COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, November 22 & 29, 2026 at 11am**: https:www.youtube.com/cpcathens Link to the bulletin: https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/

The Covenanter
November 22 & 29, 2026

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



Thornwell
BUILDING TOMORROW'S FAMILIES

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!*

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.

Retirees Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 9 at 12:30pm
at Presbyterian Village
(please arrive by 12:15pm)

We are going to the Presbyterian Village for our Christmas Luncheon.
If you would like to carpool, meet at the church at 11:30am.

Cost $16.15 per person or $32.30 per couple.
Make checks payable to **Caroline Calbos.**
Please leave your check at the office by Sunday, Nov. 29.

Reservations are Required.

Questions contact Carol at 706-340-7950.

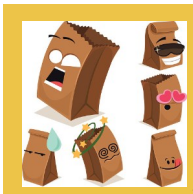
Please sign up on the bulletin board. Thanks!

Hanging of the Greens

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. all.

Congratulations to Paula and Dick Zimdars on their 45th wedding anniversary!

On November 29, guest musicians from the UGA Hugh Hodgson School of Music, Angela Jones-Reus, flute, and Emely Phelps, piano, will provide music in celebration of Dick and Paula Zimdars' 45th wedding anniversary. Emely has a solo piano CD released this month. Angela has performed worldwide, and recorded Mahler's Ninth Symphony with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.



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

NO Covenant Connection Nov. 25!

Many blessings for a

Happy Thanksgiving!

Covenant Connection will resume on December 2 at 5:30pm



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; 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:

Isaiah 654: 1-9, Psalm 80: 1-17, 17-19,

I Corinthians 1: 3-9, Mark 13: 24-37

Begin Reading your Advent Devotional

Sunday, November 29

Romans 8: 25, Psalm 6: 2, Luke 1: 34, Luke 6: 27,

I Corinthians 13: 4, Matthew 11:28, Romans 5: 3-5

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

Financial Summary for Week #20

Anticipated Pledges – $ 188, 648.46

Pledges Received – $ 187,520.18

Thank you Covenant for your faithful giving!

Thornwell Home for Children– $1,902.50

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 Christmas music.



New Horizons Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6 at 2:00pm

at Covenant! All are welcome!



FAIR TRADE COFFEE make excellent Christmas gifts:

Let Sandy Whitney at sandrawhitney08@gmail.com, know what kind you would like and she will order them for.

WHOLE BEAN: French Roast, Expresso, or Congo, Colombian

GROUND: Mindy, Body & Soul, Colombian, Ethiopian, Organic DeCaf, Breakfast Blend, French Roast.

Sunday Schedule

9:30am Nursery

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship

Sunday, November 22, 2026
LITURGIST: Ada Rea
USHERS/GREETERS: Jim Newland, Caly DePalma, Mindy & Doug Hill
Sunday, November 29, 2026
LITURGIST: Pam Knox
USHERS/GREETERS: Bob Brewster & Sarah Lamb, Hank & DeLynda Tweedell

Congregational Care Coordinator for November: June Meyers

Congregational Care Coordinator for December: Barbara Burnett

NURSERY MINISTRY 2026
Sunday, November 22, 2026
Nancy Alila, Sandy Whitney, Ela Nichols

Sunday, November 29, 2026
Nancy Alila, Pam Knox, Marie Ballard-Myer

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

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

KNITTERS & KNOTTERS—

December 4, 2026

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

Green Dream Team News

The Green Dream Team wants to thank all who have participated in our recent activities: the Water Reclamation Facility Tour, the Youth/ GDT Meal and discussion, and the Bird Watching event at the Botanical Gardens with Wyatt. We appreciate your enthusiastic support!

Next month-GDT / Covenant Road Clean-up on December 19, 10am. Supplies are provided. Bring water, and gloves. Sign up on the bulletin board. Thanks! All are welcome to help make our section of Barnett Shoals Rd beautiful!

Next Green Dream Team meeting will be in January, 2027.



THE UPPER ROOM 9:30am, November 22, 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 22, 2026, 9:30am Join us Sunday for coffee, concerns and celebrations, and discussion. This Sunday we will consider Chapter 7, **Love After Jesus** (pp. 163-180). Thanks to Bruce who has volunteered to lead us!

THE GOD BOTHERERS CLASS - Sunday, November 22, 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 22 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—

Join us on Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 PM for youth group! We will gather at the church for recreation, go have dinner at Waffle House (the church will pick up the bill), and go back to the Cove for a short program on Thanksgiving and living in a spirit of gratitude!



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*

FAMILY PROMISE: Two Ways to Help This Holiday Season

Covenant has a long history of supporting Family Promise of Athens. This season you can help in two ways:

1. Bring a meal (December 13–20)
This is our last week hosting a shelter family in 2026. Please consider cooking a hot dinner on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and dropping it off at the shelter on Magnolia Terrace just off Broad Street. The last family just moved out, which is great news for them, and a new family will move in soon. We'll share more about them once we know.

Sign up for an evening here. If you have questions, call Julie Bower (706.296.5050) or Don Bower (706.540.1166).

2. Donate to the holiday party
Family Promise is holding a holiday party at its family center on Bray Street. The items they've asked for are listed below. **Please drop donations in the big box outside the church office by December 13.**

Thank you for your continued support!

New to Covenant? To learn more about Family Promise, talk with Don and Julie Bower, Phil and Sallie Hale, Randy and Susan Parish, or Brian and Valerie Stone, or visit familypromiseathens.org.



Please drop donations in the big box outside the church office by December 13.

Covenant by the Week!

November 22, 2026

SUNDAY - Christ the King/Reign of Christ
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
12:15pm MIDSTREAM Group Meeting
11:30am—6:30pm Turkey Palooza—UGA
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group

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 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

November 29, 2026

SUNDAY - First Sunday of Advent
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
Following Worship "Hanging of the Greens"
1:00pm Stated Session Meeting
5pm—7pm Covenant Youth Group

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 OPEN
9:30am WMT Christmas Decorating
7:00pm 12 Step Group Meeting in FH

WEDNESDAY OFFICE OPEN

11:30am New Horizons Band in the Fellowship Hall
5:30pm Covenant Connection
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
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution
1:00pm Covenant Food Distribution

7:00pm 12 Step Meeting

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

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group