

Please click here to view Covenant's Worship Service on You Tube for **Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 11am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens> Link to the bulletin: <https://www.covpresathens.org/bulletin/>

## THE COVENANTER MARCH 23, 2025

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



*Grieving Change and Loss* invites you to embrace the wilderness of loss and rediscover the horizon of hope offered by Christ's resurrection. Rooted in the wisdom of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross and David Kessler's six stages of grief outlined in their seminal work *On Grief and Grieving*, this daily 2025 Lenten devotional offers a pathway through the heartache of life's goodbyes, guiding you toward the promise of resurrection. Please click on this link to access the devotional: <http://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/newsletter/Lenten-Devotional-2025.pdf>

### Called Congregational Meeting

**March 30 immediately following worship**

To receive the report of the Nominating Committee, nominating a member to the office of Elder, to serve out an unexpired term.



Bells of Northeast Georgia  
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Spring Concert  
at Covenant Presbyterian  
Church

March 29 at 4pm  
(free admission)

**Stewardship Season  
begins Sunday,  
March 23!**

A NEW  
*Beginning*

This year's theme is  
"A New Beginning!"

Look for your  
Stewardship Packet in  
the mail at the end of  
next week.

### WELCOME AUSTIN TO COVENANT!

We welcome Austin Eades as our new  
Technical Director beginning  
Sunday, March 23.

**Asher Hill has accepted a full-time position  
with the Oconee Civic Center in Watkinsville.  
His last Sunday with Covenant will be March  
30. Asher has been a awesome part of  
Covenant and he will be greatly missed.**

**Friends and Family in Covenant**, you are cordially invited to a farewell luncheon on **Sunday, April 6th** following the service. Abby Horvath, who has been with our church for 11 years, has taken a new job and will be moving away from Athens. Join us for lunch to wish her well on her way. No need to bring anything other than yourself.

**EXCITING NEWS ABOUT 10:30 A.M.  
EVERY SUNDAY AT COVENANT!  
SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS...**

# COUNTERING (CHRISTIAN) *Authoritarianism*

*reflections on our moment*



a presentation by  
renowned Christian ethicist

**Dr. David P. Gushee**

with Q&A to follow

**6pm Thursday, April 10 UGA's Tate Theater**

Learn more about  
Dr. Gushee at  
[davidpgushee.com](http://davidpgushee.com):

'Liberal democracy  
needs and deserves  
full Christian  
support; but there is  
plenty of evidence of  
Christians ... being  
attracted to illiberal  
democracy or  
outright  
undemocratic  
governance.'

How do Christians  
offer a faithful  
defense of democracy  
today?



Hosted by



The Table *an inclusive Christian Campus Ministry*

and Covenant Presbyterian Church

*an all inclusive family of faith*



**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Heide Wiegel and family in the passing of Juergen on February 23; Hank Tweedell and family in the passing of his brother, Bobby; June Meyers home from the hospital and waiting for test results; Kathryn Fowler having surgery on March 24; DeLynda Tweedell's Stepmother, Clarice Davis having knee surgery March 27; Carrie's roommate, Sarah diagnosed with MS; Hannah Baird's best friend's mother, Michelle Gilbert; William Emerson, friend and mentor of Alice Rose, suffering from kidney failure; Friend of Joe & June Meyers, Brent Haglund of Madison, WI who suffered a severe stroke on Dec 28 is not doing well; Taylor Combs' father in law, Raul Rosales, Charleston, S.C. with lung transplant; John Wilkin's brother in law, Jim Negro in Wellsley, Mass., recovering from lung cancer surgery; Bob Placek in skilled nursing at PVA and Joyce at home; Larry Hatfield under treatment for stage 4 colon cancer; our Country

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

**Romans 8: 39, 2 Timothy 1:5,  
I Corinthians 6:19, Genesis 18: 23-24,  
Mark 14:35, Genesis 32: 26, Psalm 34:18**  
*Please read in your Lenten Devotional*

**Financial Summary for Week #37**

Anticipated Pledges—\$317,296.35

Pledges Received—\$320,433.06

*Thank Covenant for your faithful giving!*

*There will be a memorial service for Jürgen Wiegel on Friday, April 11, 2025, at 2 PM in the chapel at Presbyterian Village Athens (1400 Live Oak Lane, Athens, GA 30606) with reception to follow. It's not required, but if possible, please RSVP if you plan to attend using the following link: <https://forms.gle/g66UARLL4kaFkPa19>*

**NEWS FROM OUR SISTER CHURCH IN OLOMOUC!** We have entered the New Year as is tradition in our country: a week of ecumenical prayers for Christian unity. During this week, prayer meetings are held in various churches in our city. In each, a priest or a pastor from a different community preaches. In our church, a Catholic priest led this gathering and it was a beautiful and blessed meeting in the spirit of unity.

