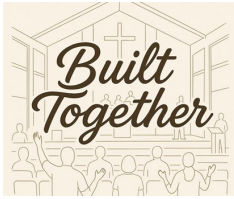


Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Nov 16, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

# THE COVENANT

## November 16, 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!

*Christmas Concert*  
*Sunday, December 7*  
*at 2pm at Covenant.*  
*New Horizons Band will perform*  
*"Sounds of the Season".*  
*Celebrate the magic of Christmas*  
*through music! A special offering*  
*will be taken for Project Safe.*  
*A Reception will follow.*  
*Free & Open to the Public.*

### *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

**FAMILY PROMISE** Covenant's week to host the families temporarily housed in Family Promise lodging is **November 30 - December 7**. There are currently two families in the program, living in the Magnolia Terrace apartments. These are the same families we hosted during the first week of October. One is a family of three (with a small baby) and the other is a family of two (mom and her 16-year old son). That son has been a great story since joining the program, progressing from a real struggle to joy and all-A report card. Covenant will deliver meals on Tuesday (Dec 2), Wednesday (Dec 3), and Thursday (Dec 4), between 6:00 and 6:30 PM. If you can help with the meals, please follow this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/> We will also send this notice by email to previous volunteers, and it may be easier to use the link there. If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Randy and Susan Parish. More details for everyone who signs up. Thanks again.

**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; Brian Stone at home; 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; peace in the middle east; our country.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

**Isaiah 65: 17-25, Isaiah 12, Malachi 4: 1-2a,  
Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13,  
Luke 21: 5-19**

*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 #19**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 163,077.73

Pledges Received— \$ 167,628.00

*Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!*

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!



**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!



**Sunday, November 30**

following worship. We will enjoy a light soup lunch and decorate the fellowship hall for Christmas inside and out. Please become apart of the team. Many hands make light work. Your help will be a gift to us all.

**COVENANT  
"EEK" SQUAD**

**Join the Covenant "Eek" Squad!**

We have Covenant members who sometimes need a ride or assistance with last-minute needs. This volunteer group would essentially be willing to be a member of a group-communication-thread (kind of like a prayer chain) where we can broadcast needs by phone and members can respond in real-time if they are able to help. We imagine that most of the needs in the thread will be for our senior Covenant members who may occasionally need a ride to a doctor appointment, help moving a piece of furniture, etc. Please message Amy to join the Covenant Eek Squad!





**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School  
for all ages

11:00am Worship

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Jim Anderson

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Jim & Sandy Whitney, Dennis & Carol Calbos

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

**LITURGIST:** Claire Bruner

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

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

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



**NOVEMBER 16, 2025** Lily McKay, Ellen Stoneburner  
**NOVEMBER 23, 2025** Lily McKay, Brian Herndon, Luanne Rigsby

**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>



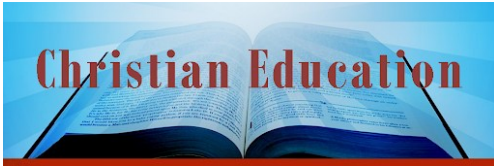
**COVENANT CONNECTION**  
Wednesday, November 19, 2025

**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



**“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet November 16 at 9:30 am.** Facilitated by Pastor Tom this class is currently studying “troubling texts of the Bible.”

**The “UPPER ROOM” November 16 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 16 at 9:30 am.** This Sunday morning our selection for discussion will be **Chapter 12, The Baptist Democratic Tradition, pp. 144-162.**

J

**unions (K-3rd) Class November 16 at 9:30am**

**Middlers (4th—7th) November 16 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection—November 16 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.



**Olomouc Advent Devotional For 2025**

More information about the Church Partnership Network, the advent devotional, and the upcoming conference can be found here: <http://czechpres.net> scroll down to find devotional

**2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL  
DRAW NEAR**

Lighting the Advent path with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Written by Teri McDowell Ott

*Each day of Advent, this devotional offers a gently invitation to draw near—to Scripture, to stillness, and to the heart of God. Following the traditional Advent themes, you will light the way week by week with hope, peace, joy and love, preparing not just for Christmas, but for Christ's presence among us.*

Copies may be found on the desk as you enter the church or on the table in the gathering room. First Sunday of Advent Nov. 30th.



