

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for
Sunday, October 04, 2026 at 11am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANT October 04, 2026

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



World Communion
Sunday
Bread and Grapes
Reception
Sunday, October 4

Join us in a global
celebration of unity in
Christ with over two

billion Christians around the world. To mark
this special day, we invite you to bring a loaf
(all kinds) of your favorite bread and
contribute it to a beautiful display in the
church chancel.

You may deliver your bread to the fellow-
ship hall Sunday, October 4th during
Sunday School, or before worship.

World Communion Offering for the
month of October, 2026!



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish
as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender
justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith
relations.

Thank you for your participation in the World Communion Offering.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

WAYS TO GIVE —

- ✚ Through your congregation
- ✚ Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/give/wco
- ✚ Text GIVEWCO to 41444 or scan this QR code



-or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by
the World Communion Offering by making an online gift at any time
throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

To learn more about how your gift to World Communion Offering
makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/wco.



**Family Promise of Athens helps local families experiencing homelessness
achieve independence**

www.familypromiseathens.org

October 4-10 will be Covenant's week to host the families temporarily housed in
Family Promise lodging. There is currently one family in the program living in the
Magnolia Terrace apartments, a single mom with four boys (ages 10, 8, 6, and 2).

Covenant volunteers will deliver meals on **Tuesday (October 6)**, **Wednesday (October 7)**, and **Thursday (October 8)**, between 6:00 and 6:30 PM. The family has no allergies or special needs. If you can help with the meals, please follow this link to sign up: www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CA5AA29A4FE3-47300007-2024#/

Another way to help is to donate items for program participants. Currently Family Promise needs lotion, body soap, dish soap, paper towels, cleaning supplies, and kitchen trash bags. You can drop these items off through October 11 on the table outside the church office. Please label these items for Family Promise as this is also a collection area for items going to the local high school. Thank you!



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.**



Wednesday,
October 07,
2026

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.

UNDERSTANDING DETENTION AND BUILDING RESISTANCE

A WORKSHOP HOSTED BY AMILCAR VALENCIA

- Executive Director at El Refugio
- Detention Watch Network Organizer



SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10



9:00 a.m.
TO NOON



SPONSORED BY



Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens

For other information
including location,
please register.

[tinyurl.com/
detention101026](https://tinyurl.com/detention101026)



IN OUR PRAYERS: Edna Fisher and family in the passing of her husband, Jim Fisher, Sept. 24, age 90; The family of Erin (Combs) Van Note in the death of her father-in-law, Jeff Van Note; Bert Ballard-Myers parents with covid and her sister-in-law Mary Myer with inoperable stage 4 lung cancer; Cathi Lancaster and family in the passing of her father Sunday, Sept. 6; Sharon Edwards with ongoing medical issues; Jere Bowden with blood pressure and family 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; 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.

If you would like to send a card to Edna her address is as follows:

Edna Fisher

3022 Jacobaeus Lane

Indiatlantic, Florida 32903

The Fisher's joined Covenant in the 70's and moved away in the 90's. Jim's son said that he passed away peacefully while holding his granddaughter's hand.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19,

Isaiah 5: 1-7, Psalm 80: 7-15,

Philippians 3: 4b-14, Matthew 21: 33-36



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.

Financial Summary for Week #13

Anticipated Pledges – \$ 122,829.50

Pledges Received – \$ 111,097.65

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!



Holy Happy Hour is back! Join us on **Thursday, October 15 at 5 p.m. at Locos Eastside** for lively theological conversation in a relaxed and lighthearted setting. Together with Pastor Tom, we will explore questions of faith, Scripture, church, and culture—sometimes seriously, sometimes playfully, and always in good company. No preparation or expertise is needed, and all are welcome to pull up a chair, raise a pint, and join the conversation!

Sunday Schedule

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

SUNDAY, October 4, 2026

LITURGIST: Ada Brock Rea

USHERS/GREETERS: Bill & Luanne Rigsby, Joe Meyers, Stephanie Cahill

Sunday, October 11, 2026

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

USHER/GREETERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Susan & Randy Parish

Congregational Care Coordinator for October: Ellen Stoneburner

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Nancy Alila, Don Bower,
Joan & Hannah Baird

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Nancy Alila, Stephanie Cahill,
Ellen Stoneburner

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Oct. 8, 2026

*Join us in the library every Thursday at
2pm. We Knit & Knot and have lots of
laughs. No experience necessary.*

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!



