COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, November 15, 2026 at 11am**: https:www.youtube.com/cpcathens
Link to the bulletin: https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/

The Covenanter
November 15, 2026

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



THORNWELL—It is through our faith that God calls us to care for the most vulnerable and know that he will provide. Each November is Thornwell Emphasis Month to help families to 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, you gifts make a lasting difference.

Ways to Give:

Fill up a Turkey with your coins or use the envelope on the table in front of the church office

Make checks payable to Covenant with Thornwell in the memo portion of your check or go to https://thornwell.org/give/

Thank you Covenant!

Join us for worship on Sunday, November 15, as Covenant officially welcomes our newest members! Following the Congregational Meeting, please stay for a celebratory reception hosted by the Congregational Care Ministry Team.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, November 15 following worship to receive the report from the Nominating Committee and to elect new elders for the class of 2029.





Sunday, November 29
following worship. We will enjoy a light soup lunch and decorate the fellowship hall for Christmas inside and out. Many hands make light work. Your help will be a gift to us.



The Midstream group plans to meet on Nov. 22 immediately after church for a brown bag lunch. We will be assembling care packages for our college students to receive during finals. No need to bring anything other than your lunch.



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.

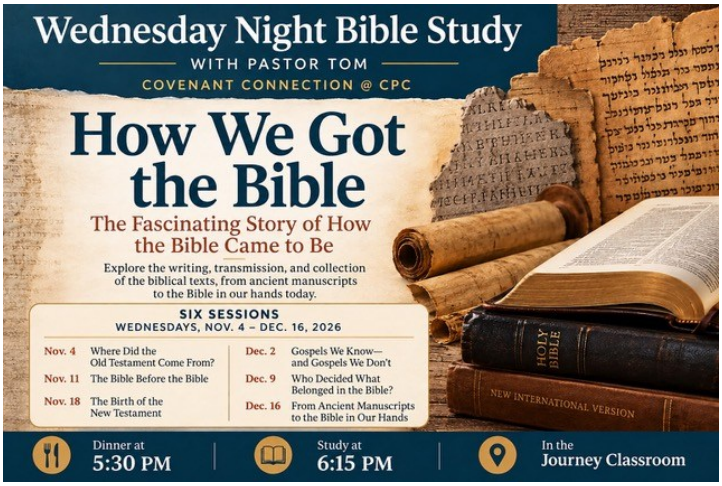
Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is still in need of brown paper bags. Please put them on the table as you enter the gathering room. (please no egg cartons) Thank you!



COVENANT CONNECTION

Wednesday, November 18, 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



The Light Shines in the Darkness. Over the past eight years, the Church Partnership Network linking PC (USA) and participating Czech churches has created an Advent devotional. This years devotional, *The Light Shines in the Darkness*, will direct your Advent journey toward the days leading to and surrounding Christmas. The announcement of Light of the world, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth…" (John 1: 14) You will find copies on the table in front of the church office beginning November 22, 2026 or online at ADVENT DEVOTIONAL .

ADVENT finds us in the real, honest moments of our lives — in grief and exhaustion, strained relationships and quiet doubts, hope and longing. *Dear Pastor: Advent Letters* is an Advent devotional from *Presbyterian Outlook* that brings those experiences into conversation with the hope of Christ. Inspired by real pastoral experiences, each "Dear Pastor" letter gives voice to the kinds of questions and struggles people bring to pastors and church leaders. We've recruited a variety of pastors and church leaders to respond to these letters, reflecting on the traditional Advent themes of **hope, peace, joy and love** and what they offer us in the midst of complicated, imperfect lives. The questions posed in each "Dear Pastor" letter aren't polished or always "right." They are honest — and the responses invite readers to consider where Christ meets us in the space between promise and fulfillment, between what has been and what will be. *Per the Presbyterian Outlook this devotional cannot be put online. The devotional will be available on the table in front of the office November 22, 206.*

IN OUR PRAYERS: Mindy Hill's friend & colleague, Ann Brash beginning treatment for leukemia; 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; 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; 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:

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Psalm 95: 1-7a,

Ephesians 1: 15-23, Matthew 25: 31-46

Christ the King Sunday, November 22

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

Financial Summary for Week #19

Anticipated Pledges – $ 179,520.04

Pledges Received – $ 181,410.18

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Thornwell Home for Children– $1,302.50



Holy Happy Hour Thursday, Nov 19 at 5 p.m. at Preacher Greens 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!

