

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, February 01, 2026 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER February 01, 2026

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

In person worship for Feb 1 is cancelled. The service is available via YouTube. Look for the email Saturday morning with the bulletin and link.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ COVENANT



"85 Seconds to Midnight: Christian Hope without Denial in a Precarious World" With Pastor Tom Buchanan

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 6:15 to 7:15 PM
Join us for dinner first in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM!
Covenant Presbyterian Church Athens

On January 27, 2026, the Doomsday Clock moved to 85 seconds to midnight—the closest it has ever been. What does faithful living look like when the headlines won't let us look away?

Join us for a short presentation and lots of discussion as we explore:

- What the Doomsday Clock is (and what it's not)
- Lament, truth-telling, and resilient Christian hope
- Practical "next steps" for living with courage and love

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605, CovPresAthens.org



Voices of Gullah at Covenant February 15 at 2pm FREE

**concert celebrating cultural contributions of
the Gullah Geechee of the Sea Islands.
Hear spirituals of Georgia and South Carolina.**

Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon Tuesday, February 10 at 12:30pm

Join us for delicious food and a slide show presentation presented by Phil & Linda Koehler titled, "The Kansas You Never Knew", showing unusual places in Kansas. Beverages will be provided. Bring your favorite dish to share and a friend.

Feast & Fellowship (formerly Heart of Covenant)

Saturday, February 21, 6pm - 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

IN OUR PRAYERS: Carol Huber and family in the passing of Charlie Huber, Jan 11; Alice Rose's spouse, Billy Dunn recovering from surgery Jan 20th for multiple hernias; DeLynda Tweedell's childhood friend Kesha's brother, Marty Everett had to have a second surgery and will be at Emory for two weeks. DeLynda's sister-in-law, Amber Davis's mother (Rhonda Roberts) passed away on Jan 23. She was only 61; DeLynda's friend, Andrea Clark's husband (Keith Clark) is at Emory and not doing well after bypass and stent surgery; Wanda Minton's brother, James recovering from 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 resting comfortably at Heidi's home in Cumming; Austin Cooper, friend of Brian and Valerie Stone, with a cancer diagnosis; Kirk Blumenshine, Ansley Tweedell's uncle in law, at home 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 9: 1-4, Psalm 27: 1, 4-9,
I Corinthians 1: 10-18, Matthew 4: 12-23,
Matthew 5: 1-12

Financial Summary for Week #29

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 253,701.35

Pledges Received— \$ 255,823.03

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



“We’re off to see the Wizard, the Wonderful Wizard of Oz”
Yes, put on those ruby slippers and join us for a delightful lunch, informative program, and good company, all infused with hope and love. This year’s La Table, the major fund raiser for Family Promise, will be **Tuesday, February 24, at 11:00**. It will again be held at 1055 Barber Street. Family Promise helps keep homeless families together and get back on their feet. Please join us by registering at familypromiseathens.org/events or by signing up in the church office. Be sure to indicate your food preference and Covenant as your host.

Drum roll, please...here are the Family Promise All-Stars from 2025:

- Gloria Pylant
- Shari Cobb
- Bert Ballard-Myer
- Dell & Donnie Whitehead
- Nan Cantrell
- Marilyn Martin

These folks, along with Covenant's volunteer coordinators, volunteered time, meals, services and other resources for our Family Promise families transitioning from homelessness to independent living in 2025. Covenant's partnership with Family Promise is one of our oldest outreach missions. Volunteers are the backbone of our success impacting the housing crisis in Athens. For more information, contact any of the Covenant FP volunteer coordinators: the Stones, the Parishes, the Hales, or the Bowers.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Nursery

9:30 am Church School
for all ages

11:00am Worship –

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

GREETERS/USHERS: Katy Terry, Jim Newland, Carol & Dennis Calbos

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

LITURGIST: Lisa Buchanan

GREETERS/USHERS: Matthew Muir, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell, Katy Terry

Congregational Care Coordinator for February: Dell Whitehead



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, February 5, 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

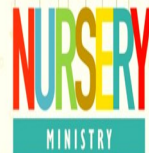
First Monday Week—Katy Terry & Chris Wilson

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



February 1, 2026 Lily McKay,

Joan & Hannah Baird

February 8, 2026

Lily McKay, Adam & Rebecca Rea



COVENANT CONNECTION

February 4, 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/3MCY811>

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

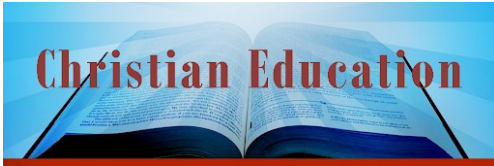
☐ Wednesdays in January, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

☐ Covenant Library

☐ Sign up: <https://bit.ly/4pL5azO>

Our next Green Dream Team meeting will be Sunday, February 22 at 12:15 PM in the Covenant Library.

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



“THE GOD-BOTHERERS” 9:30AM February 1, 2026 We will continue our study of “troubling texts” of the Bible.

The “UPPER ROOM” 9:30am February 1, 2026 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” February 1 2026 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.

Juniors (K-3rd) Class February 1 2026 at 9:30am

Middlers (4th—7th) February 1, 2026 at 9:30am

Covenant Youth Connection—February 1, 2026 at 5:00pm Dinner & Program

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.

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



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

Bowden Church Vocations Fund-

A special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church-
February 2026

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 60 + years. Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATIONS FUND was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering for the Bowden Fund will be received this month. Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. PLEASE RESPOND GENEROUSLY, as we support our members in this journey of faith together! See the display on the wall next to the office for all those that Covenant has sponsored. Many thanks!

Church Directory

UPDATE



Due to the changes in the structure of the company, there have been delays in fulfilling the directory contract and photo print orders. As soon as there is an update on expected delivery date, it will be shared with the congregation. Please contact DeLynda Tweedell with any questions at dtweedell@hotmail.com



Congratulations to John Knox
for receiving the
Distinguished Alumni Award for
Outstanding Achievement by the
Department of Atmospheric and
Oceanic Sciences.



*Annual
Giving
Statements*

Please note that your contribution statements for 2025 are now in your mailbox or have been mailed.

If you have any questions please see Karen or Judy.

Author Reading and Q&A

American Teenager

*How Trans Kids Are
Surviving Hate
And Finding Joy
In a Turbulent Era*

February 7
4:00pm
The Table at UGA
1250 S. Lumpkin St.
Athens, GA



W/ Nico Lang





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 NEEDED (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!

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 by the Week!

February 1, 2026

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
12:15pm Congregational Care Meeting
2:30pm 12 Step Group
5:00pm Covenant Youth Group goes bowling
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
1pm—4pm Athens Free Clinic
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom
7:00pm Bells of NEGA

TUESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am Lunch Bunch
12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
6:00pm Scouts
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm First Wednesday “85 Seconds to Midnight”
with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am-4pm

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— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

February 8, 2026

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
1:00pm Covenant Youth Group to UGA Women’s Softball
2:30pm 12 Step Group
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 OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am Personnel Team Meeting
12 noon—3pm Bigger Vision
12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon
4pm Socrates Café—OLLI
6:00pm Scouts
6:00pm Campus Kitchen
6:30pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal
6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am-4pm

9:30 am Campus Kitchen
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
5:00pm Girl Scouts Event in FH with Ansley Land
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
Rehearsals in Worship Center

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group
Rehearsals in Worship Center