


Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, Dec 07, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER December 07, 2025

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

*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** ★
ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ★
★ **MUSICAL WORSHIP** ★
Sunday, December 14 • 11am
★ Prelude music at 10:45am ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
See page 5 for more info...



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, 2025

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 (706-540-7026), Brian Herndon, Christian Ed Team herndon.brian1@gmail.com (706-714-1464), Warren Combs, Worship Team wecombs@gmail.com (706-521-2530)

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, at and having rehab; Ann Anderson at home; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Amy Baer's father, Kenny Tillman undergoing cancer treatment; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; Brian Stone at home; DeLynda Tweedell's sister, Brandy going through a difficult time; 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:

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 #21

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 188,826.85

Pledges Received— \$ 193,931.80

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Thornwell—\$3,000.00

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!



THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM WANTS YOUR INPUT AND ASSISTANCE

The new year is fast approaching, and the Fellowship Team is making plans. There are some new ideas and changes to other events that are being discussed. We would love you to share your ideas and to join our team.

We are scheduling a meeting to make plans. Please text me to let me know which dates work best for you. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting new year. Possible meeting dates and times are listed below.

December 14 after Cookie reception
January 4, after putting away Christmas Decor
December 15, Monday at 4:30
December 16, Tuesday at 10:30
December 16, at 11:00
December 16, at 4:30
January 2, Friday at 10:30
January 2, Friday at 11:00
January 2, at 12:00
January 2, at 4:30
January 5, at 4:30



Rebecca Silver 706-207-0118
Fellowship Ministry Team Chair

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



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

LITURGIST: Claire Bruner

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

CANDLE LIGHTERS: Jason, Addie, Jacob & Quinton Roberts

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

LITURGIST: Sandy Whitney

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

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

PW 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.

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. in the Library

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 7, 2025

Nancy Alila, Phil & Sallie Hale

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Nancy Alila, Richard & Jacob Page



COVENANT CONNECTION

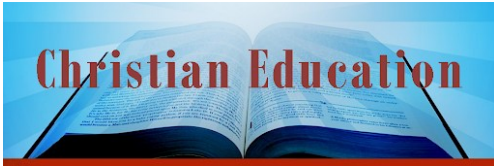
December 10, 2025 (final)

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

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm First Wednesday Program continued "Coming Home for Christmas: A Pilgrimage through the Birth Stories of Jesus" with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” Class will meet December 7 at 9:30 am. Facilitated by Pastor Tom this class is currently studying “troubling texts of the Bible.”

The “UPPER ROOM” December 7 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” December 7 at 9:30 am. This Sunday morning our selection for discussion will be on the movies *Les Miserables* from 2012 and 1935.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class December 7 at 9:30am

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

Covenant Youth Connection—December 7 Dinner and program

Highlights of the December 2, 2025 Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on December 2, 2025. For his devotional, Dennis Calbos shared his thoughts on the PBS documentary, *The American Revolution*. There were serious divisions in our country back when it was first founded, especially concerning slavery, and we survived it. Dennis encouraged us to think about and pray for our country to survive the divisions we are experiencing today.

Session reviewed the Financial Summary for October, 2025. Income has exceeded expectations and expenditures have been conservative. Session approved a motion Finance Ministry Team to approve Covenant's Policy on Restricted Accounts.

Progress is being made on making a decision on cleaning services, as well as maintenance of the new floor in the fellowship hall, and Session hopes to make a decision before January.

Session received a quote from one security company on driving through the property and is considering other types of security such as monitored security cameras and improved outdoor lighting that might be of more value.

There will be a Church Partnership Network Conference with the PC (USA) and ECCB (Czech Republic) on May 3-7, 2026, in Pittsburgh. Several members of our sister church in Olomouc will be attending and will visit Athens afterward. Session approved formation of an ad hoc committee to work on plans for that visit.

The youth group recently visited Bigger Vision and served dinner to the homeless.

Congregation Care is working to find out the status of the church directory and the photos ordered from the company putting the directory together.

Christmas Progressive Dinner is December 5th. There will be a cookie reception following the Christmas Musical Service. Fellowship MT decorated the fellowship hall and put up wreaths in the church, but rain prevented doing the outside decorations.

Finance MT has signed an agreement with Turner and Patat accounting firm to do a review of this year's finances.

Session approved a motion for Covenant to host the NEGA Presbytery meeting on February 28, 2026.

Tom expressed appreciation to outgoing elders, Warren Combs, Kathryn Fowler, Ansley Tweedell Land, and Rich Reaves, for everything they have done during their faithful service over the past three years. He also expressed thanks to Luanne Rigsby for six years of service as Clerk of the Session.

Submitted by *Luanne Rigsby*, Clerk of Session



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.

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
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#/>

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#/>
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#/>



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 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!

Covenant by the Week!

December 7, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am WORSHIP
2:00pm New Horizons Band Concert at Covenant
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
12:30pm Retirees Luncheon at PVA
4:00pm Socrates Café—Caly
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
5:30pm Covenant Connection (family meal)
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm First Wednesday with Pastor Tom cont'd
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—

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

FRIDAY

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

SATURDAY

SET UP FOR RECEPTION
10:30am 12 Step Group

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
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