

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER January 18, 2026

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



Sunday, January 18 at the 11:00am worship service we will celebrate the Ordination and Installation of our new class of elders to serve on the Session. The class of 2028 are, Deb Millwood, Haylee Nunn, Jack Pannecoucke and Kirche Rogers. Many thanks to the class of 2025: Kathryn Fowler, Rich Reaves, Ansley Land, and Warren Combs

Feast & Fellowship *(formerly Heart of Covenant)*

Saturday, February 21, 6p,m - 9pm

A three course dinner for ages 14 and up, with an opportunity to get to know each other better and table hopping fun! Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the mailboxes. Questions? Contact Caly Depalma—calyd44@gmail.com



“Follow the Yellow Brick Road” to La Table 2026.

La Table is the major fundraiser for Family Promise, the interfaith organization that helps homeless families. It will be Tuesday, February 24, at 1055 Barber Street. You can register online by going to familypromiseathens.org/events. Please indicate “Covenant” as host and select your menu choice. You may also register in the office. We hope to have Covenant well represented again at this important event.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Carol Huber and family in the passing of Charlie Huber, Jan 11; Alice Rose's spouse, Billy Dunn having surgery Jan 20th for multiple hernias: DeLynda Tweedell's childhood friend Kesha 's brother, Marty Wilkerson who is at Emory following a 12 hour surgery for esophageal cancer; Wanda Minton's brother, James having risky neck surgery Jan 28; Dorothy Newland's brother, Milton Sams in hospice at Brunswick, Ga; Ellie McMinn's brother, Mike Marshall recovering from a stroke; Gloria Pylant's brother, Richard Ellis undergoing radiation for stage 1 lung cancer; Cindy Barber's mother, Faye Boatenreiter hospitalized in ICU with severe pneumonia; Austin Cooper, friend of Brian and Valerie Stone, with a cancer diagnosis; Kirk Blumenshine, Ansley Tweedell's uncle in law, at and having rehab; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Michael Shaffer a neighbor with health issues; Raquel Bartra with serious illness; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; our country.

Send cards to: Carol Huber 11405 Medlock Bridge Road, Apt 222, Johns Creek, Ga 30097

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
Isaiah 49: 1-7, Psalm 40: 1-11,
I Corinthians 1: 1-9, Philippians 3,
John 1: 29-42

Financial Summary for Week #28

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 240,325.08

Pledges Received— \$ 244,953.03

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Meals on Wheels: \$ 14,547.25

Joy Offering \$ 450.00

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER FOR
 OUR ANNUAL GATHERING

First Presbyterian, Monticello GA
 SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2026



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!



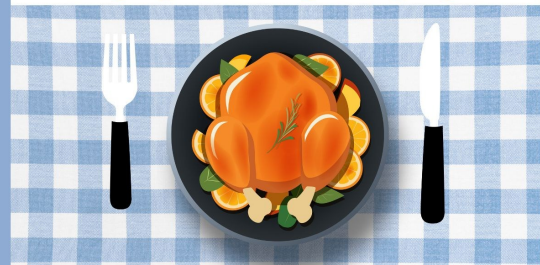
COVENANT "EEK" SQUAD

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.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship –
4th Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

LITURGIST: Jim Newland

GREETERS/USHERS: Alan Edwards, Judy Capie, Caly DePalma,
Paige Cummings

Congregational Care Coordinator for January:



**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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Join us in the library every Thursday at 2pm.

We Knit & Knot and have lots of laughs.

No experience necessary.

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



January 18, 2026

Nancy Alila, Susan Parish, Don Bower

January 25, 2026 Lily McKay, Dell Whitehead,
Ada & Larson Rea



COVENANT CONNECTION

January 21, 2026

5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal

6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:15pm Bible Study with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Happy New Year from the Green Dream Team Have you ever wondered how to recycle plastic bags and product wraps—especially those from Amazon and other retailers? Which ones are recyclable, and what happens to them? We have some answers for you!

How to recycle plastic bags and product wraps:

You can take these items to Publix, Kohl's, Kroger, ACC CHaRM, and Piggly Wiggly.

Which bags and wraps can be recycled?

First, they must be clean and dry with no food residue. They should stretch when you pull them and not tear like paper. If the plastic is shiny and makes a crinkly or crunchy sound, it cannot be recycled.

Items that *can* be recycled include:

Grocery, newspaper, bread, and retail bags (they do not have to be clear)

Product wraps (such as those around paper towels and single-use water bottles)

Plastic shipping envelopes (like many Amazon mailers with #2 or #4 recycling symbols, unless marked "not recyclable")

Cereal box liners

Air pillows and bubble wrap

Produce bags (except those for pre-washed salad mixes)

Ziploc and other food storage bags

If you're unsure about an item, remember: if it stretches and doesn't tear like paper, it can likely be recycled. So many things can be reused this way!

These recycled plastics are used by a company called **Trex** to make premium outdoor decking. Their products are made from up to 95% recycled plastic film and reclaimed sawdust—and are manufactured in the USA. For more information about this program, visit nextrex.com/view/educate or email me at skcobb588@gmail.com.

Reminder:

Please continue bringing batteries and ink cartridges for recycling at CHaRM, and plastic grocery bags for use by the food pantry.

Upcoming Events

Athens Rotary Club Film Screening

OCEAN with David Attenborough — "A powerful and hopeful film that explores the beauty of our oceans, the challenges they face, and the solutions already within reach."

