COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 11am**: https:www.youtube.com/cpcathens
Link to the bulletin: https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/

The Covenanter
October 18, 2026

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



Sunday, October 18 we will welcome The Table (UGA Student Center) with Rev. Will Norman preaching and the students participating in the order of service. The Table is an inclusive Christian campus ministry in Athens that affirms the full participation and dignity of all people in all aspects of Christian life.
(Pastor Tom and Lisa are on a mini vacation)

Sunday, November 1, 2026



The commemoration of the saints goes to the heart of our faith; death has not won (I Corinthians 15: 55-57); in all we do we are accompanied by fellow Christians, living and dead (Hebrews 12:1); and in the end we will join others in praising God eternally (Revelation 7: 9-10). In worship we will refer to them during a moment of recognition and prayer. Please check the list of names on the table in front of the office and add or correct names as needed.

MIDSTREAMERS!

JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL GATHERING ON **FRIDAY, OCT 23RD AT 7:00PM** IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR GAME NIGHT (MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES). FEEL FREE TO BRING SNACKS TO SHARE. BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.



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.



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.

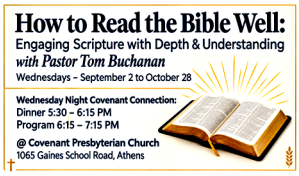
If possible, check with them first so they know they are being considered. If you do not reach them, we'll let them know you gave us their name. The Book of Order puts it beautifully, "Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of 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.***

COVENANT CONNECTION

Wednesday, October 21, 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



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.

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!



IN OUR PRAYERS: Jim & Ellie McMinn's friend, John Rennie, with pancreatic cancer; Joe & June Meyers and family in the passing of their niece, Wendy Karrisch; The family of Erin (Combs) Van Note in the death of her father-in-law, Jeff Van Note; Bert Ballard-Myers parents improved but mom still dealing with lingering effects of covid; Bert Ballard-Myers' brother Eric and sister in law Mary as Mary's cancer has metastasized to her brain; 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; 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; Anne Clark, mother of Pastor Tom's brother in law; Rex & Margaret Lee, friends of Tom Buchanan, for on-going 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 33: 12-23, Psalm 99,

Isaiah 45: 1-7 , Psalm 96: 1-9, 10—13

I Thessalonians 1: 1-10, Matthew 22: 15—22

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 #15
Anticipated Pledges – $ 141,726.35
Pledges Received – $ 145,996.21

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

World Communion Offering–$350.00

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

GROUND OR BEANS $11.00 PER BAG (NEW)

CHOCOLATE $3.00 PER BAR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COVENANT WITH COFFEE OR CHOCOLATE IN THE MEMO PORTION.



Sunday Schedule

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

Sunday, October 18, 2026
LITURGIST: Abi Garland, Marcus Vera *(from The Table)*
USHERS/GREETERS: Paige Cummings, Caly DePalma, Mindy & Doug Hill

Sunday, October 25, 2026
LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers
USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

Congregational Care Coordinator for October: Ellen Stoneburner

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026

Sunday, October 18, 2026
Nancy Alila, Susan Parish, Luanne Rigsby

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Nancy Alila, Adam & Rebecca Rea

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Oct. 22, 2026

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

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**
Tim Foutz 3rd Sunday **Pam Knox 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

October 19 Solar Project
*Building and Grounds (B&G) to receive final information from 3 potential installers.
*B&G will decide on 1-2 options to present to the next Session meeting in early November.

DONATION: *Covenant has received anonymous donations for the solar project! We are so appreciative of these donations and to all who are helping to make this project a reality.*

November 7 Field Trip to ACC Water Reclamation Facility 10:00am-11:30am
Meet at the church to carpool.
Please RSVP to Heather Jarboe at jarboeh@gmail.com
We have space for up to 25 participants!

November 8 Youth Art Activity & Dinner with (GDT) 5:00pm
GDT members will join our youth for the meal then lead them in painting bird feeders.
Please RSVP to Heather Jarboe at jarboeh@gmail.com to join us.

THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, October 18 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 18, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. Join us this Sunday as Jim McMinn leads us into a discussion of the first portion of Chapter 5, **Love, Charity, and Forgiveness in the Teachings of Jesus**. In preparation, please read pages 99 through the break on 120.

