



Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, May 03, 2026 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## **The Covenanter** **May 03, 2026**

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1065 Gaines School, Athens, GA 30605  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)

### Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 17

immediately following 11am worship.

*For the purpose of electing a member of  
session to the 2025 - 2026  
nominating committee.*

### **Graduates Recognition Sunday** **May 10 at 11:00am Worship**

Please join us as we recognize our High School graduates *Thomas Bowden, Claire Bruner, and Jacob Page.*

And our college graduates: *Hannah Barnett, Cullen Bruner, Lily Herndon, and Lila McMaster.*

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**

**"Learning from Wendell Berry," with Dan Zins**

**FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ Covenant Presbyterian Church – May 6, 2026**

**Dinner at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall; Program at 6:15 PM in the Journey Classroom**

Arguably our most important environmental writer, Wendell Berry epitomizes the very best from both the conservative and radical traditions. Ecologist, caretaker, economist, farmer, citizen, activist, bad subject but exemplary neighbor, devout Christian (Southern Baptist), contrarian/dissenter, doubter, truth seeker, justice seeker, patriot, prophet, peacemaker, ethicist, and superb writer, Wendell Berry has been called "A Thoreau for Our Times." And indeed, he still is.

For the past half century Berry has been writing with uncommon wisdom and grace on a wide range of issues that matter--or should matter--to all citizens. His principled, prophetic witness challenges us to address the unacknowledged and interconnected forms of violence against our land and ecology, our fellow citizens and communities, our nation, and our increasingly beleaguered planet. Throughout his writing Berry suggests the kinds of changes in our thinking, lives, and polity that will be required to begin atoning for these grave offenses, and what we can all do to effectively heal our self-inflicted and increasingly lethal wounds.

Some pieces you might enjoy reading before next Wednesday:

<https://orionmagazine.org/article/thoughts-in-the-presence-of-fear/>

<https://orionmagazine.org/article/a-citizens-response-to-the-national-security-strategy/>

<https://orionmagazine.org/article/to-live-and-love-with-a-dying-world/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-new-yorker-interview/going-home-with-wendell-berry>

A recent profile of Berry:

Jedediah Britton-Purdy, "A Shared Place"

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/wendell-berry-essays-library-of-america-review/>

Interviews with Berry:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ejYAfcjJmY&t=372s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4qolGUd0IA>

<https://www.pbs.org/video/moyers-company-wendell-berry-poet-and-prophet/>

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

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Bill Barstow recovering from surgery May 1 at Piedmont; Lisa Buchanan recovering at home; Linda Koehler recovering from hip replacement surgery at St. Mary's on April 29; Paige Cummings brother, Stephen Mercer with complications after bladder cancer surgery; Margaret Lee, a friend of Tom Buchanan, for ongoing medical issues; David Knox recovering at home from a broken ankle; Pam & Bruce Butts grandchildren's mother, Ginger Butts, approved for a kidney transplant; Ellie McMinn's brother, Mike Marshall recovering from a stroke; Gloria Pylant's brother, Richard Ellis had a successful surgery 4/20; Heide Wiegel recovering from hip surgery after a fall; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA; Joyce Placek healing from a broken wrist; our country and our world.

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Acts 7:55 – 60, Palm 31: 1-5, Proverbs 4:10 -18,  
Psalm 119: 9-32, I Peter 2: 2-10,  
John 14: 1 - 14

#### Financial Summary for Week 43

Anticipated Pledges— \$369,070.65  
ACTUAL- \$394,957.96

*Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!  
Caring Hands - \$200.00*

If you would like an updated church directory please let Karen know in the office or email at

[kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org).



To give to Covenant online scan the QR code or click on this link:

<https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

#### **Pizza Party for Our Czech Visitors Rain or Shine - Friday evening, May 8 starting at 6:00 PM Covenant Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship welcoming four visitors from our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the church bulletin board so we know how much DePalma's pizza to order and for folks who would like to contribute a salad or dessert. We plan to pull out the cornhole sets and board games. Our Czech visitors hope to bring a brief slide show of past Covenant/Olomouc visits. This is a great way to learn more about our sister church and get involved in the partnership or simply come out for an enjoyable and easygoing evening. For questions or to sign up from home, contact Valerie Stone at 678-360-6983 or [valeriefreystone@gmail.com](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com).

#### **Take Them A Meal**

for Linda & Phil Koehler

<https://takethemeal.com/BFQZ0053>

#### **Pentecost Picnic**

**Sunday, May 24 following worship**

Mark your calendars! This year on Pentecost Sunday we are having an indoor/outdoor picnic after the worship service, and  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Fellowship Ministry Team will provide sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit and drinks.

For those who are interested (not required) you can bring a Red Dessert to share. Think strawberries, raspberries, cherries, red icing, and etc. To make it even more fun we plan to have prizes for various categories! Food will be served in the Fellowship Hall and seating will be available, but we encourage families to bring chairs and sit outside as well. More information will follow and if you have any questions please contact Rebecca Silver or Caly DePalma.



