

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

THE COVENANTER OCTOBER 6, 2024

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



World Communion Sunday—October 6

Following worship there will be a reception in the fellowship hall to share bread and grapes. Grapes as well as butter, cream cheese, jam, coffee and tea will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry Team.

Peace and Global Witness Offering For the month of October 23 will receive an offering for Peace & Global Witness. These gifts are helping our neighbors in need—those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation, and 25% of this offering goes to the mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region. 50% of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Ways to give: through your congregation, or donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/peace-global or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 or scan the QR code on the insert.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Helene made landfall in Florida late evening on September 26th as a very dangerous category 4 hurricane. The impact of Helene has been felt across multiple states. With the storm surge, wind damage, and flooding, it is crucial to have the necessary resources to support the many communities that are affected. Helene caused devastating damage in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Your generous gifts will bring hope and encouragement. PDA is in communication with all affected presbyteries and National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster) to share information and coordinate resources as damage is assessed. PDA has deployed a National Response Team to Tampa Bay Presbytery, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Holston Presbytery. We have approved several initial assistance grant requests and are

anticipating additional requests from affected presbyteries to help respond to needs in their communities. Please join us in [praying for everyone affected by Hurricane Helene](#).

To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000169](#)

Covenant Cares! Covenant already busy with Hurricane Helene Recovery Efforts. Your Covenant friends are already busy with Hurricane Helene Recovery efforts in Augusta! We had a crew of six who went on Thursday and were able to help a family from Reid Memorial get all their belongings out of their destroyed home and help at Reid Memorial clearing areas of the church property. We have a crew that went to Augusta Friday as well. Please stay tuned to the Covenanter and our socials and your email for ways to help in the coming days.



IN OUR PRAYERS: Willene O’Neal with a recently placed pacemaker; Bert Ballard-Myer recovering from knee surgery; Bert & Marie’s friend, Trish Engram undergoing cancer treatment; Charles Hunnicutt’s son, David, and all those in Asheville, NC; Deborah Anderson, friend of John Knox, with a recent recurrence of cancer; Mary Anna Wynes recovering from surgery on her elbow, Sept. 23rd; Rich Dunham recovering from a double lung transplant; Alice Rose fighting leukemia and heart condition; Rich Kimmich recovering at home from an accident; Dick Zimdars at St. Mary’s; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; Larry Hatfield remains under treatment for stage 4 colon cancer; Juergen Wiegel in PVA memory care and Heide at home; Gene Holshouser at home; all those affected by the recent storms; and our country.

Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or kwetherington@covpresathens.org or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to the Pastor.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:
Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22
Psalm 124, Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29,
Psalm 19: 7-14, James 5: 13-20
Colossians 1: 1-14, Luke 10: 25-37



LUNCH BUNCH
 Each month on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30am at DePalma’s Italian Restaurant (eastside).
 All are welcome to join us for a good time of fellowship and food.



Dear Covenant friends and members,
 The Worship Ministry Team has appreciated your feedback regarding Holy Communion. We’re pleased to announce two important features you have requested, starting on World Communion Sunday, October 6 we will:

- Continue passing the elements person-to-person, allowing for personal meditation during this sacred feast.
- Serve pieces of freshly baked bread instead of wafers to enhance your experience of the Lord’s Supper.

To accommodate your wishes, we need additional volunteers to assist quarterly. It’s a 20-minute commitment

- before worship to prepare the bread and grape juice (elements provided for you)
- after worship to clean up

The procedures are clearly outlined. If you are willing to serve, please text me at 706-521-2530, call the church office, or leave a note in my hallway mailbox.

Thanks for your active participation in worship. It is what makes Covenant an inviting worship community.

