

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Nov 02, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

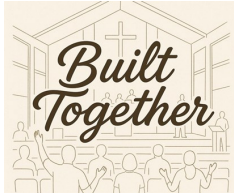
# THE COVENANT November 02, 2025

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



## 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.



### 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!

### RETIREES COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 at 12:30pm

Join us as we welcome William Kisaalita, professor at UGA and Covenant Member. He will address water, energy and food challenges and solutions in sub-Saharan Africa. Bring your favorite dish to share and a friend. Beverages will be provided.

Remember to sign up for the Christmas Luncheon in Dec. at PVA.

### FIRST WEDNESDAYS

EVERY 1ST WED OF THE MONTH

"The Way of Peace in an Age of Anger" - With Pastor Tom

Covenant Connection - Wed.  
 November 5 - from 6:15 to 7:15 PM

How do we stay grounded and gracious in a time of outrage and division? In this hour of reflection and practice, we'll explore how followers of Jesus can cultivate peace - in our spirits, our conversations, and our communities. Through Scripture, prayer, and simple exercises in non-anxious presence, we'll learn to embody Christ's calm and courage amid the noise of our age.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Nancy Pendrak and family in the passing of her husband, Johnny Oct. 19 (former covenant members); Kirk Blumenshine, Ansley Tweedell's uncle in law, in rehab for fractured vertebrae in neck and a spinal infection; 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 with ongoing health issues; Alice Rose's friend, Kim Martinez; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's step-mom, Clarice Davis at home; 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:**

**Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2: 1-4, Psalm 119: 137-144,  
Isaiah 1: 10-18, Psalm 32: 1-7,  
Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12, Luke 19: 1-10**

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 #17**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 145,911.65

Pledges Received— \$ 152,790.05

*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!

*Covenant's Annual Progressive Christmas Dinner Friday, December 5 6pm-10pm*

The Fellowship Ministry Team is making plans for our annual Progressive Christmas Dinner. At this event we visit with small groups in individual's homes. This is a cover dish dinner, but the church will provide Ham and Rolls for the main course.

We need you, if possible, to offer to host one course of this enjoyable meal. Remember to count yourselves.

We will need hosts for the following courses:

6:00 -7:00 The Appetizers Course, we need 5-8 homes, hosting 6 to 10+ guests

7:15 - 8:30 The Main Course, we need 6-8 homes for hosting 8 to 10+ guests

8:45 – 10:00 The Dessert Course, we need 4 to 6 hosts to set-up, organize, and clean-up.

Everyone meets at one place for the Dessert Course. Last year we all met in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and desserts. If you are willing to host one of the courses for this enjoyable meal, please contact Rebecca Silver, 706-207-0118, or Caly DePalma, [calyd44@gmail.com](mailto:calyd44@gmail.com) as soon as 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, NOVEMBER 2, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Luanne Rigsby

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

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Sandy Whitney

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

**Congregational Care Coordinator for November:** June Meyers

**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)

**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



**November 2, 2025**

Nancy Alila, Ellen Stoneburner, Susan Parish

**NOVEMBER 09, 2025**

Lily McKay, Sallie Hale, Don Bower



**COVENANT CONNECTION**

**Wednesday, November 05, 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

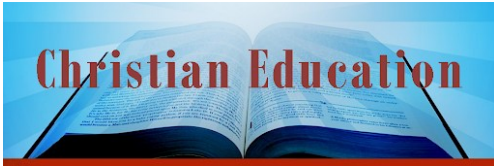
**6:15pm** Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

**7:15pm** Adult Choir Rehearsal

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

Hurricane Melissa made landfall as a Category 5 storm in Jamaica on Tuesday, October 28th. The impact will require years of rebuilding. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing grants to address urgent, immediate needs, and will remain for the Long-Term Recovery to address unmet needs. The magnitude of this storm will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects.

Follow this link to donate: <https://pcusa.org/donate/dr000194-disaster-relief-hurricane-and-typhoon-relief>



**“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet November 02 at 9:30 am.** Facilitated by Pastor Tom.

**The “UPPER ROOM” November 02 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” November 02 at 9:30 am.** This Sunday we will continue the study of our current class-chosen book with a discussion of **Chapter 10, Authoritarian Reactionary Christianity in Bolsonaro’s Brazil, pp. 123-130.** Bruce will be our facilitator. Please read ahead of time so as to contribute to our discussion.