☐ Thursday, February 5

☐ 5:00 PM

☐ ACC Library Auditorium

☐ RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3MCY81I>

Several GDT members are attending. If you'd like to carpool from the church or need a ride, please email me at skcobb588@gmail.com.

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) Summit

"Let Justice Grow"

☐ Saturday, February 7, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM (Atlanta)

☐ More info: <https://gipl.org/events/gts26>

Athens Clean and Renewable Energy Plan Workshop

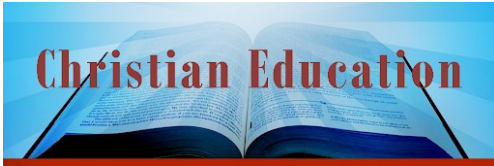
☐ Wednesdays in January, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

☐ Covenant Library

☐ Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4pL5azO>

Our next Green Dream Team meeting will be Sunday, February 15 at 12:15 PM in the Covenant Library.

Feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch to enjoy during the meeting. ☐



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” January 18th at 9:30am. We will continue our study of “troubling texts” of the Bible.

The “UPPER ROOM” January 18 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” January 18 at 9:30 am. We continue our study/discussion of *The Road to Wisdom: On Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust*. This Sunday we will begin our discussion of Chapter 2, entitled Truth. Stephanie has graciously agreed to be our facilitator. I hope to see you soon.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class January 18 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) January 18 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—January 18th at 5:00pm
.....
Covenant Youth Group dinner and program

UPDATE ON THE PHOTO DIRECTORY!

Due to the diligence of DeLynda and Ansley we have received digital copies of the directory photos. If you would like yours please bring in a memory stick and I will download them for you.



Covenant is hosting the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, February 28

We need volunteers to help park cars, registration, ushers/greeters and set up and take down for breakfast and lunch.

Please contact Caly DePalma for more information
calyd44@gmail.com

**February 12, 2026 at 12Pm
at the Classic Center**

The link below will lead you to tickets:
<https://foodbanknega.org/event/empty-bowl/>

Join us for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia's largest event of the year, raising funds and awareness to guarantee food access and security for everyone in our 15 county service area. This year's *Empty Bowl luncheon* will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at The Classic Center. We know that art and generosity are key aspects of a thriving community. Each bowl, cup or mug, made and donated by Clarke County School District students, serves as a reminder of the event for the person who takes it home. It is a reminder that every empty bowl is an open door to meet the needs of someone else.

We envision a future of each community we serve - one where everyone is fed and futures are nourished

It is with sadness, but much appreciation and gratitude, that I share the news that Amy Baer - our Mission/Outreach & CE Coordinator - will be leaving us, with her final day being Sunday, February 8. You will find her resignation letter below. She leaves us with the peace of knowing that she has fulfilled her calling here with faithfulness!

Conversations are being had over the next few days and weeks to insure a strong transition and continuity of existing ministries. Let us give thanks for Amy's ministry among us, and turn out on February 8th to say a proper goodbye!

Pastor Tom

Dear Covenant Friends,

Three and a half years ago, I sat with the Personnel Team, and we discerned together what Covenant most needed at that time and the ways my gifts for ministry intersected with those needs.

From the Covenant Food Pantry, to the Athens Free Clinic @ Covenant, to our Outreach with our neighbors at Gaines and Cedar Shoals, to new endeavors like the Bigger Vision Mobile Day Center and the Covenant Birthday Brigade, you have shown great generosity of spirit in trying new things. When I have asked you how you want to be of service, you have always answered with great insight and acted on our new plans with purpose and dedication. We have been a good team, and you have blessed me. It's with a mixture of gratitude and grief that I share with you that I have discerned that God is calling me to bring this season of my ministry with you to a close, and I believe that God has new opportunities waiting for us both in the year to come.

Thank you for the ways in which you have welcomed me, blessed me, and taught me to be a better colleague, friend, and disciple of Jesus. I give so much thanks for the road we've walked together, and I pray that God will watch between us while we are apart one from another. May God bless you and keep you!

With Gratitude,

Amy



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

1. DONATIONS NEEDED: Cedar Shoals Care Center Needs for January

The students of Cedar Shoals are needing **deodorant for boys and girls**. Please order from our Amazon Wishlist link [HERE](#) and your donation will be sent directly to the church OR purchase items like those on this list and leave them on the hallway collection table this month.

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 NEEDEDÂ (February): Covenant Cook "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#/>

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 if you are interested in joining the Covenant Birthday Brigade!

For the month of December Covenant served 3,280 food insecure neighbors. Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible.

NEEDS: plastic bags (please put them in the tub container at the Green Dream Team area)

Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*

Covenant by the Week!

January 18, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship—Ordination/Installation of Elders
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth Group dinner & program

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
4pm Socrates Café
6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

11:30am—1:00pm Clean & Renewable Meeting
11:30am New Horizons Band in Fellowship Hall
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm Bible Study with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— Session Retreat at Rock Eagle

1:30pm—4:30pm OLLI

SATURDAY Session Retreat at Rock Eagle

10:30am 12 Step Group
Campus Kitchen (UGA) Training in Covenant's Kitchen

January 25, 2025

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth Group dinner & program
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY

12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
4pm Socrates Café—OLLI
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

11:00am—1pm Homeless Coalition in FH
11:30am—1:00am Clean & Renewable Meeting
11:30am New Horizons Band in the Worship Center
2pm—4pm OLLI—Zins
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm Bible Study with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY—

9:30 am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY—

AA in Fellowship Hall for Birthdays

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group