**"THE GOD-BOTHERERS" 9:30am May 3, 2026-** the class is currently studying the place of the apocryphal Gospel of Thomas in early Christianity and reading Elaine Pagels' book *Beyond Belief*.

**THE UPPER ROOM 9:30 am, May 3, 2026** James Malone hosts, with different members facilitating the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. To participate via Zoom, please contact James at [gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com).

**The "JOURNEY" May 3, 2026** We will conclude our study of *The Road to Wisdom* this Sunday. This means, "What next?"

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class May 3, 2026 at 9:30am**

**Midders (4th—7th) May 3, 2026 at 9:30am**

**Covenant Youth Connection—May 3, 2026 at 5:00pm Dinner & Program**



Covenant has talent and we want to see that on display again at this years Coffee House! Sign-up sheet will be posted in June. If you already know you'd like to share your skills and unique abilities with your Covenant family, contact Linda Rogers 706 247 6225, or [lrogers@uga.edu](mailto:lrogers@uga.edu).

**GIVE TO THE CARING HANDS FUND | PRESBYTERIAN HOMES OF GEORGIA**  
**Provide financial security to residents.**  
For Presbyterian Homes of Georgia residents who may have a special need, the *Caring Hands Fund* provides financial support for medical care, transportation, food, and other needs as they arise. Most of all, your gift will provide peace of mind and financial security by helping to ensure no resident will ever be asked to leave a PHGA community because they have outlived their resources through no fault of their own.  
Check or money order: Please make your check or money order payable to Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, and mail to: Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, P.O. Box 926, Quitman, GA 31643 or make out check to Covenant with Caring Hands in the memo portion of the check.

## Sunday Schedule

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

5pm Covenant Youth

## Nursery Ministry

**May 3, 2026** Lily McKay, Pam Knox,  
Ellen Stoneburner

**May 10, 2026** Lily McKay, Richard &  
Jacob Page

## Knitters & Knotters

**Thursday, May 7 at 2:00pm**

Join us in the library every  
Thursday. We knit and knot and  
have lots of laughs. No  
experience necessary

## SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb,  
Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

**LITURGIST:** Luanne Rigsby

## SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

**GREETERS/USHERS:** Sandy Whitney, Jim Newland,  
Caly DePalma

**LITURGIST:** Kirche Rogers

**Congregational Care for May:** Susan Parish

## OPEN AND CLOSE THE BUILDING

**Chris Wilson 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday      Judy Capie 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

**Pam Knox 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday      Tim Foutz 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Brian Striggow 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

## Grounds Stewards

**First Monday Week – Katy Terry & Chris Wilson**

**Second Monday Week – Don & Alex Clark**

**Third Monday Week - Phil Hale & Phil Koehler**

**Fourth Monday Week – Susan & Randy Parish**

**Fifth Monday Week – Ellen Stoneburner**

## Celebrate the Earth today and everyday!      Theme: Our Power, Our Planet.

Earth Day is a reminder for all of us to use our energies to help protect and preserve the earth. Our Covenant Green Dream Team has several earth care activities planned for this spring with more in the works for the coming months. See [Earthday.org](http://Earthday.org) for more info on this global event.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Drinking Water Treatment Plant Open House 10:30am or 11:30am

Several Green Dream Team members will tour the Beacham Drinking Water Treatment Plant here in Athens. If you are interested in attending, please contact Heather Jarboe at [jarboeh@gmail.com](mailto:jarboeh@gmail.com).

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Youth Re-Use Art Activity & Dinner with Green Dream Team (GDT) 5:00pm

Sammi Godwin will lead our youth in an art activity. They will be using the pull off tabs from soda cans, so please collect and donate your soda tabs for this event. Please place the tabs in the collection box on the GDT table by the recycling.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Green Dream Team/ Covenant Road Clean Up 9:00am

It's spring and time for us to help beautify our section of Barnett Shoals Road.

All are welcome to join us! Please bring a water bottle, work gloves, and sunglasses.

RSVP to Jennifer at [jenofrey@gmail.com](mailto:jenofrey@gmail.com) or sign up on the Covenant bulletin board.

Meet at Covenant to receive equipment and road assignment.

### Future Events:

1. Nature Walks in Athens with GDT members- dates in May will be announced soon!
2. Summer Movie Night- Wednesday, June 17, 7pm. GDT to host viewing of "Ocean" movie with David Attenborough. All are welcome! Snacks will be provided. Movie is courtesy of Athens Rotary Club
3. Next Green Dream Team Meeting - May 17, 12:15pm in Covenant Library. Come join us to see what other projects and events we have planned.



Please look through the volunteer opportunities below and follow the link provided or contact the church if you can help.

