

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for
Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER September 13, 2026

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



Stronger Together

• IN FAITH, IN SERVICE, IN LOVE •
PARTNERSHIP



OLOMOUC -- 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.

Sundae Sunday!
An Eastside Ice Cream Social
hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 20
3:00-5:00 p.m.
On the front lawn

Free ice cream
Children's activities
All ages welcome

Come meet your neighbors and enjoy a sweet afternoon together!

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605

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.

Help Us Choose Our Next Elders!

Every year the Nominating Committee gets to go on a little treasure hunt — looking for four wonderful people to serve as Elders on the Session for a three-year term. And we need your help! If someone comes to mind, let us know.

If possible, check with them first so they know they are being considered. If you do not reach them, we’ll let them know you gave us their name. The Book of Order puts it beautifully, “Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.”

Place an asterisk (*) by anyone you’ve contacted. A little prayerful thought goes a long way as you do your part in supporting this process. Forms are available by the drop box in the gathering room. **Drop your recommendation in the drop box. On the table in the gathering room.**



5:30pm Covenant Connection family meal

6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom (*see below*)

7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

How to Read the Bible Well:

**Engaging Scripture with Depth & Understanding
with Pastor Tom Buchanan**

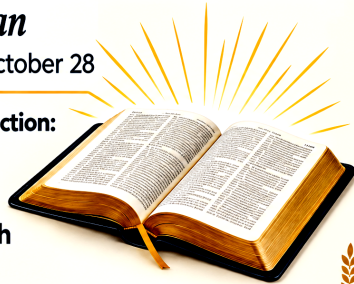
Wednesdays – September 2 to October 28

Wednesday Night Covenant Connection:

Dinner 5:30 – 6:15 PM

Program 6:15 – 7:15 PM

@ Covenant Presbyterian Church
1065 Gaines School Road, Athens



Join us as we learn to approach the Bible with greater clarity, confidence, and appreciation! Together we will explore what the Bible is, how it’s structured, how its many literary genres work, and how its writings emerged from the worlds of ancient Israel, Second Temple Judaism, and the wider Greco-Roman Mediterranean. We will also consider why Bible translations differ, how to choose a good study Bible, and how to use tools such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, atlases, and other helps. Along the way, we will model

careful study of selected biblical passages, learning how historical context, literary attention, and interpretive humility can open these ancient texts in fresh and meaningful ways.

IN OUR PRAYERS: Cathi Lancaster and family in the passing of her father Sunday, Sept. 6; Lois Settles and family in the passing of Bob on Wed. Aug 26; Joelle Dunham and family in the passing of her husband, Rich Dunham in Virginia; Sharon Edwards with ongoing medical issues; Erin Stoneburner recovering from surgery from complications from a broken ankle; Joe & June Meyers' niece, Wendy Karrisch, age 55 years, has decided to receive Hospice Care for metastatic breast cancer; 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 Poittrast, as Steve has serious health issues & diagnosed with chronic CML Leukemia; John Wilkin's sister, Sarah Goodrich diagnosed with cancer; Paige Cummings brother, Stephen Mercer with complications after bladder cancer surgery; Margaret Lee, a friend of Tom Buchanan, for ongoing medical issues; 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:
Exodus 14: 19-21, Psalm 114,
Genesis 50: 15-21, Psalm 103: 10 - 7, 8 -13,
Romans 14: 1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35

Financial Summary for Week #9

Anticipated Pledges – \$ 94,484.23

Pledges Received – \$ 89,890.98

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!



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.



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.



For the month of September Covenant is collecting all sizes diapers and pull ups for the Athens Area Diaper Bank. (*open packs are accepted*) Let's help every child in our community stay clean, dry, and healthy! Please leave your diapers in the

box next to the table in front of the church office. If you would like to donate online use this link: www.athensareadiaperbank.com



SEPT 15TH - 'TEENTH TUESDAY SINGING'



7:00-9:00 p.m., at Covenant Presbyterian Church **1065 Gaines School Rd, Athens,**

GA 30605 (eastside, across from Bank of America). Brief, optional introductory lesson at 6:30 p.m. for beginners. We'll sing from the Sacred Harp (2025) and Christian Harmony (2010). Books to borrow will be available on site. Wheelchair accessible.

Note: Look for signs for the entry. There will be a phone number to call, if the door is locked when you arrive.

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Nursery
9:30am Sunday School
for all ages
11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, September 13, 2026

LITURGIST: Luanne Rigsby

USHERS/GREETERS: Paige Cummings, Caly DePalma, Mindy & Doug Hill

SUNDAY, September 20, 2026

LITURGIST: Jim Anderson

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

Congregational Care Coordinator for September: Linda Koehler

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Nancy Alila, Richard Page,
Rebecca Silver

Sunday, September 20, 2025

Nancy Alila, Cathi Lancaster,
Marie Ballard-Myer

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Sept. 17, 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.

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!



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

Green Dream Team News

September 19, Covenant Road Clean Up 9:00am at
Covenant

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

RSVP to Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com or sign
up on the Covenant bulletin board.

October 05 Earth Care Fair at St. Gregory's—tentative
time 12pm—3pm

Oct/Nov (TBD) Youth Art Activity & Dinner with
Green Dream Team (GDT) 5:00pm

GDT members will join them for the meal and lead our
youth in painting bird feeders.

Future Events:

Date to be determined Nature Walk in Athens with GDT
members.