Warren Combs, Worship Ministry Team

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Church School for
all Ages

11:00am Worship

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024—WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

USHERS/GREETERS: Hank & DeLynda Tweedell, Jim Newland

LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024

USHERS/GREETERS: Carol & Dennis Calbos, Paige Cummings

LITURGIST: Pam Knox

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEAL

COORDINATORS for Oct: *Dell Whitehead, Susan Parish*

OPEN & 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

5th Monday Week—Ellen Stoneburner & June Meyers



Nursery
Ministry

October 6, 2024

Lily McKay, Don Bower, Ellen
Stoneburner

October 13, 2024

Sandy Whitney, Stephanie Cahill



Covenant Connection October 9, 2024

5:30pm with a family style meal prepared by our own
Chef Patrick McMaster. (donation \$3 each)

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6:15pm Adult Bible Study facilitated by Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir rehearsal in Worship Center

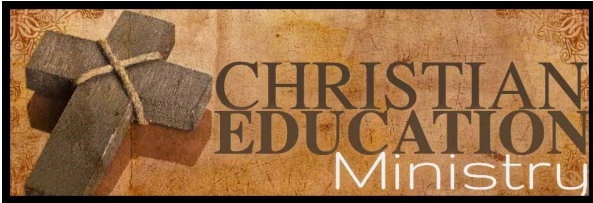
LIBRARY CORNER –

Modern Friendship: How to Nurture Our Most Valued Connections

by Anna Goldfarb

“It’s never been easier to shed friendships, which is precisely why we need a new approach to keeping them strong...With warmth and humor, this step-by-step guide will help you develop the necessary skills to form authentic, enduring connections in this new, hyper-fluid social landscape. Anna’s framework for success is called ‘Wholehearted Friendship’ – where both people in the friendship feel seen, supported, and loved.”
This book can be found at Bay H, Shelf 4. –Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

The “GOD-BOTHERERS” Class at 9:45am. Join us in the library for this exciting class facilitated by Pastor Tom. This class is for anyone of any age who wrestles with tough questions.

The “UPPER ROOM” at 9:45am. Location: "Upper Room" Classroom at the top of the ramp and Via Zoom. James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in The Present Word. If you would like to participate, via Zoom please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com.

The “JOURNEY” at 9:45am

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. We are reading and discussing a new book, “Faith Beyond Borders”, by Don Mosely from Jubilee Partners. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Juniors (K-3rd) Class at 9:45am. Taught by Katy Arora and volunteer shepherds meets each week downstairs in the “Temple Courtyard” classroom.

Middlers (4th—7th) Class at 9:45am. Betsy Burmeister facilitates this class downstairs in the “Potter’s Workshop” classroom.

Covenant Youth Connection—Sunday, October 6 at 5pm We will meet at RUSH Trampoline Park and then have dinner afterwards. *(Please bring \$ for dinner)*



THE COVENANT FORUM

“In Bad Faith: Unpacking Christian Nationalism’s Distortion of the Gospel”

Facilitated by Pastor Tom Buchanan, Covenant Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, October 15, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

The ideology of Christian Nationalism has made headlines in America in recent years with its dangerous blending of Christian and national identities, distorting our democratic institutions and values to be sure, but even more importantly, the church’s prophetic witness to Jesus’ gospel of justice, peace, and inclusion. Through group discussion of the recent 90-minute documentary “Bad Faith,” this Covenant Forum event will unpack Christian Nationalism’s dangers, with emphasis on the many ways it deviates from faithful understandings of our biblical and theological heritage. Those interested in joining in this discussion are strongly encouraged to view the documentary “Bad Faith” beforehand. It is readily available through most major streaming platforms, including Amazon Prime, YouTube TV, Apple TV, Tubi, and Google Play Movies.

In addition, there are options for public showings as well, including these, Madison County Library - Sunday, October 6 - 1:00 to 3:00 PM and Athens Cine - Sunday, October 6, at 7:15 PM

Plus, there will be two opportunities to view it with others here at Covenant, hosted by Pastor Tom in the Journey Classroom: Wednesday, October 9 - 9:30 to 11:15 AM
Friday, October 11 - 3:00 to 4:45 PM

WAYS TO SERVE @ COVENANT



Please look through these volunteer opportunities coming up at Covenant and sign up if you can help!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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. Here is the link to sign up for all of our upcoming volunteer spots:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-athens#/>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Covenant Cooks "First Tuesday" Dinners