Join us for fellowship and festive food at our

Christmas Cheer Luncheon

on Sunday, Dec 13, immediately following the Choral Worship Service.

All are welcome!

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to expect.

Covenant will provide the main meal, but dessert will be a covered dish.
If you can bring something to share, note that when you sign up.

Centerpieces: We're also looking for volunteers to provide a centerpiece for our round tables. Bring a touch of the season to brighten the tables!

For details please contact Caly DePalma or Rebecca Silver.

Christmas in the Classic City 2026

The Classic City Community Chorus will be performing on Monday, December 14, 7:30pm—9:00pm at Hodgson Hall, 230 River Road, Athens. The Athens Symphony Orchestra will be on stage with the chorus. The concert is FREE and open to all who love traditional

Join the Covenant "Eek" Squad!

We have Covenant members who sometimes need a ride or assistance with last-minute needs. This volunteer group would be a group communication thread (kind of like a prayer chain) where we can broadcast needs by phone, and members can respond in real time if they can help.

We imagine that most of the needs in the thread will be for our senior Covenant members who may occasionally need a ride to a doctor's appointment, help moving a piece of furniture, etc.



Contact the church office at
kwetherington@covpresathens.org or 706-548-2756
if you are interested in becoming a part of the EEK! Squad.

Thank you, Covenant!

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

Sunday, November 15, 2026
LITURGIST: Jim Newland
USHERS/GREETERS: Luanne & Bill Rigsby, Susan & Randy Parish

Sunday, November 22, 2026
LITURGIST: Ada Rea
USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Caly DePalma, Mindy & Doug Hill

Congregational Care Coordinator for November: June Meyers

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026
Sunday, November 15, 2026
Nancy Alila, Wyatt Herndon, Paula Williams
Sunday, November 22, 2026
Nancy Alila, Sandy Whitney, Ela Nichols

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

Nov. 12, 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
Thursday, November 19, 2026,
9:30-11:00 in the library

In preparation for the class read Lesson 3, "Freedom in Christ". The lesson will be led by Ellen Stoneburner and Arnelle Combs
Refreshments provided by Barbara Burnett and Jere Bowden

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

Saturday, November 14
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 Northeast Georgia Presbytery invites youth and adults (ages 13 and older) to participate in a Intergenerational Ministry Partnership to Puerto Rico June 2—9, 2027
For information contact Matt Henderson, Pastor at First Presby Church Clarkesville at pastormatt@pastormatthenderson.com or 706-949-4002

THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, November 15, 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 gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The "JOURNEY" November 15, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. For the next 2 weeks we will be exploring **The Afterlife of Jesus's Ethics** (Chapter 6). Ehrman has led us on quite a journey already. Now we begin the trip from the ethical teachings of Jesus to the modifications of them by his followers as their religion spread and grew over time. *Stephanie will facilitate our gathering on November 8 and you should read* ***pages 137-150*** *in preparation. Then, on November 15, Marilyn will lead as we consider the remainder of the chapter* ***(pp. 151-162)***. Many thanks to both for their leadership.

THE GOD BOTHERERS CLASS - Sunday, November 15, 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 NOVEMBER 15 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, November 15 at 5:00pm

Dear Covenant Youth and Families, **Join us this Sunday at 5 PM at the Tweedells' home (128 Lake Oglethorpe Drive, Arnoldsville)** for dinner and a bonfire outside, with 'smores, songs, and more! **Parents and families are welcome!** If you haven't already, please email Pastor Tom to confirm your attendance. Bring your favorite games, dress warmly, and prepare for a great time, celebrating our group and these cooler Fall temperatures!
Please note that we will NOT be meeting at the church. Parents, you are encouraged to stay and join us, but if you can't, drop-off and pick-up is from the Tweedell's home. *We will wrap up at 7:00.*



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#/

Extra Hands Needed for Our Thanksgiving Food Pantry! With many of our regular volunteers traveling for Thanksgiving week, we need a little extra help to keep things running smoothly. Join us on **Tuesday, November 24** for either or both shifts:
9:00 AM: Packing grocery bags **1:00 PM:** Food distribution

Walk-ins are always welcome, though signing up through the link above helps us plan ahead. Thank you for helping us serve our community this holiday!

