal, and two drinks as well as a great show that's sure to be a hit with the whole family! Youth 16 years old and under can attend and eat for \$20, and kids under 5 years can attend for free! Tickets are limited, so get yours today!

For more info: <https://www.project-safe.org/acoustic-autumn/>



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 10 Sydney Braswell   | 28 Sarah Lamb      |
| 16 DeLynda Tweedell  | 29 Emma Parido     |
| 18 Jimmy Cobb        | 30 Debbie Cureton  |
| Jason Green          | Sara Thompson      |
| 20 Joe Meyers        |                    |
| 23 Bert Ballard-Myer |                    |
| 2 Tom Nemetz         |                    |
| 4 Andrew Zimdars     | 27 Jonathan Arnold |
| 9 Carol Stone        |                    |



*The Athens Voices of Truth*

presents

*A Fall Musical*

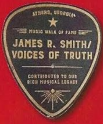
James Russell Smith, Director

Special Guest Musician  
Mr. Ron Lowe

Sunday, November 2, 2025  
at 4:00 pm

Ebenezer Baptist Church West  
205 N. Chase St. • Athens, GA  
Rev. Dr. Daryl Bloodsaw, Pastor

Free. All Are Welcome!



The Athens Music Walk of Fame was begun in 2020 with 10 inductees. Each year, plaques honoring 5 additional artists who have helped make Athens a renowned center of creative and diverse musical talents, are installed in the sidewalks around downtown Athens. In 2024, James R. Smith and The Athens Voices of Truth were honored with a plaque at the corner of Washington and Hull Streets.

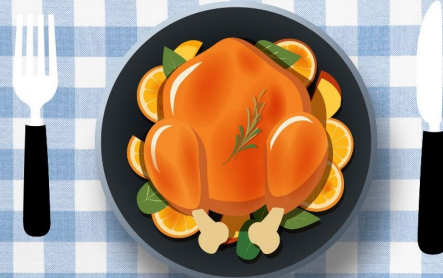
A Reception follows the concert in the Fellowship Hall with a book signing of

*"It Is Well: The Life and Times of James Russell Smith"*

the biography of the director of the choir



**MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED:  
COVENANT  
YOUTH GROUP**



**SUNDAY EVENINGS • 5-6:30 PM**

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO BRING A MEAL TO THE COVENANT YOUTH GROUP, SCAN THE CODE AND SIGN UP!**



**DINNER NEEDED (FOR APPROX. 15) SERVED AT 5:30 P.M., CLEAN-UP NEEDS TO BE DONE BY 6:30 P.M.**



**We need You!** To volunteer for a Congregational Road Pick-up on November 9, 3pm on Gaines School Road in front of Covenant down to Barnett Shoals Rd at Sweetie Pie by Savie Bakery. Ten—Twelve volunteers needed for this intergenerational activity. All supplies provided (safety vests, trash bags and grabbers). Bring own gloves Please join us! RSVP to Jennifer at [jenofrey@gmail.com](mailto:jenofrey@gmail.com) by Nov 3.



"Bells of Peace" the national bell tolling ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, which began in 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. The event invites people across the country to ring bells 21 times at 11 a.m. local time to honor veterans and mark the moment the armistice ended WWI. The term also relates to the broader symbolic use of bells to promote peace and unity, such as the International Day of Peace.



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.

**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](mailto: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](#).



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:  
Halloween Treat Bucket Assembly for children experiencing homelessness in Athens**

Thank you so much for your generous donations to this project! We will be assembling the Halloween Treat Buckets for children being served by Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Family Promise and Project Safe next **Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 5 p.m. right before Covenant Connection**. Please come and help us make these wonderful treat buckets for the children!

Also, if you are available to help deliver the buckets on Thursday, Oct. 30, please email Amy to sign up!

## Covenant by the Week!

**October 26, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

**11:00am WORSHIP**

2:30pm 12 Step Group

5:30pm—8pm Covenant Fall Picnic

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 pm—3pm Bigger Vision

4:00pm Socrates Café OLLI—Mimi

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

2pm 4pm OLLI Group in FH—Zins

5pm Prepare Treat Buckets for children

**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**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**November 2, 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**

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**

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's (eastside)

12 noon—4pm Bigger Vision

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

**5:30pm Covenant Connection-Family Dinner**

**6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal**

**6:15pm First Wednesday**

**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