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>

DONATIONS NEEDED: For October, the Cedar Shoals Care Center is in need of **highlighters and colored pencils**. You can bring items to the donation table outside the church office OR use this Amazon Wishlist link if you would like to donate and the items will be delivered directly to us at the church office: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SVZ12J14YBNN/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4



CALLING ALL COVENANT CULINARY ARTISTS! Help us put on a delicious "Chili Cook-Off Lunch" for the Teachers and Staff of Gaines Elementary School for Conference Week Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1-3 p.m. Did you know that, during Conference Week, the teachers and staff must remain in the school building from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. for Conferences? They're going to need a meal during that time! Click below and sign up if you can help. All crock pots of chili or other food items need to be dropped off at the school by 12:30 p.m. on that day (pickup after 3 p.m.).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-51409479-chili>

Covenant by the Week!

October 6, 2024—World Communion Sunday

SUNDAY -

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship—

following worship Bread & Grapes Reception

12:30pm 12 Step Group

5pm Covenant Youth Connection

6pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

6pm Scouts

7:00pm 12 Step Group

7:00pm Bells of NEGA

6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class

1pm Presbytery Minutes Review in Library

1pm New Horizon Strings Rehearsal in Worship Center

12:30pm Retiree's Covered Dish Luncheon

6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am—11:15am "Bad Faith" video showing

11:30am New Horizons Band in Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Covenant Connection

6pm Handbells Choir

6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir in worship center

7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

THURSDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am—11am Campus Kitchen

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1pm Covenant Food Distribution

2pm Knitters & Knotters

3pm Athens Women's Singing Circle

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

FRIDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

3pm—4:45pm "Bad Faith" Video showing

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

October 13, 2024—

SUNDAY -

9:30am Nursery

9:45am Sunday School for all ages

11:00am Worship—

12:30pm 12 Step Group

5pm African Gospel Celebration/ Covenant Youth Connection

6pm Campus Kitchen

MONDAY

OFFICE CLOSED

6pm Scouts

7:00pm 12 Step Group

7:00pm Bells of NEGA

6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

TUESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

10am Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting

11:00am Harmony English Conversation Class

1pm New Horizon Strings Rehearsal

6pm—8pm Campus Kitchen

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

WEDNESDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

11:30am New Horizons Band in Fellowship Hall

5:30pm Covenant Connection

6pm Handbells Choir

6:15pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Tom

7:15pm Adult Choir in worship center

7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

7:45pm Praise Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY Office Open 10am—4pm

9:30am—11am Campus Kitchen

9:30am preparing bags for food distribution

1pm Covenant Food Distribution

2pm Knitters & Knotters

3pm Athens Women's Singing Circle

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

FRIDAY

Office Open 10am—4pm

1:30pm—4:30pm Ollie Art/Crafts

7pm 12 Step Group Meeting

SATURDAY

10:30am 12 Step Group

Knitters & Knatters



THURSDAYS AT 2PM.

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun while making blankets for people recovering from illness and for clients of Highland Hills, Family Promise and Project Safe.

**COVENANT
FOOD
PANTRY**
NEEDS YOUR HELP



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Covenant Food Pantry (Every Thursday) Sign-up to volunteer here:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/
#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-covenant#/)



RETIRES COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 8 at 12:30pm

Join us for a lovely time of food and fellowship and story telling time by Joan Prittie. Please bring your favorite dish to share and a friend. Beverage will be provided.

The Art Of
SABBATH

JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE SABBATH PRACTICES THROUGH THE ARTS.
THIS MONTH: "LIFE IS SWEET!"
LEARNING TO DECORATE WITH ROYAL ICING

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 14 • 5-7 P.M.

LOCATION: COVENANT - FELLOWSHIP HALL
RSVP BY NOVEMBER 5 TO AMY AT
ABAER@COVPRESATHENS.ORG
ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

**HOLY
HAPPY
HOUR**

JOIN US!

THIRD THURSDAYS • 5 P.M.
OCTOBER 17 • AUTHENTIC BREWING COMPANY
INSIDE TAPROOM • 108 PARK AVE. ATHENS, GA

JOIN US FOR A "HOLY HAPPY HOUR:" A FUN-FILLED REFORMED THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION!