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*](#)

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

November 7 at 10:00am **Field Trip ACC Water
Reclamation Facility**

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

November 8 **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.

Did
You
Know!



Sweden is so good at recycling that it
imports about **two million tonnes of
waste** from neighbouring **countries** to
make profitable **recycling** products.



THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, October 4, 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” October 4, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. This Sunday we will discuss the second portion of *Love, Charity, and Forgiveness* in the Greek and Roman Worlds, Chapter 3, pp 64-76 of *Love Thy Stranger*.

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 OCTOBER 4 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— Sunday October 04 at 5:00pm

We will enjoy outdoor recreation, a great dinner, and then a program centered on *World Communion*, down in the Cove.

We will wrap up at 7pm. Bring your friends and see you there.



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#/>

Every First Tuesday of the month at THE TABLE! (Presbyterian Student Center)
Make a difference—One Meal at a time. NEW! NEW! NEW! Epting Catering will provide the meals all we have to do is heat it up, serve it and clean up afterwards.
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#/>

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

CEDAR SHOALS NEEDS: During October we will be collecting men's and women's underwear and socks for the students at Cedar Shoals. *Women's underwear sizes small, medium, large and men's underwear sizes small, large, and extra-large and athletic socks for men and women.* You may use this link to order from Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1WBDWDHLBZ3U9?ref=wl_share or you may shop on your own and bring the items to the church to drop off in the box next to the table outside of the office. *Thank you!*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help set up and clean up for the **ATHENS ACCESS TO JUSTICE LEGAL POP UP CLINIC on Saturday, October 24 9am—11am.** Volunteers need to show up about 8am to start the coffee and help set up tables and chairs. Contact Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org or Deb at debrajmillwood@gmail.com if you can help.

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.

You are Invited!

Sunday, October 25
to celebrate with us
Covenant's
60th Anniversary

Our worship service at 11:00am will feature special music and presentations honoring Covenant's history, faith and witness, followed by a festive congregational lunch in the fellowship hall.

We hope everyone will join us for the joyful day of remembrance, fellowship, and renewed commitment to the future God is opening before us.



**Covenant
Presbyterian
Church**

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, GA 30605

THANK YOU COVENANT FOR YOUR
GENEROUS GIVING OF DIAPERS TO
THE ATHENS AREA DIAPER BANK.



Diaper Bank Operations Manager
Shona Foster with the Covenant
collection of about 500 diapers.

*From the Athens Area Homeless Shelter
Newsletter for September 2026*

Helping Lives with Handywork

On behalf of our staff and clients, we would like to extend a huge thank you to our volunteer handyman, Brian! He joined forces with our organic action only last year and he has been informative, dedicated and an all around delight. The great work he does for us does not go unnoticed and we are deeply grateful. Thank you for all you do, Brian.



Thank you Covenant Presbyterian!

We are extending a huge thank you to Covenant Presbyterian Church for purchasing and donating all of the baby supplies that went to this mother and her newborn daughter! We appreciate your generosity and the kindness you have shown our families time and time again. *Athens Area Homeless Shelter*



Covenant by the Week!

October 4, 2026

SUNDAY - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Family Promise Begins

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

12:15pm Bread & Grapes Reception in FH

5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group

6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED

11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal

2pm—5pm 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 AIKIDO OLLI group in FH

6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

4:00pm Wedding in Worship Center

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

2:30pm Athens Women's Singing Group

6:30pm Finance Ministry Team Meeting

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

8:30am Fellowship Hall Cleaned

SATURDAY

9:00AM—12 noon IMMIGRANT JUSTICE EVENT

10:30am 12 Step Group

October 11, 2026

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

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—11:00am AIKIDO - OLLI group in FH

4:00pm Socrates Café - OLLI

6:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

6:30pm Sacred Harp Group in Journey Classroom

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band

4:30pm Congregational Care 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

2:30pm Athens Women's Singing Group

5pm Holy Happy Hour at Locos'

7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY— OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm

1:30pm—4:30pm Craft & Chat—OLLI

8:30am Fellowship Hall Cleaned

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group