

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Dec 14, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>  
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

# THE COVENANTER December 14, 2025



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

**COVENANT'S  
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS  
MUSICAL WORSHIP**  
Sunday, December 14 • 11am  
Prelude music at 10:45am

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, and Handbell Choir. 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!**

  
**Meals on Wheels**  
*We deliver smiles™*

**Meals on Wheels Offering—**  
to be received in the month of December and at the Christmas Eve service to sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$2,000.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 6.8 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously. Please mark in the memo portion of your check MOW. Consider making a special gift in honor or memory of a loved one.

  
**Calling All Covenant Youth Alums!  
Sunday, December 28**  
Breakfast and fellowship will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude by 10:45, Worship at 11:00am  
*Why You Can't Miss This*  
Reconnect with old friends and make new ones  
Learn about the new vision for Covenant  
Bring a funny youth group story to share  
*Whether you live in Athens or out of town*  
**Local alums:** Bring your families and welcome our out-of-town friends.  
**Out-of-towners:** Extend your holiday stay in Athens for this special event.  
**RSVP –** Ansley Tweedell Land, Congregational Care Team [ansley.elizabeth.2021@gmail.com](mailto:ansley.elizabeth.2021@gmail.com) (706-540-7026),  
Brian Herndon, Christian Ed Team [herndon.brian1@gmail.com](mailto:herndon.brian1@gmail.com) (706-714-1464),  
Warren Combs, Worship Team [wecombs@gmail.com](mailto:wecombs@gmail.com) (706-521-2530)

  
**Christmas Eve  
WORSHIP**

Join us Wednesday, Dec 24 at 5:30pm for our Christmas Eve Worship service with Carols, Communion and Candle Light.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Lauren & Michael Capie in the passing of their father, Bill Capie in Florida; Amy Baer and family in the passing of her father, Kenny Tillman; John Wilkins' and family in the passing of his brother in law, Jim Negro; 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, at and having rehab; Ann Anderson at home; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; DeLynda Tweedell's sister, Brandy going through a difficult time; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; our country.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

*Please read from your Advent Devotional*

I Thessalonians 5: 13B, 15, Matthew 5:9, Matthew 18: 15, John 14: 27, Matthew 5: 38-39, Revelation 22: 1-2, Luke 1: 46B-47

**Financial Summary for Week #23**

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 197,409.88

Pledges Received— \$ 205,863.73

*Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!*

*Meals on Wheels: \$ 4,568.25*

*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.*

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!



**THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM MEETING**

Based on feedback and not wanting to throw another thing out there pre-Christmas, we decided to have our **Fellowship Ministry Team meeting on Friday Jan 2 at 12 PM.**

It gives us a chance to enjoy the Holidays and hit the ground running in the New Year.

We will meet in the Library and bring a bag lunch if you would like. Thanks everyone!! Cheers,

Rebecca Silver 706-207-0118  
Fellowship Ministry Team Chair

Caly DePalma 865-599-3187  
2025 Co-Chair of the Fellowship Ministry Team



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!**

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER FOR OUR ANNUAL GATHERING

First Presbyterian, Monticello GA

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School  
for all ages

10:45am Prelude Music  
Advent & Christmas  
Musical Worship

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

**LITURGIST:** Sandy Whitney

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

**CANDLE LIGHTERS:** Bruce & Cathi Lancaster

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**LITURGIST:** Lisa Buchanan

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Hank & DeLynda Tweedell, Alan Edwards, Judy Capie

**CANDLE LIGHTERS:** Covenant's Green Dream Team

Congregational Care Coordinator for 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](mailto:ellenstoneburner@gmail.com)

Presbyterian Women will have our December meeting at the home of Ellen Stoneburner on Dec 18, 9:30am. The Bible Study Lesson is #4. Please plan to attend and celebrate the Christmas season with us! For questions, contact Jennifer or Gloria.

**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'S 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

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

Nancy Alila, Richard & Jacob Page

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**

Nancy Alila, Ansley Land, DeLynda Tweedell



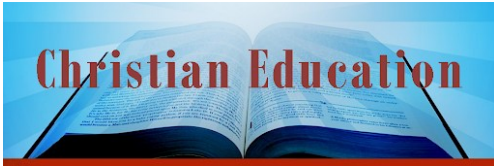
**COVENANT CONNECTION  
will resume**

**January 7, 2026**

**KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—**

*will resume Thursday, January 8, 2026*

*The beautiful blankets on display were lovingly made by Covenant's Knitters & Knotters. They will be gifted to the clients of Project Safe.*



**“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet December 14 at 9:30 am.** Facilitated by Pastor Tom this class is currently studying “troubling texts of the Bible.”