We also regularly train future lay pastors for two years. Three people from our congregation participate in this training (Jana Vrajova, Alexandr Jenista, Ondej Blaha). However, people from neighboring congregations come for this training, so there are usually about 20 of us. Our church is suffering from a shortage of pastors, so this is a way to help at least in some areas.

Before the Lenten season began, the Sunday School teachers prepared a carnival for the children as they do every year. There was a flu epidemic, but a few kids showed up anyway and we all had a great time!

In a few days, we will have our annual congregational meeting (during Sunday worship). Last year, we instituted a new tradition: the week before this meeting, we host a "dinner with the elders" so that members of the congregation can discuss with the presbyters in a relaxed atmosphere and ask questions about issues that are bothering them with the existence of the congregation, or just to share. We look forward to it! We send many greetings and prayers to our dear Covenant!"

**A Special Offer to CPC from Preacher Green's!** Paul Allen, Operating Partner at nearby Preacher Green's Restaurant (1995 Barnett Shoals Rd), is an old friend of Covenant Church, and has made a standing offer to us: On the Tuesday through Thursday following the THIRD SUNDAY of every month, just present your worship service bulletin for a 10% discount on your meal! Paul is grateful for his relationships at Covenant, and wishes to express this in a concrete way! Since we missed announcing this on the third Sunday this month (March 16), the offer stands starting THIS week! *So hold on to your March 23 bulletin, and consider a Preacher Green's visit this coming Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday!*



# IN SEARCH FOR COMMON LANGUAGE IN DIVIDED SOCIETY

How could our societies have so quickly become polarized on political, cultural, and other issues? What are the churches doing? What does the gospel of the crucified and risen Christ say about this?

Join the ECCB-PC (USA) Partnership's online conference on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 2 PM EST (USA) / 8 PM CET (CZE). The conference will be held in English at <https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/93768208441>. All are welcome. Pre-registration via email at [slama@etf.cuni.cz](mailto:slama@etf.cuni.cz) would be appreciated.

Within a 90-minute timeframe, Professor Petr Kratochvíl, an expert in international relations and Christian ethics, and Professor James Calvin Davis, an expert in the role of religion in American democratic life, will offer presentations. These will be followed by discussion in smaller breakout rooms and a short plenary session. Moderation: Professors Mark Douglas and Petr Sláma. You are welcome to stay and chat with your friends in breakout rooms afterwards.



**Charles  
University**



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**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:30am Nursery

9:30am CHURCH SCHOOL  
for all ages!

11:00am Worship

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Dennis & Carol Calbos, Susan & Randy Parish

**LITURGIST:** Pam Knox

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30**

**USHERS/GREETERS:** Caly DePalma, Katy Terry, Jim & Sandy Whitney

**LITURGIST:** Kirche Rogers

Congregational Care for March: Ansley Land & DeLynda Tweedell



**March 23, 2025**

Lily McKay, Sandy Whitney,  
Luanne Rigsby

**March 30, 2025**

Lily McKay, Dell Whitehead, Ada Brock &  
Larsen Rea

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



**Covenant Connection March 26, 2025**

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

**The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank**  
**always** needs brown paper grocery  
 bags. Thank you Covenant and *May We All*  
*Have Enough!*

**Covenant Easter Egg Hunt**  
 Saturday, April 19 at 11:00am  
**RAIN OR SHINE!** Please bring your Easter  
 Basket and join us!

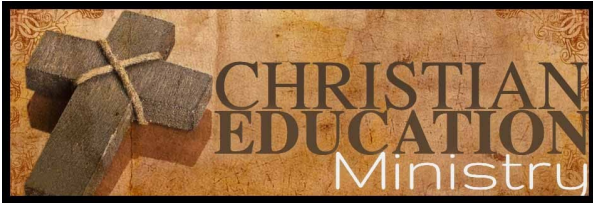
**LIBRARY CORNER: *Orthodoxy: A Modern Translation* by G. K. Chesterton**

Considered a classic and a masterpiece by writers such as C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien, "These few but powerful pages chronicle Chesterton's intellectual journey to explain why he believes in Christianity, and how he came to view it as the most rational and logical approach to understanding the universe. With humor, common sense, and a style all his own, Chesterton (1874-1936) welcomes you on a whimsical journey of rediscovery, revealing how the answers to life's deepest questions were hiding in plain sight all along."



This book can be found at Bay F, Shelf 3. —Church Librarian Valerie Stone





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!

**The "GOD-BOTHERERS" Class at 9:30am.** 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. We are currently reading and discussing Josh Scott's, [Bible Stories for Grown-ups](#). (and the Bible stories covered in it)

**The "UPPER ROOM" at 9:30am.** 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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com).