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class November 02 at 9:30am**

**Middlers (4th—7th) November 02 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection—November 02 at 5 pm**

### **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.



News from our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic: Repairs to the church roof are still ongoing, and we sometimes encounter problems that are really difficult to solve. We ask for your prayers of intercession. The school year in the Czech Republic begins in September, which is why we hold a festive service outside the church, in the rose garden (rosarium), on the first Sunday in September. This year the weather was beautiful, and many of us, young and old, gathered to rejoice in our community in this beautiful setting. We also celebrated Thanksgiving Sunday and are grateful that several families with children have joined our community. For those of you who know Misa and Dan, their second daughter, Lea, was born in the summer! We look forward to meeting some of you at the Partnership conference in Pittsburgh. Honza Dostal, Jirka Stas, and Jana Vrajovj will most likely be attending.

The Church Partnership Network (CPN) is the organization that matched us with our sister church. It supports five American/Czech partnerships--with more on the way. These partnerships create annual spring and autumn online conferences as well as in-person conferences every three years. Valerie Stone plans to represent Covenant at the upcoming in-person conference at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary May 3-6, 2026. We're looking for more people to get involved with the CPN, the Pittsburgh conference, and the church in Olomouc. Please contact Valerie if you're interested. (valeriefreystone at gmail)

### **New Needs for Jubilee Partners:**

Medium or larger car seats/convertible 3 in 1 are ideal

2 large crock pots

Kitchen strainer

Slotted spoons

Can openers

Large mixing bowls

Kid friendly dishes-plastic

Queen sheet sets cotton preferred

Queen quilted mattress cover

Dresser

Coffee table or end tables

Small arm chair or rocking chair

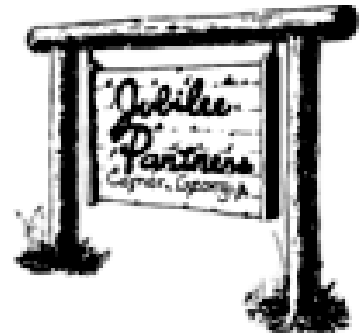
Medium pot with lid

Boys size 8 coat, pants, shirts and sweaters

Girls size 6 coat

Colored pencils

Watercolor paper



Jubilee Partners is a Christian service community in rural Georgia, founded in 1979.

Their primary work is to offer hospitality to refugees who have experienced violence or persecution. Jubilee offers refugees a place for recovery and healing as well as practical supports such as language classes, legal resources and medical care. The community, in turn, is profoundly enriched as they walk alongside these families.

*Please contact DeLynda Tweedell if you have any of the listed items to donate at [dtweedell@hotmail.com](mailto:dtweedell@hotmail.com)*



*The Athens Voices of Truth*

presents

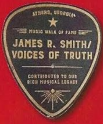
*A Fall Musical*

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



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.

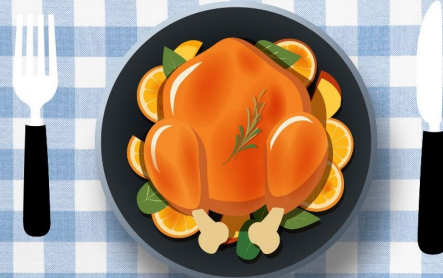
A Reception follows the concert in the Fellowship Hall with a book signing of

*"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.

Thank you!!



"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.

# Important Georgia Election – November 4, 2025

(Early Voting Oct. 14–31)

Most Georgians don't realize that the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC)—a group of five elected officials—sets policy for the state's electric, gas, and telecommunications services. Their decisions have a major impact on what we pay for energy and how Georgia moves toward clean energy.

On November 4, Georgians will vote for two of the five PSC seats. Although commissioners represent specific districts, all registered voters in Georgia can vote in these elections—regardless of their power provider. Turnout is typically low, so every vote truly matters.

Please take time to learn about the candidates and the role of the PSC before you vote. Our choices this fall will influence Georgia's energy direction, costs, and stewardship of creation for years ahead.

We, at Covenant Presbyterian, are a PCUSA Certified Earth Care Congregation. "God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family." - excerpt from the PCUSA Earth Care Pledge.

