

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for
Sunday, Nov 23 & 30, 2025 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
 Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER November 23 & 30, 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!

★ ★

COVENANT'S ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ★ ★ MUSICAL WORSHIP ★

Sunday, December 14 • 11am
 Prelude music at 10:45am

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See page 5 for more info...

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 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: Charley & Carol Huber in the passing of his brother Al; Pastor Tom's mother, Becky Buchanan recovering from a kidney infection; Austin Cooper, friend of Brian and Valerie Stone, with a cancer diagnosis; Kirk Blumenshine, Ansley Tweedell's uncle in law, in rehab for fractured vertebrae in neck and a spinal infection; Ann Anderson at home; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; 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 stepmom, 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:

**Jeremiah 23: 1-6, Luke 1: 68-79, Psalm 46,
Colossians 1: 11-20, Romans 13: 11-14,
Matthew 24: 36-44, Luke 23: 33-43**

Financial Summary for Week #20

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 171,660.77

Pledges Received— \$ 172,943.00

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Thornwell—\$700.00

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.

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!



CONGRATULATIONS! Rebecca and Kent Silver are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Lara to Dustin Hood.

The wedding was held on Nov. 1 in San Diego, CA where the couple resides.



**Guest Violinist—
Itamar Zorman**

**November 30 at 11:00am
Worship**

Itamar Zorman will play works of J.S. Bach and Sergei Rachmaninoff. This musical

offering is in celebration of Paula and Dick Zimdars 44th Wedding Anniversary!

Congratulations to Paula and Dick!



Sunday, November 30

following worship. We will enjoy a light soup lunch and decorate the fellowship hall for Christmas inside and out.

Please become a part of the team. Many hands make light work. Your help will be a gift to us all.

A big thanks you to Ellen and Arnelle for cleaning and painting the big sign out front.

And for Betsy & Rich for keeping beautiful flowers outside. (*in spite of the deer*)





SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LITURGIST: Claire Bruner

GREETERS/USHERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Sandy & Jim Whitney



Congregational Care Coordinator for November: June Meyers


December: Barbara Burnett





**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

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 23, 2025 Lily McKay, Brian Herndon, Luanne Rigsby

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 Lily McKay, Adam and Rebecca Rea

DECEMBER 7, 2025

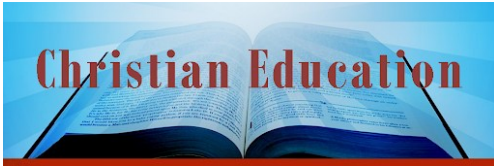
Nancy Alila, Phil & Sallie Hale

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
will resume December 3, 2025



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet November 23 & 30 at 9:30 am. Facilitated by Pastor Tom this class is currently studying “troubling texts of the Bible.”

The “UPPER ROOM” November 23 & 30 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” November 23 & 30 at 9:30 am. This Sunday morning our selection for discussion will be **Chapter 13, The Black Christian Democratic Tradition, pp. 144-162.** Join us when Jim M. will facilitate our conversation on this interesting subject.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class November 23 & 30 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) November 23 & 30 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—November 23 at 5pm and November 30 meet at 5 pm to drive to Bigger Vision



- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Chuck Rosenberger | 13 | Lia Bruner |
| 2 | Christopher Bruner | 14 | Lisa Buchanan |
| 3 | Frank Allen | 15 | Julie Bower |
| 4 | Tim Foutz | | Sharon Edwards |
| 5 | Susan Paul | | Doug Hill |
| 6 | Zak Huberty | | William Kisaalita |
| 8 | Sara Cooney | | Lila McMaster |
| | Jim Newland | 18 | Jim McMinn |
| | Donald Whitehead, Jr. | 19 | Kay Brooks |
| 9 | Eli Stone | 24 | Sharon Milner |
| 11 | Raquel Barta | 29 | George McMaster |
| | | | Deb Millwood |

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 to 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.



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. There are also hard copies on the desk as you enter the church.

**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.



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!

Cookie Reception to follow hosted by Fellowship!
Bring your favorite cookies to share!
(left over cookies will be taken to the teachers at Cedar Shoals)



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!

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.

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.

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!



Deep thanks to all who donated Thanksgiving Gift Cards for our neighbors in need from Gaines Elementary School and Cedar Shoals High School. Because of your generosity, we delivered \$725 in Walmart Gift Cards to them today for distribution before the Thanksgiving holiday. That's 29 families who will have a \$25 gift card to purchase food for their families. You are truly a blessing to these families, Covenant Friends!

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. 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 if you are interested in joining the Covenant Birthday Brigade!



Thank You...

Thursday, Nov 20th the Covenant Presbyterian Women thoughtfully collected, assembled and carefully packaged up these lovely Exam Week Care Packages for the college students at The Table and Lydia's Place (College kids who have aged out of foster care). They even added lovely messages of encouragement for each student on the packages! Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity, PW! You are a blessing!

Covenant by the Week!

November 23, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am WORSHIP
Noon—6pm TurkeyPalooza Cooking (Campus Kitchen)
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm 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
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

November 30, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am WORSHIP
Hanging of the Greens following worship
12:15pm Elder Training
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Youth Group driving to Bigger Vision
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

11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside
12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:15pm Stated Session Meeting
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm Covenant Connection (family meal)
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm First Wednesday with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—TREE DECORATING IN WC

9:30am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY Progressive Dinner 6pm—10pm with dessert in the fellowship hall

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