### **The "JOURNEY" at 9:30am**

Location: "Journey" Classroom Room 216. On Sunday, February 2, we will begin our next class-selected book, *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*, written by Amy-Jill Levine. Professor Emerita at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Levine (AJ) describes herself as a "Yankee Jewish feminist who taught in a predominantly Christian divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt." We share leadership with class participants volunteering to lead our discussion each week. Class facilitated by Phil Hale.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES—**

**Juniors (K-3rd) Class at 9:30am.** Taught by Katy Arora and volunteer shepherds meet each week downstairs in the "Temple Courtyard" classroom.

**Middlers (4th—7th) Class at 9:30am.** Betsy Burmeister facilitates this class downstairs in the "Potter's Workshop" classroom.

**Covenant Youth Connection—Sunday, March 23 meeting at 1:30 pm to go to the UGA Women's Softball Game**



### **EXCITING NEWS ABOUT 10:30 A.M. EVERY SUNDAY AT COVENANT!**

We're thrilled to announce a refreshed schedule that allows everyone to connect and enjoy a time of fellowship! Sunday School classes now run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., followed by 30 minutes of coffee, conversation, and community in the gathering room before 11 a.m. worship.

We encourage attendees to step out promptly after class, grab a cup of hot decaf or full-throttle coffee, and savor a few moments with your church family and visitors seeking fellowship. Who knows, there might even be a sweet snack waiting to brighten your day! Let's fill the room with conversation, friendship, and delicious aromas. See you there at 10:30 a.m.!

Remember, fellowship is sweeter when we all join in!

# WAYSTOSERVE @COVENANT

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**  
 Covenant Cooks "First Tuesday" Dinners  
 Sign up to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-44868340-serving#/>



**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#/>

**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#/>

Thank you to all who bring their plastic bags to the Pantry. It is a great help. For the month of January Covenant served 1,551 food insecure neighbors.



**You Invited to "Jammin' in our Jammies!"**  
 Join us on **March 28th** in support of the children and families at Athens Area Homeless Shelter because there truly is no place like home, where sweet dreams come true!

**Purchase tickets at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/jammin-in-our-jammies>**



**OUR FRIENDS AT JUBILEE PARTNERS ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- Size 8 boys clothes
- 1 nightstand (bedside table)
- 1 very small living room end table
- A few sturdy bookshelves of various sizes

They are also raising some money specifically for passports for the children of friends in the network who aren't sure what the future holds for them. Their kids were born here in the states, so they need to have documents so they can travel with their parents if they do need to leave the country. It is about \$130 per passport and there are quite a list of kids that Jubilee is helping file for passports.

Contact DeLynda Tweedell for more info!



*Covenant Youth & Leaders on a recent field trip to Jubilee Partners. Pictured with Don Mosely.*

# Covenant by the Week!

**March 23, 2025**

**SUNDAY - 9:30am** Nursery  
9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am** Worship  
12:30pm 12 Step Group  
**2:00pm** Youth at UGA Women's Softball game  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**  
**4:00pm** Athens Free Clinic  
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall  
5:00pm Bells of NEGA in Worship Center  
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:00am Retirees Planning Meeting  
4:30pm Socrates Café with Mimi  
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
6:15pm Stated Session Meeting  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting -

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
5:30pm Covenant Connection  
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
6:15pm Adult Bible Study  
7:15pm Adult Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm 12 Step Group—downstairs

**THURSDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
9:30am—11am Campus Kitchen  
9:30am PW Bible Study  
9:30am preparing bags for food distribution  
1pm Covenant Food Distribution  
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters

**FRIDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
1:30pm OLLI Group in Library  
7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

**SATURDAY**  
10:30am 12 Step Group  
4pm Bells of NEGA Spring concert in Worship Center



**Bells of Northeast Georgia**  
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

**March 30, 2025**

**SUNDAY - 9:30am** Nursery  
9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
**11:00am** Worship  
**12:15pm** SEL in Fellowship Hall  
12:30pm 12 Step Group  
**5:00pm** Youth dinner and a program  
6:30pm Campus Kitchen

**MONDAY OFFICE CLOSED**  
6:30pm—8pm Scouts in Fellowship Hall  
5:00pm Bells of NEGA in Worship Center  
7:00pm 12 Step Group in Journey Classroom

**TUESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's  
6:00pm—8pm Campus Kitchen  
7pm 12 Step Group Meeting -

**WEDNESDAY** Office Open 10am—4pm  
11:30am New Horizons Band Rehearsal  
5:30pm Covenant Connection  
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal  
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1:30pm OLLI Group in Library  
7pm - 12 Step Group Meeting

**SATURDAY**  
10:30am 12 Step Group