

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for
Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER August 16, 2026

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



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 RALLY DAY BRUNCH 9:15 AM

Join us for brunch consisting of donuts, muffins, croissants, fruit and coffee, tea & juice courtesy of the Fellowship Ministry Team.

MINISTRY FAIR 9:30 AM

You will have the opportunity to explore the many ways to get involved. Representatives from each ministry team will be available at individual tables throughout the room to answer questions, share information about their ministries, and discuss volunteer opportunities. Take time to visit the tables that interest you most and discover how your gifts and interests can make a difference in the life of our church. Our ministry teams include: *Building & Grounds, Christian Education, Congregational Care, Congregational Fellowship, Finance, Mission & Outreach, Personnel, & Worship*

CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP 11:00 AM

with commissioning of our Christian Education Teachers, Covenant Connection Leaders, and Youth Group Leaders



Congregational Meeting
Congregational Meeting on August 30
following worship to elect
the 2026-2027
Nominating Committee.

A special Thank You to all
that provided punch and
cookies during the summer. It was delicious!



Calling All Covenant Youth!

Covenant Youth Connection is kicking off a new year on **Sunday, August 23, from 5:00–7:00 p.m.** All youth in **grades 5–12** are invited to join us for an evening of great food, games and recreation, and a chance to help dream and plan for the year ahead. Come reconnect after the summer, bring your ideas—and **bring a friend or two!** We're looking forward to a great year together.

You can find the Covenant Programs & Events Brochure on the table in the
in front of the offices or at this link: [Covenant's Programs & Events 2026-2027](#)



This fall, our worship will feature a sermon series called A Strange New World: Another Story to Live By. The theologian Karl Barth once wrote that “within the Bible there is a strange, new world, the world of God.” Scripture does more than offer familiar religious ideas or helpful lessons for the lives we are already living.

Again and again, it opens a door into a world that can enlarge and unsettle our own – a world where strangers become teachers, abundance is measured by whether all have enough, power takes the shape of self-giving love, and God is found in places we might never have thought to look. From Rally Day through Christ the King Sunday, we will enter that strange biblical world together, listening for the ways its stories and visions might help us see our own lives, our church, and our common life with fresh eyes – and discover another story by which to live.



Will resume Wednesday,
August 19, 2026 at 5:30pm

5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal

6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:15pm Bible Study with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

Chess Anyone??

Jack Pannecoucke has just bought a chess set and a copy of *Chess for Dummies* (4th edition!!), and would like to start a Chess Club for members and friends of Covenant! If you'd like to become a member—whether you're a beginner or an experienced player—please email Jack at jep@uga.edu. He'll compile a list with the names and contact information those interested.

Midstream - Let's Reconnect

Join us if you can for a Brown Bag Lunch after worship on **August 30th**. It will be a chance to catch up and talk about getting together regularly going forward. Our plan is to have a monthly event and we would love your input. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15pm. Drinks & cookies will be provided.



IN OUR PRAYERS: Bruce Menke and family in the passing of Karen, Saturday, July 11th; Erin Stoneburner recovering from surgery from complications from a broken ankle; Kathy McGill, a friend of Deb Millwood & Pam Butts, in rehab for a broken hip; Kathryn Fowler recovering from foot surgery; Missy Green's son, Jason, recovering from a serious dog attack in Cleveland, Ohio; Lisa Buchanan's friend's husband, Terry Shannon, suffering from stage 4 cancer; friends of Paige Cummings, Steve & Beverly Poitras, as Steve has serious health issues & diagnosed with chronic CML Leukemia; John Wilkin's sister, Sarah Goodrich diagnosed with cancer; Bruce & Cathi Lancaster's daughter, Emily Gaither, undergoing chemo for breast cancer; Paige Cummings brother, Stephen Mercer with complications after bladder cancer surgery; Margaret Lee, a friend of Tom Buchanan, for ongoing medical issues; Pam & Bruce Butts grandchildren's mother, Ginger Butts, approved for a kidney transplant; Ellie McMinn's brother, Mike Marshall recovering from a stroke; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA; our country and our world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
Genesis 45: 1-15, Psalm 133

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8, Psalm 67

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15: 21-28

Financial Summary for Week #6

Anticipated Pledges— \$ 56,690.52

Pledges Received— \$44,848.38

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Benefiting The Ark's Summer of Stability Fund



KARMA KAT

CANNON ROGERS

FLORENCE CARDIGAN

MUSIC

RAFFLES, BEER, & MORE

FREE ENTRY

Sat. August 22
Creature Comforts
Doors @ 5
Music @ 5:30

visit athensark.org/summerbash

For more info visit athensark.org/summerbash



To give to covenant online scan the QR code or click on this link: <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving>

The Presbyterian Foundation (Vanco Online) has issued a new QR code. See above.

OLOMOUC -- Please mark your calendar for dates focusing on fellowship with our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic. On Sunday, September 13 our worship service will focus on the partnership between our churches. After the service, please stay to enjoy a few Czech treats. On Wednesday, September 16 at 5:30 PM during the Covenant Connection dinner, we'll have a trip planning meeting for those interested in learning about the 2027 group trip. (Please RSVP to valeriefreystone@gmail.com for the Wednesday meeting so we can notify the kitchen crew.) The group trip to Olomouc is planned for July 15 – 27, 2027. Our sister church will provide lodging and travel help, so the trip is limited to ten travelers.