THE GOD BOTHERERS CLASS - Sunday, October 18 at 9:30am - Covenant Library.
A Wideness in God's Mercy: Christian Faith and the World's Religions,
A New Six-Week God-Botherers Sunday School Series
Christians confess Jesus Christ as the decisive revelation of God's love for the world. Yet we share that world with people whose lives are shaped by other religious traditions, sacred stories, and encounters with the divine. How should we understand their faith? Is God at work in the world's other religions? And can we remain deeply committed to our Christian identity while recognizing the spiritual wisdom and truth that others may have to offer? In this six-week series, we'll explore some of the most influential approaches Christian theologians have developed to these questions, from traditional exclusivism through various forms of inclusivism and religious pluralism. Along the way, we'll engage Scripture and influential thinkers such as Karl Barth, Karl Rahner, John Hick, and Paul Knitter. Join us for thoughtful, open-ended conversation about the mystery of God's grace, the particularity of Christ, and what it means to live with love, openness, and generosity in a world of many religions.



KINDERGARTENERS – FIFTH GRADERS OCTOBER 18AT 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
Loaves and Fishes – the snack time and fellowship
Pottery Workshop – the Story through crafts.
Temple Courtyard – the Story through creative games

Covenant Youth Group— Sunday, Oct 18, Covenant Youth are going to Turner Soccer Complex (on S. Milledge, near the Botanical Garden) to cheer on **UGA Women's Soccer against Missouri! (5:00 to 7:00 PM)**
Let's meet at the Soccer Complex by the concessions area at, say, 4:50 PM, and then head on in to the game. Women's soccer is un ticketed and so there is no charge for admission - **just bring some $$$ for anything you'd like to eat/drink!**



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@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 eboardman@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 bobrew@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!

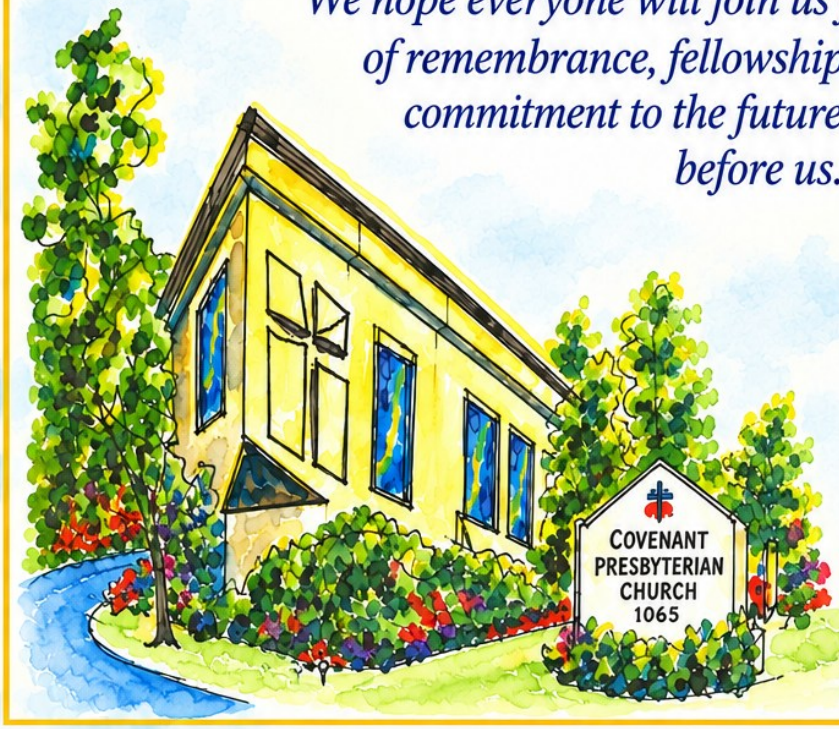
Sunday, October 25

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

Covenant by the Week!

October 18, 2026

SUNDAY -

9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship with guests Will Norman and students from *The Table* UGA Student Center
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group—UGA Women's Soccer Match
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
10:00am Gullah—OLLI in Worship Center
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal
6:00pm Girl Scouts downstairs
7:00pm Handbells of NEGA rehearsal
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

TUESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
9:00am—3pm Presbytery Meeting in Clarkesville
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
2:30pm Athens Women's Singing Group
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY– OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
7:00pm Mid Stream Meeting in Fellowship Hall
7:00pm New Freedom Group in Journey Classroom

SATURDAY
9:00AM— 11:00AM Athens Access to Justice Legal Pop Up Clinic in fellowship hall
10am—3pm cooking for 60th Anniversary in Kitchen
10:30am 12 Step Group

October 25, 2026

SUNDAY -

Covenant's 60th Anniversary with luncheon in the fellowship hall
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group—Fall Party
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
2pm—4pm Zins—OLLI Meeting in FH
4:00pm Socrates Cafe
7:00pm 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
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7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY– OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
7:00pm New Freedom Group in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group