**The “UPPER ROOM” December 14 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” December 14 at 9:30 am.** This Sunday morning our selection for discussion will be on the movie *The Help!*

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class December 14 at 9:30am**

**Middlers (4th—7th) December 14 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection—December 14 Dinner and program**

*This time of year offers many opportunities to help others, and so many families need help to share a memorable holiday with their kids. There are a multitude of opportunities for each of us to give to others and one you might consider is Family Promise.*

**Below are opportunities to give your time or financial support to Family Promise families:**

Financially and In-Kind...

1. Donate \$25 Walmart Gift Cards - drop by Resource Center (205 Bray Street, Bldg 100) or mail to PO Box 581 Athens, GA 30603
2. Buy a \$25 Family Promise ornament for your tree or for a gift! <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/events>
3. Donate online: <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/donate-now>
4. Amazon Wish list: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FIKASQITIFKK?ref=abls\\_nvfly\\_yl](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3FIKASQITIFKK?ref=abls_nvfly_yl)
5. Participate or support the Family Promise Holiday party! Join in spreading holiday cheer in our community as Family Promise hosts an afternoon of fun for families. Kids and parents will have the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for the family as well as participate in activities, and get pictures with Santa! Looking for a variety of gifts for different ages/genders including parents. [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/)

Volunteering...

1. Volunteers are needed to help with the activities on Monday, December 22nd, from 2 pm - 5pm. We will have a holiday party here at the resource center for families in our program; there are a variety of ways to volunteer on our sign up link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-60650263-family#/)
2. December is an open month for the shelter, sign up for an additional meal during the month: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/  
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/)



**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.

**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.**

**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!



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

**1. DONATIONS NEEDED: Holiday Gift Cards for 25 families at Athens Area Homeless Shelter**  
The 25 families (including 55 children) being served by Athens Area Homeless Shelter are in need of Holiday Gift Cards for food and gifts for the children. If you are able to help, you can donate funds at this [link](#) OR drop off \$25 Walmart Gift Cards at Athens Area Homeless Shelter (620 Barber Street, Athens, GA) or leave them with Karen or Amy at the Church Office marked for "AAHS Holiday Gift Cards."

**2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED (January): 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 (January): 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#/>

**4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday)**  
Sign-up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/>  
*The students will be gone until January 12 and we need your help to pack up and distribute food on Thursdays for Covenants Food Distribution. Thank you!*

**5. 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>

**6. 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!

**7. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 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 on 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!**

*Join us for our next meeting:*

Mission & Outreach Ministry Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 5pm – 6pm in the fellowship hall



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

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

Sign-up to volunteer here: [https://  
www.signupgenius.com/  
go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/)

*The students will be gone until  
January 12 and we need your help to  
pack up and distribute food on  
Thursdays for Covenants Food  
Distribution. Thank you!*

*For the month of November Covenant served 2,487  
food insecure neighbors.*

*Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!*

# Covenant by the Week!

**December 14, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am Covenant's Advent & Christmas Musical  
Worship—reception will follow**  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
5:00pm Youth Group dinner & program  
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**

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
**NO COVENANT CONNECTION**  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY—**

9:30am Presbyterian Women's Bible Study at  
Ellen Stoneburner's home  
9:30am Campus Kitchen  
**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution**  
**NO Knitters & Knotters**  
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting  
7:00pm Book Club at Covenant

**FRIDAY**

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

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group

**December 21, 2025**

**SUNDAY -**

9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am Worship**  
2:30pm 12 Step Group  
No Youth Group will resume on January 4th  
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**

**9:30am preparing bags for food distribution**  
**1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution**  
12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision  
4:00pm Socrates Cafe  
6:00pm Campus Kitchen  
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**WEDNESDAY OFFICE CLOSED**

**NO COVENANT CONNECTION**  
**5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship**  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY— OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting



**FRIDAY— OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00pm AA Meeting in FH for birthdays

**SATURDAY**

10:30am 12 Step Group