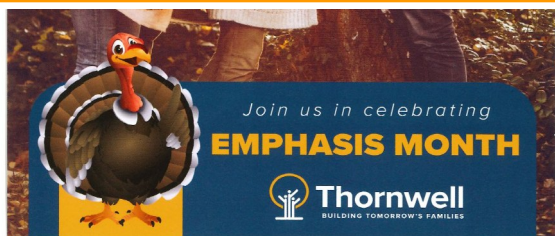
Below are some articles that explain more about this very important election:

[EXPLAINER: What's at stake in the Georgia Public Service Commission's upcoming primary elections: The PSC sets your power bills, influences climate policy, and shapes Georgia's energy future](#)

[Go Vote Georgia](#)

[TWO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SEATS – DISTRICT 2 AND DISTRICT 3 – ARE UP FOR ELECTION THIS YEAR. ALL OF GEORGIA VOTES IN THIS STATEWIDE, SPECIAL ELECTION.](#)

Please reach out to Shari Cobb at [skcobb588@gmail.com](mailto:skcobb588@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



**ROOTED IN FAITH FOR 150 YEARS** Since 1875, Thornwell has been rooted in faith! It is through our faith that God calls us to care for the most vulnerable and know that He will provide. Thornwell began as dream of a young Presbyterian minister, Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, and the faithful gift of fifty

cents from a 10-year-old boy named Willie Anderson. That seed of hope grew into a ministry that has served thousands of children and families with love, healing, and support. Now, 150 years later, Thornwell continues to serve children and families through a Christ-centered continuum of care, supporting children, teens, young adults, and parents through programs across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Each November, churches like yours join in Thornwell Emphasis Month to celebrate this legacy and continue the work Dr. Jacobs began, helping families grow strong and stay rooted in faith. Whether through a prayer, a post on social media, or coins dropped into a beloved Tom the Turkey bank, your gifts make a lasting difference. Let's continue the legacy, rooted in faith and growing in love.

Ways to give: Fill up the Turkey with your coins (on the table in the gathering room or in the narthex), Make check payable to Covenant with Thornwell in the memo portion, or <https://thornwell.org/give/>



Please look through these volunteer opportunities at Covenant in November and sign up if you can help!

**1. DONATIONS NEEDED: Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive for families in need of food from Gaines Elementary School and Cedar Shoals High School** Between now and the third week of November, we are collecting \$25 Walmart Gift Cards for distribution to families most in need of food during the Thanksgiving break. Please drop your donations of \$25 Walmart Gift Cards off to Karen or Amy in the church office by Thursday, November 20. If you prefer to help by check, please label the envelope for "Gaines/Cedar Thanksgiving Gift Cards" and the church will purchase gift cards on your behalf.



**2. 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#/>

**3. 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#/>

**4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)** Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>

**5. 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 Covenant Birthday Brigade!

**6. COMPOSTING HELP NEEDED: Delivery of compost materials**

We need help delivering our composting materials to collection sites. Please sign up at this link if you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-59916058-covenant#/>

**7. MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED: Covenant Youth Group**

Please sign up below if you are able to bring dinner to the Covenant Youth Group on a Sunday evening (approx. 15 people). Sign up at this link if you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-54091633-covenant>

**Covenant's Little Pantry Closet** is in need of small shampoo and body wash. (travel size)  
You can drop them off at the church office Tuesday—Friday 10am—4pm.  
Thank you!



# THANK YOU, COVENANT!

**YOUR DONATIONS FILLED 65 HALLOWEEN TREAT BUCKETS  
FOR ATHENS CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**



Thank you for donating snacks, treats and books for Halloween Treat Buckets for the children being served by **Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Family Promise and Project Safe!** Thank you for this effort to bring joyful childhood moments into a child's life even as their adults are working toward housing stability. We delivered 65 filled buckets to these agencies today and they are so excited to distribute them to the children!

# Covenant by the Week!

**November 2, 2025**

**SUNDAY - ALL SAINTS SUNDY—**

(Daylight Savings Time Ends)  
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**

2pm New Horizons Strings Rehearsal  
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 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  
3:00pm Athen's Women Singing Group  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**November 9, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am WORSHIP**  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
3:00pm Intergenerational Road Clean Up  
5:00pm—7:00pm Covenant Youth Connection  
*dinner & program*  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

2pm New Horizons Strings Rehearsal  
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  
12 noon—4pm Bigger Vision  
4:00pm Socrates Café  
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  
**5:30pm Covenant Connection-Family Dinner**  
**6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal**  
**6:15pm Adult Bible Study/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  
3:00pm Athen's Women Singing Group  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting  
7:00pm Covenant Book Club Meeting in Library

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group