**1. 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 to volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>

Volunteers are especially needed to help with setting up the space ahead of the clinic's start and ensuring all visitors feel welcome and supported. No prior experience is necessary—just a friendly attitude and a willingness to lend a hand.

**2. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 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#/>

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

**Volunteering with the Food Pantry** is a great way for Covenanters to help. Sessions are from 9:30-11am where we pack grocery bags, and from 12:30pm-1:30pm, where we distribute groceries. The afternoon session is particularly important as it takes about 15 volunteers to run smoothly. *Thank you to everyone who brings plastic bags — we really appreciate it! If you could please fold them before bringing them in, it would make them much easier to use. Thanks so much!* **The college volunteers will be gone for the summer so now is a great time to volunteer. Most needed time is the 12:30pm - 1:30pm shift. Thank you Covenant!**

**4. 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 and Project Safe. Please email Marlah Gaspard at [mgaspard@helppathenshomeless.org](mailto:mgaspard@helppathenshomeless.org), if you are interested in joining the Covenant Birthday Brigade and want to provide a cake for the Shelter. Emma Boardman is our contact at Project Safe. She can be contacted at [eboardman@project-safe.org](mailto:eboardman@project-safe.org), if you want to add your name to our email volunteer list.



JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! VOLUNTEER  
FOR JUST A SINGLE 2 HOUR SHIFT  
ATHENS 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FOOD  
PACKING EVENT  
MAY 15 – 17 IN UGA STEGEMAN COLISEUM  
TO VOLUNTEER GO TO [GIVE.FMSC.ORG/ATHENS](https://GIVE.FMSC.ORG/ATHENS)

**Jubilee Partners will be setting up households on May 10 and 17. To help with that they have ask for the following donations:**

**Items Needed Right Now:** Ice trays, shower curtain/liner, power strips with lids, slotted spoons, bookshelves (medium and small), end tables/beside tables (2 or 3), measuring spoon sets (2) measuring cups sets (already have lots of ½ cup size), 2 small couches. Kitchen strainers/colander, large mixing bowls, serving bowls, cutting boards, electric tea kettles, can openers, medium saucepan with lid, kid friendly dishes, fitted queen sheets or queen sets (cotton preferred), quilted mattress covers, queen size, dressers (1 or 2), small armchair, rocking chair, small dehumidifiers .

Contact DeLynda Tweedell for more information at [dtweedell@hotmail.com](mailto:dtweedell@hotmail.com) or if you have items to donate.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank needs brown paper bags!  
Leave them on the table as you go into the gathering room.  
Thank you! *(Please no egg cartons)*



Congratulations to our  
Jacob Page, selected for  
2026 Region 8-AAAAA  
All Region Soccer  
Teams! 🏆  
Jacob Page - **FIRST  
TEAM ALL-REGION**

**Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon  
Tuesday, May 12 at 12:30pm**

Join us for good food and Quintina  
Carter—Enyi will talk about

"Who is A Composer?"

*On Expanding Academic Discourse on  
Music Composition"*

Bring your favorite dish to share and a  
friend. Beverages will be provided.

**Week of May 3, 2026**

**Sunday – Family Promise begins**

**9:30am Sunday School**

11:00am Worship

5:00pm Covenant Youth Group

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**Monday – Office Closed**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

**Tuesday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

12noon – 3pm Bigger Vision

**Wednesday – Office Open 10am – 4:00pm**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

5:30pm Covenant Connection Meal

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:15pm First Wednesday with special guest  
Dan Zins

7:15pm Adult Choir

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting downstairs

**Thursday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

9:30am Campus Kitchen

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution

2pm Knitters & Knotters

2:30pm Athen's Women Singers

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

**Friday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

1:00 pm – 4:00pm Oil Portraiture in  
Oasis Theatre

6:00pm **Pizza Party with Olomouc guests in  
fellowship hall**

7:30pm 12 Step Meeting

**Saturday**

10:30am OE Anonymous Meeting

**Week of May 10, 2026**

**Sunday – Mother's Day/Grads Recognition**

**9:30am Sunday School**

11:00am Worship

5:00pm **NO YOUTH GROUP**

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**Monday – Office Closed**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

**Tuesday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

12noon – 3pm Bigger Vision

12:30pm Retirees Covered Dish Luncheon

4:30pm Socrates Café - OLLI

6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting

7:00pm Stamp Club

**Wednesday – Office Open 10am – 4:00pm**

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

3:30pm Cake Decorating with Valerie Stone

5:30pm Covenant Connection Meal (final)

6:00 Handbell Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting downstairs

**Thursday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

9:30am Campus Kitchen

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution

2pm Knitters & Knotters

2:30pm Athen's Women Singers

7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting

7:00pm Book Club in Library

**Friday – Office Open 10am – 4pm**

1:00 pm – 4:00pm Oil Portraiture in  
Oasis Theatre

7:30pm 12 Step Meeting

**Saturday**

10:30am OE Anonymous Meeting