November 3, 2024 at 11:00am

The commemoration of the saints goes to the heart of our faith; death has not won (1 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.

Check the list on the table in the gathering room for additions or corrections.

Highlights of the September 24, 2024 Stated Session Meeting

A stated Session meeting was held on September 24, 2024. Carolyn Hatfield presented a devotional on feeling joy in simple things reminding us to "Find joy, express joy, look for goodness. It is there!" Carolyn opened the meeting with prayer.

Session reviewed the Financial Summary for August. Two months into the fiscal year, we are on track with pledges received and expenditures. Youth ministry is off to a great start with good attendance at the first three youth group gatherings. The first Covenant Forum, led by Pastor Tom in October, will be discussion of the documentary "Bad Faith" on the danger of Christian Nationalism. Attendees are encouraged to watch the documentary beforehand.

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team will formulate a policy for "Discussion and approval of personal or group requests to leave flyers or information at the church" for review at the next Session meeting.

Session approved a motion that couples will not serve on Session together, and the service of partners in a couple must be separated by one year. Exceptions to this policy must be considered by Session on a case-by-case basis.

Bert Ballard-Myer shared that many ways of addressing the traffic jam in front of the church during the food distribution have been discussed and tried. The arrangement we have with cones and two people directing two lanes of traffic is the best method we've come up with so far. We would have to pay an officer \$40/hour to direct traffic.

Bob Brewster reported that the elder nominating committee is working on nominations for the next class of elders and welcomes suggestions from the Session and congregation of members with potential interest in serving as Elders.

Session approved a motion from the Worship Ministry Team to purchase 175 New Revised Standard Version Bibles from Cokesbury at \$10.99/each for a total of \$1923.25. The funds will be taken out of the Carol Wheeler Memorial Fund.

There was a discussion on purchase of 2017 Mercedes 15-passenger diesel van with a wheelchair lift that is for sale. More information is being gathered.

Session approved a motion from the Personnel Committee to transfer \$2,500 from Covenant's General Funds into a temporary restricted account for childcare expenses (fund #009600) and use those funds to increase the rate of pay and cover the full budget for our childcare & nursery worker from 2024-2025.

Covenant will be hosting the Holiday Benevolence Market on December 8th.

Covenant will host training by Athens Pride and Queer Collective (APQC) on gender theory, pronoun usage and sexuality for youth group leaders and parents. B & G is purchasing a hot water heater for the CE hallway bathrooms. A utility sink will be installed in the Journey classroom.

The Fall picnic was a huge success with 96 attendees. Four remaining Fellowship events of the year are: October 6 – World Communion Sunday reception (grapes and bread), November 24 – "Hanging of the Greens" holiday decorating and soup lunch, December 6 – Progressive Dinner, December 15 – Choral Worship Reception. Congregational Care Ministry Team will meet October 20th to prepare Halloween Cards for college students and homebound members.

Fellowship and Congregational Care are working together on updating a photo directory.

Tom thanked everyone involved in his Installation Service. He reminded everyone that will be out of town October 4-8. Tom expressed that we have had quite a few repeat visitors lately. He would like to put out a call for people to consider becoming members.

Session approved a motion to start the October 22nd and the combined November/December meeting on December 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by Luanne Rigsby, clerk of session

OCTOBER

COVENANT YOUTH CONNECTION

IN THE COVE

SUNDAYS
5-7PM

**OCT
06**

RUSH & DINNER

Meet at Rush Athens Trampoline Park at 5 PM,
and dinner afterward!

AFRICAN GOSPEL CELEBRATION

African Gospel Celebration @ 5 PM and afterwards,
gather for fellowship down in The Cove!

**OCT
13**

**OCT
20**

BIBLE STUDY AND HALLOWEEN DECOR IN THE COVE

Bible Study: *"So What's the Deal with the Bible?"*
followed by decorating The Cove for Halloween!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join us for a CYC party with stories, pumpkin
Carving and a unique worship experience!

**OCT
27**



MORE INFO:

PASTORTOM@COVPRESATHENS.ORG