*Covenant's Advent and Christmas Musical Worship*

*Sunday, December 14 at 11AM with Prelude music starting at 1045AM*

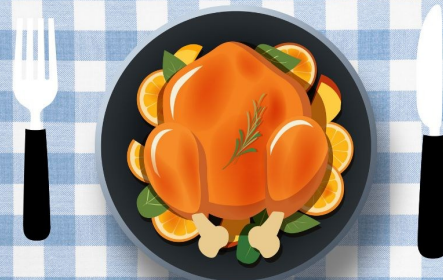
Please join us for our annual festival of music provided by the volunteer-centered ensembles of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Athens. The service will feature old favorites and newly-prepared renditions of Advent and Christmas music by the Adult Choir, Handbell Choir and Praise Band. The children will participate in a nativity pageant as the Adult Choir and Praise Band present the Igbo "Animal Carol" from Nigeria. The 2025 edition of the Advent and Christmas Musical Worship is not to be missed, please bring friends and family!

# Presbyterian Women

Covenant PW will meet on Thursday, Nov 20, 9:30am in the Covenant Library. Paula will lead our Bible Study Lesson (#3). Caly and Jennifer will provide refreshments. We will also assemble the Exam Care Packages for the students at The Table and Lydia's Place that morning. Hope to see you there! There will be a Zoom link for those unable to attend the meeting in person.

Thanks to all who participated in the Halloween Treat Buckets Project for the children experiencing homelessness in Athens. It was wonderful way to show that we care! Please contact Jennifer at [jenofrey@gmail.com](mailto:jenofrey@gmail.com) for any questions.

## MEAL PROVIDERS NEEDED: COVENANT YOUTH GROUP

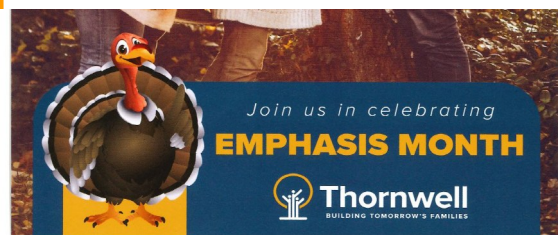


**SUNDAY EVENINGS • 5-6:30 PM**

**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.**



**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/>

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/>



Purchase a beautiful live poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special! They will be used in the worship center through the Christmas season. Sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering room. Please make your checks payable to Covenant and put Poinsettia in the memo portion of the check. Please put check in the drop box or bring to the church office - \$10.00 each. Please no cash.



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

**DONATIONS NEEDED (By Nov. 20): Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive for families in need of food from Gaines Elementary School and Cedar Shoals High School**

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: 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. **We specifically need one volunteer for this coming Monday, Nov. 17 for the 4-7 p.m. clinic.** Sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>

**3. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Cooks "First Tuesday" Dinners** (Alternating between Athens Area Homeless Shelter for children and families and The Table) *Our December date is coming up right after Thanksgiving, so please sign up now if you are available during the first week of December so we are sure to have this meal covered!*

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

**4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)**

Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>

**5. 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#/>

**6. 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>

**7. 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!



# Covenant by the Week!

**November 16, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am WORSHIP**  
12:15pm Green Dream Team Meeting  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
5:00pm—7:00pm Covenant Youth Connection  
*dinner & program*  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
1pm — 4pm & 4pm—7pm Athens Free Clinic  
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 noon—3pm Bigger Vision  
6:00pm Girl Scouts (downstairs)  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
2pm—4pm OLLI in Fellowship Hall  
**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 PW Bible Study  
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 Worship Ministry Team Meeting

**FRIDAY Office Open 10am—4pm**

1:30pm—4:30pm OLLI (Mimi)  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**November 23, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am WORSHIP**  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
No Youth Group  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
2pm New Horizons Strings Rehearsal  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom  
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

**TUESDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision  
**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution**  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

**NO COVENANT CONNECTION**  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY THANKSGIVING**

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
9:30am Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

