COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 11am**: https:www.youtube.com/cpcathens
Link to the bulletin: https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/

The Covenanter
October 25, 2026

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





Celebrate with us **Sunday, October 25 at 11:00am** worship with special music and message honoring Covenant's history, faith and witness, followed by a festive congregational lunch in the fellowship hall.



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.



BIRD WALK 11/14, 8 AM-10 AM
WITH WYATT HERNDON

Location: Botanical Gardens.
Meet-up location: Parking Lot
Sign-up sheet: 15 max Fall Migration is here! Come and listen to the sounds of fall at the Botanical Gardens on November 14th at 8 am. Whether you're a beginner birdwatcher or experienced, this is an opportunity to witness the sights and sounds of the creation while learning a thing or two about birds along the way! **A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board**. We will meet in the parking lot by the elevator at the Botanical Gardens. We will be doing minimal walking, but plenty of standing. Benches are located throughout the Gardens. Bring binoculars if you have any. If you have extra binoculars, feel free to bring those to share. Bring anything else that would prepare you for an enjoyable birdwatching experience: caffeine, warm clothing, field guides, etc.





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.



Sunday, November 8 immediately following worship to receive the report from the Nominating Committee and to elect the 2029 class of elders.

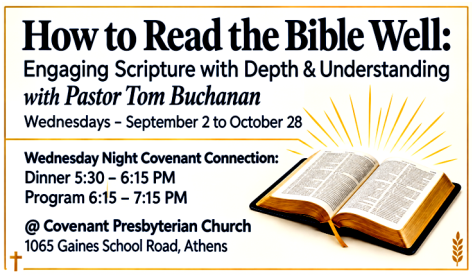
COVENANT CONNECTION

Wednesday, October 28, 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

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!





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: DeLynda Tweedell's step-sister, April's boyfriend, Rich Burt in hospital after being found unresponsive at his home; 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; 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 ongoing medical issues; Ellie McMinn's brother, Mike Marshall recovering from a stroke; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA; our country.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
Deuteronomy 34: 1-12, Psalm 90: 1-6, 13: 17,

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 15-18 , Psalm 1,

I Thessalonians 2: 1-8, Matthew 22: 34-46

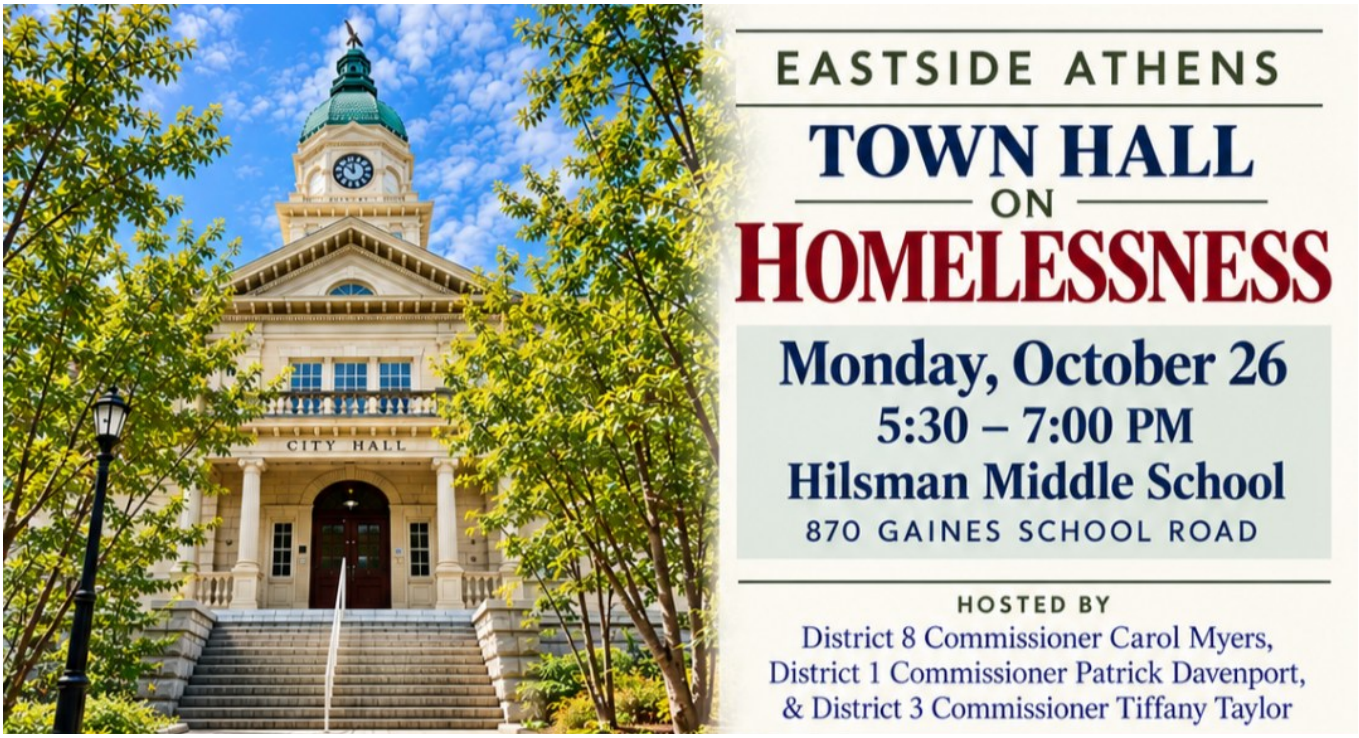
To give to covenant online scan the QR code or click on this link: https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving