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.

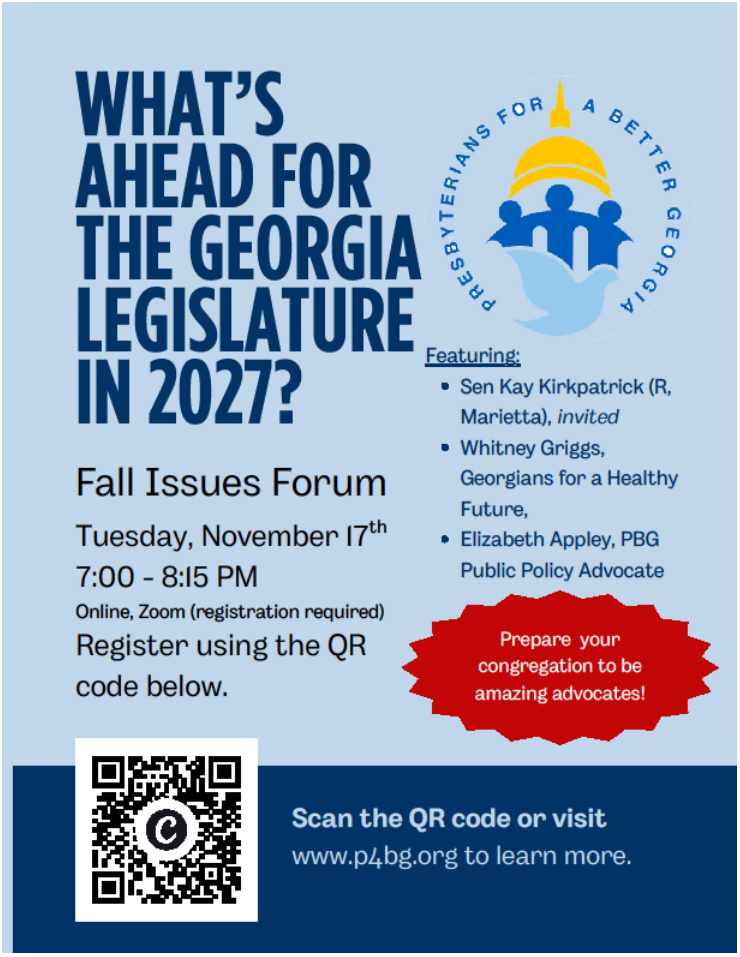
Mission & Outreach is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Coordinator for First Tuesday at The Table at UGA from September through May. This is a wonderful opportunity to help organize and support this important outreach ministry. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Bob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

Thank You for Your Generous Hearts! What a wonderful response to our October collection for Cedar Shoals High School! Last week, the Mission & Outreach team delivered three large bags overflowing with socks and other much-needed personal items, and the school staff received them with real gratitude. These gifts will make a difference for students, especially in the colder months ahead.

To each of you who added something to the collection box outside the office, thank you! Your kindness is a beautiful example of what it means to love our neighbors. We're planning another collection for Cedar Shoals in early spring, so stay tuned. Thank you for helping us care for our community. "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18) *Mission & Outreach Ministry Team*









A big THANK YOU to Brian Striggow and Hank Tweedell for repairing and renewing the double doors leading to the fellowship hall.

Covenant by the Week!

November 15, 2026

SUNDAY -
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
Congregational Meeting following Worship
New Member Reception following Cong Meeting
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group at Tweedell's
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED
2pm—5pm Athens Free Clinic
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
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
5:00pm Holy Happy Hour at Preacher Green's
7:00pm Worship Ministry Team Meeting
7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY – OFFICE OPEN 10am—4pm
1:30pm—4:30pm OLLI Craft & Chat
7:00pm New Freedom Group in Journey Class Room

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group
11:30am—6:30pm Turkey Palooza—UGA

November 22, 2026

SUNDAY -
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
11:30am—6:30pm Turkey Palooza—UGA
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group - Friendsgiving
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

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

TUESDAY OFFICE CLOSED
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution
4:00pm Socrates Café—OLLI
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE CLOSED
NO COVENANT CONNECTION
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY— OFFICE CLOSED



7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
7:00pm New Freedom Group in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY
10:30am 12 Step Group