Sunday Schedule

Join us for Rally Day beginning
at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall
11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, August 16, 2026—Rally Day

LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

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

SUNDAY, August 23, 2026

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

GREETERS/USHERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Alan Edwards, Robyn Malone

Congregational Care Coordinator for August: Barbara Burnett

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026

Sunday, August 16—Rally Day

Ansley Land, DeLynda Tweedell

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Dell Whitehead, Ada & Larson Rea

If you would like to volunteer for the
Nursery or just like more information
contact Ellen Stoneburner at
ellenstoneburner@gmail.com

OPEN AND CLOSE THE BUILDING

Chris Wilson 1st Sunday

Judy Capie 2nd Sunday

Pam Knox 3rd Sunday

Tim Foutz 4th Sunday

Brian Striggow 5th Sunday

Grounds 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

Fifth Monday Week – Ellen Stoneburner

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

August 20, 2026

Join us in the library every Thursday at 2pm.

We Knit & Knot and have lots of laughs.

No experience necessary.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study books are now available
in the copy room. *First meeting is Thursday, Sept. 17 at 9:30am.*

Regular print is \$16.00 each and Large print is \$20.00 each.

Please make your check out to Covenant with PW Book in the memo portion
of the check.

PW AUGUST WORKSHOPS, AUGUST 29, 2026

First Presbyterian Church Milledgeville, 210 South Wayne street, Milledgeville, GA Intro-
duction to PW Bible Study *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*, by Rhonda Maywood
Lee. You can find registration forms on the bulletin board. **Please register by Aug 21!**



THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, August 23, 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 giillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The “JOURNEY” August 23, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion.

THE “GOD BOTHERERS” August 23, 2026, 9:30am **Are you a God-Botherers?** God-Botherers can be faithful churchgoers or terminal seekers, those whose faith is usually strong or those whose faith is on life support. Have all kinds of questions about faith? This class is for anyone of any age who wrestles with tough questions? Join us in the library. Facilitated by Pastor Tom.



Calling All Covenant Youth!

Covenant Youth Connection is kicking off a new year on **Sunday, August 23, from 5:00 –7:00 p.m.** All youth in **grades 5–12** are invited to join us for an evening of great food, games and recreation, and a chance to help dream and plan for the year ahead. Come reconnect after the summer, bring your ideas—and **bring a friend or two!** We’re looking forward to a great year together.

KINDERGARTENERS – FIFTH GRADERS BEGINNING **AUGUST 23RD** AT 9:30AM



The designated downstairs Church School space is painted with murals inviting young people into the world of sacred story. Within these walls, songs and stories of faith shaping the lives of young disciples are shared in creative ways by a team of talented volunteers. The curriculum includes the “Growing in God’s Love, a story Bible. The children grouped as K -2nd graders and 3rd – 5th graders, are shepherded each month.

Teachers: Betsy Burmeister, Katy McGill

Shepherds: Kay Millar, Jere Bowden, & Shari Cobb Substitute: Kay Brooks

Oasis Theatre – the Story through drama Temple Courtyard – the Story through creative games

Loaves and Fishes – the snack time and fellowship

Pottery Workshop – the Story through crafts.



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

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.

**Every First Tuesday of the month!
Make a difference—One Meal at a time.**

Sign up to volunteer here: *The TABLE signups will begin again in the fall* <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

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. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/> 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!

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 mgaespard@helpathenshomeless.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 ebboardman@project-safe.org, if you want to add your name to our email volunteer list.

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!



We are collecting for Cedar Shoals High School top priority needs:

#2 Pencils

Bic Pens

Yellow highlighters

College rule composition books

College rule notebooks

Please leave your items on the table in front of the church office.

Thank you Covenant!

A SPIRIT OF COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *Comfort*

Covenant seeks to nurture a spirit of welcome where members and visitors are at ease. Here are some ways we hope you can be at home during worship services and programs:

There is breathing room for your faith.

- If you are uncomfortable with the words in a hymn or public profession, you are welcome to remain silent. We are glad that you are thoughtful about your beliefs.
- During discussions, you are welcome to respectfully ask questions and disagree.

You can be comfortable here.

- Formal clothing is not necessary even for Sunday morning worship.
- If you are not comfortable standing for hymns or readings during worship, please remain sitting.
- If you have difficulty sitting for long periods, you may stand in the back.
- If you listen better when your hands are occupied, you are welcome to do non-distracting/non-messy handiwork (knitting, cross-stitch, etc.).
- You are welcome to bring a cushion or lap blanket.
- If you have dietary concerns, you're welcome to bring your own food to gatherings.

We hope you find that Covenant is a reassuring place to worship, explore, grow, and enjoy fellowship.

Covenant by the Week!

August 16, 2026

SUNDAY - RALLY DAY

9:15am Rally Day Breakfast & Ministry Fair
11:00am Worship

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30pm Covenant Connection Dinner
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

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

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

8:30am Fellowship Hall Cleaned

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

August 23, 2026

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
12:30pm Stated Session Meeting
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group
5:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

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

TUESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

4:30pm Socrates Café—OLLI
6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
2pm—4pm OLLI—Zins
4:30pm Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting
5:30pm Covenant Connection Dinner
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

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
6:00pm—8:00pm Girl Scouts Meeting in FH (Ansley)
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

8:30am Fellowship Hall Cleaned

SATURDAY 10:30am 12 Step Group

10:30am 12 Step Group