November 7 at 10:00am Field Trip ACC Water Recla-
mation Facility

Join the GDT on a tour of one of the ACC Water Recla-
mation Facilities. Please RSVP to Heather Jarboe at
jarboeh@gmail.com to join this tour.



THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, September 13, 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” September 13, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. Fall study has begun and Stephanie (Thank You!) will lead this week’s discussion which will focus on the first portion of *The Ancient Quest for Happiness* (Chapter 2, **pages 13-24**, in *Love Thy Stranger*). Join us as we begin to explore the history of altruism in the world before Christ.

THE GOD BOTHERERS CLASS - Sundays, August 30 through October 4 at 9:30am - Covenant Library
The Fifth Gospel? The Gospel of Thomas in Conversation with The Canonical Gospels” Facilitated by Pastor Tom
The *Gospel of Thomas* is one of the most intriguing non-canonical writings to survive from early Christianity. Over six weeks, we will read it alongside the biblical Gospels and explore what these texts together reveal about Jesus, the transmission of early Christian traditions, and the different ways early Christians understood discipleship and salvation. Our format will be informal and discussion-oriented. Bibles and paper copies of the Gospel of Thomas will be available. If you would like a copy of the Participant Packet (not “required,” but gives an overview of the series, plus a translation of Thomas), contact Pastor Tom.



KINDERGARTENERS - FIFTH GRADERS SEPTEMBER 13 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.

Covenant Youth Group— September 13 at 5:00pm



We’ll enjoy some outdoor (or indoor) recreation, have a great dinner in the Fellowship Hall, and then have our program down in The Cove - that’s our youth room downstairs! We’ll wrap up at 7:00 PM.

Invite your friends, and join us! Hope to see you this Sunday!



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

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 at THE TABLE! (Presbyterian Student Center)
Make a difference—One Meal at a time. Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1

Sign up to volunteer here: *The TABLE at UGA, 1250 Lumpkin Street* <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>. Please don't forget to submit your receipts to the office for reimbursement.

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#/>. **Most needed time is the 12:30pm – 1:30pm shift. Don't forget to bring you plastic grocery bags. 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 mghaspard@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.

IN SEPTEMBER! Athens Area Diaper Drive. All sizes and pull-ups accepted. Open packs are accepted too. Please leave the diapers in the box next to the table in front of the church office. If you would like to donate online use this link: www.athensareadiaperbank.com.

Mission & Outreach is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Coordinator for First Tuesday at The Table at UGA from September through May. This is a wonderful opportunity to help organize and support this important outreach ministry. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Bob Brewster at bobbrew@aol.com or Deb Millwood at debrajmillwood@gmail.com.

Senior Citizen on limited fixed income is in search of housing. Prefers a small studio, basement or garage apartment. Helpful if utilities are included.

Please contact Deb Millwood, debrajmillwood@gmail.com or 404-664-5577, with referrals or for more information.



Over the past eight years, the Church Partnership Network linking PC(USA) and participating Czech churches has created an Advent devotional.

The 2026 theme is "The Light Shines in the Darkness." We need writers from our congregation to share their thoughts on one of the year's selected Bible verses listed in the sign up sheet: <https://bit.ly/4zxRE7Y> . Devotionals can be up to 1,500 characters and you may include a picture if you wish. **The deadline is Friday, September 18.** Please submit your devotional in the Microsoft Word .docx format as an email attachment to David Hancock (dhancock@pobox.com). For local help or questions, please contact Covenant member Valerie Stone ([valeriefreystone at gmail](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com)).



Green Dream Team's

Lunch and Learn

for Covenant's Proposed Solar Project



You are Invited!

Covenant's Green Dream Team is hosting a Congregational Lunch and Learn after worship on **September 27, 12:15pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Come learn about Covenant's Proposed Solar Project!

Our speaker will be Hannah Shultz, Program Director with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL).
Lunch will be provided. Come and see our newest proposed project!

-  **What:** Lunch and Learn for Proposed Solar at Covenant
-  **When:** September 27, 12:15pm
-  **Where:** Fellowship Hall
-  **Who:** All are Invited!
-  **With:** Hannah Shultz, with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) and Covenant's Green Dream Team, along with Covenant's Building and Grounds Ministry Team and Covenant's Finance Ministry Team

-  **RSVP:**
Sign up on the bulletin board by Sept 25, please.
-  **Questions:**
Contact Jennifer or Shari:
jenofrey@gmail.com or skcobb588@gmail.com

Come and be part of a brighter future
for Covenant!

Covenant by the Week!

September 13, 2026

September 20, 2026

SUNDAY - OLOMOUC PARTNERSHIP SUNDAY

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
Reception following worship in the FH w/Czech treats
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
2:00pm—5:00pm Athens Free Clinic
7:00pm Handbells of NEGA rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

10:00am—11:00am AKIDO OLLI group in FH
6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH
6:30pm Sacred Harp Class in Journey Classroom

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
5:30pm Meeting for Olomouc Trip Plans
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 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
2pm Knitters and Knotters
2:30pm Athens Women's Singing Group
6:00pm Finance Ministry Team via Zoom
7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

8:30am Fellowship Hall Cleaned
1:30pm—4:30pm Craft & Chat OLLI

SATURDAY

9:00AM GREEN DREAM TEAM ROAD CLEAN UP
10:30am 12 Step Group

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
3pm—5pm Sundae Sunday
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group
6:30pm 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

10:00am Presbytery Coordinating Team in Library
10:00am—11:00am AKIDO OLLI group in FH
1:30pm—3:30pm OLLI GROUP—Zins
6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band
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SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group