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

Financial Summary for Week #15
Anticipated Pledges – $ 151,174.77
Pledges Received – $ 151,080.52

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

World Communion Offering–$650.00



Sunday Schedule

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

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

Sunday, November 1, 2026
LITURGIST: Kirche Rogers
USHERS/GREETERS: Sandy Whitney, Paige Cummings, Katy Terry, Robyn Malone

Congregational Care Coordinator for October: Ellen Stoneburner

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026

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

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Nancy Alila, Phil & Sallie Hale

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Oct. 29, 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

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

November 8 The GDT will provide dinner for the Youth. GDT members will join our youth for the meal
Please RSVP to Heather Jarboe at jarboeh@gmail.com to join us.

Future Events:
Birdwatching at the Botanical Gardens with Wyatt. Saturday, November 14. See front page of the Covenanter for more information.

Pollinator Garden- Wyatt will lead this project in the spring.

THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, October 25 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 25, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. We will continue our important group discussion of Chapter 5, **Love, Charity, and Forgiveness in the Teachings of Jesus.** To prepare, read from page 120 through the end of the chapter.

THE GOD BOTHERERS CLASS - Sunday, October 25 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 25 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
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 25 at 5:00pm

Join us this Sunday at 5:00pm for Pumpkin carving and other Halloween themed festivities! We will carve and decorate pumpkins first, then enjoy a wonderful dinner provided by Doug and Mindy Hill, and then engage in some Halloween fun. *Costumes are encouraged but not required, but come ready to get into the right "spirit" of the season! :-)*



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.
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.

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.

For the month of November!

ROOTED IN FAITH FOR 150 YEARS Since 1875,

Thornwell has been rooted in faith!

It is through our faith that God calls us to care for the most vulnerable and know that He will provide. Thornwell began as dream of a young Presbyterian minister, Dr. William Plumer Jacobs, and the faithful gift of fifty cents from a 10-year-old boy named Willie Anderson. That seed of hope grew into a ministry that has served thousands of children and families with love, healing, and support. Now, 150 years later, Thornwell continues to serve children and families through a Christ-centered continuum of care, supporting children, teens, young adults, and parents through programs across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Each November, churches like yours join in Thornwell Emphasis Month to celebrate this legacy and continue the work Dr. Jacobs began, helping families grow strong and stay rooted in faith. Whether through a prayer, a post on social media, or coins dropped into a beloved Tom the Turkey bank, your gifts make a lasting difference. Let's continue the legacy, rooted in faith and growing in love.

Ways to give: Fill up the Turkey with your coins (on the table in the gathering room or in the narthex), Make check payable to Covenant with Thornwell in the memo portion, or https://thornwell.org/give/



Birthdays!

1. Barbara Arnold
   Marie Ballard-Myer
   Sarah Parido
2 Tom Nemetz
4 Andrew Zimdars
9 Carl Stone
10 Sydney Braswell
16 DeLynda Tweedell
18 Jimmy Cobb
   Jason Green
20 Joe Meyers
23 Bert Ballard-Myer
   Melissa Cobb
27 Jonathan Arnold
28 Emma Parido
   Sarah Lamb
30 Debbie Cureton
   Sara Thompson



Covenant by the Week!

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—Pumpkin carving and Halloween themed festivities 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
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 New Freedom Group in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group

November 01, 2026

SUNDAY - ALL SAINTS 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
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
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
11:30am New Horizons Band
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 Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting *in Library*
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 New Freedom Group in Journey Class Room

SATURDAY

10:00AM ACC Water Reclamation Facility Tour
10:30am 12 Step Group