

# THE COVENANTER <mark>October 14,</mark> 2018

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



**OPPORTUNITY TO HELP! Covenant is to host IHN families October 21 – 28.** Please check out the sign up board in the hallway across from the church offices to see the many ways you can help. And thank you for your willingness to help! Our IHN guests now have a wonderful, new shower downstairs. What a difference this will make in their stay at Covenant. SO, we need donations of bath towels. If you would like to donate towels to Covenant IHN then please leave them in the church copy room on the counter or you

can make a cash donation in the offertory marking the memo line IHN bath towels. . Many thanks!



WITNESS SUNDAY is October 21—Come and see; learn and grow!

### PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Our Witness Team continues to support Christ's mission to the world, offering a global focus on ways we can be helpful. This year, we will welcome Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance consultant for continuing aid to Puerto Rico after the 2018 Hurricane Maria. He will preach at both worship services, host a Q&A presentation during the Church School hour for youth & adults, and be present for individual conversation during lunch in Fellowship Hall. We hope to create a Mission Trip to Puerto Rico for the summer

of 2020. Share your ideas & talents! Terry Centner & Sandy Whitney, chairs. A catered luncheon by The Blind Pig will be served at 12:15pm - monetary donations are appreciated.

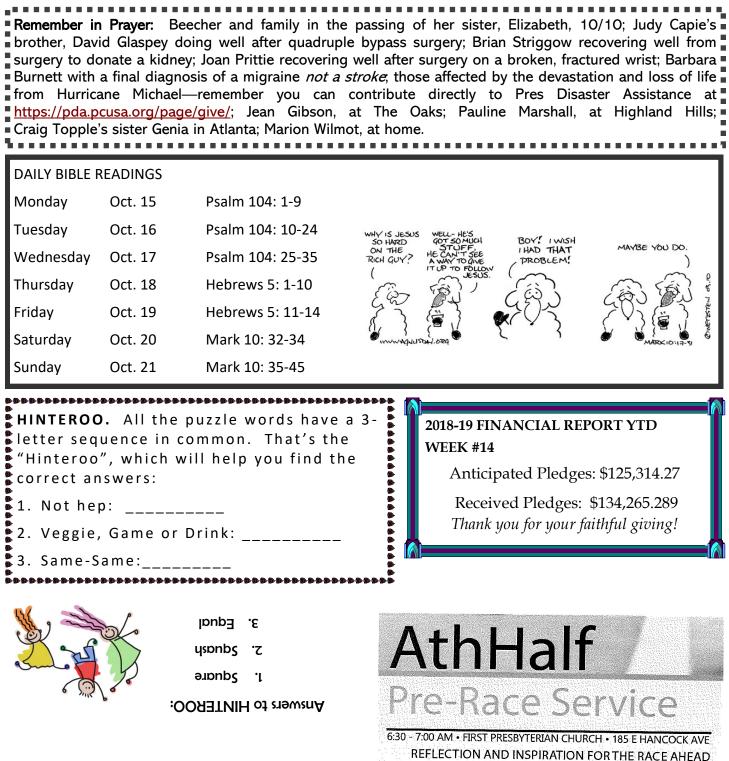


**OCTOBER 28—**We will welcome, Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, who Reformation worked for the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren for 26 years and Sunday recently retired April of this year. He will speak at 8:30am & 10:45am worship and Church School at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. (see more info on page 4)

### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road Athens, Georgia 30605 706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344 www.covpresathens.org covenantp@covpresathens.org All Saints Sunday! Sunday, November 4th at 8:30am & **10:45am** This 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). We will refer to them during a moment of recognition & prayer during worship. Please check the list in the gathering room table for additions and or corrections.



18 A MESSAGE BY THE REV. CRAIG TOPPLE

Hot fittery Joe's coffee will be available for all to enjoy. Runners and Supporters are welcome to use the church restroom facilities prior to the race, just two short blocks from the starting line.

First Presbyterian Church Athens

## Dear Friends,

As many of you may have heard by now, Beecher's sister Elizabeth died this past Wednesday after several days of being on a ventilator. While Liz had lived with significant health concerns for some years, no one in her family had anticipated the rapid failure of her lungs. Please keep Beecher and her mother Jacqueline (now 104!) in your prayers as they make funeral arrangements and begin the difficult work of shutting down an apartment and discerning the possibility of Jacqueline moving from Birmingham to Athens. While our hearts are heavy, let us continue to place our hope in Christ and the promise of resurrection. Grace and peace, Mark

## Dear Covenant Friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards & calls & prayers you've sent our way, both for my mother's 104th birthday and now the unexpected death of my sister. It's a very hard time, we both are very tired, but as Mother told me within that first hour, we just have to forge ahead. A dozen or more very unusual timings that I've noticed these last two weeks make God's presence so tangible. Just the right person arriving with exactly what we need—and you all too, across the miles. It's been a little odd yet so delightful to sense how well we can trust that things will work out. So keep praying for us.

Mother's shoulder is the only sharp physical pain left from her fall September 26th. She's mobile and very aware, just needing assisted living now at 104.

Thank you for your generosity and patience. Blessings and peace to you all, Beecher Elizabeth's memorial service will be at South Highland Church, Birmingham, AL, Tuesday, October 16th at 2pm <u>Central</u>. Look for her obituary by Sunday in the Birmingham News online at <u>www.AL.com</u>.



**Meet Our Neighbor Katia**—Covenant has recently become a member congregation of the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (ISC), a group of Athens area faith communities committed to offering friendship, hope, and compassionate support to our undocumented neighbors. Through ISC we have met Katia, a 19 year-old mother of two who has lived in Athens for 17 years. Her husband was deported to Mexico a few months ago, leaving Katia with her mother and sister to try and make ends meet. Currently Katia is working some shifts at a local flea market. In the fall she will be returning to school, seeking to complete her high school education through an on-site, on-line program at the ACC School District office. Here are some ways we can help Katia immediately and in the months to come: \*By providing Lyft gift cards or a bus pass so that she can get to work and run errands

\*By offering rides to school several times a week in the fall (once we know her schedule we will set up a Sign-Up genius for volunteer drivers) \*By supplying

her with plastic storage bins and age-appropriate books for her children (she has a one year-old boy and a three year-old girl) \*By sharing information about local, private cosmetology schools and helping fund her tuition

Thank you for prayerfully considering entering into this relationship with Katia and her family. In these days when many of us are rightly focused on legislative efforts to enable parents and children to stay together along our borders, this is a chance to extend gospel love to a vulnerable family that is already here.

As one of my teachers likes to say, "Justice is good, but supper is essential!"



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28—We will welcome, Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus, who worked for the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren for 26 years and recently retired April of this year.

Gerhard arrived in the Czech Republic for a two-year postgraduate study program with his first wife Adelheid in 1991 from a church in Köngen, Württemberg state. However, he did not return to Germany when the two years passed. It was a time when the Protestant Theological Faculty was

facing a rapid increase in the number of its students, and Gerhard took on the difficult task of helping the Faculty find a new building. He was immensely hardworking in his fundraising activities, always open to suggestions, kind and enthusiastic - and always somehow managing to spread this atmosphere and attitude among all his collaborators. Without his help, the Protestant Theological Faculty would never have been able to develop the way it did in the new conditions. With his wife, Gerhard established the international department at the Faculty, which remains very active up until today. His work at the faculty was followed by an invitation of the Synodal Senior back in the day, Pavel Smetana, to work at the Ecumenical Department of the Central Church Office. Gerhard's mission, right from the beginning, was to work on healing the wounds inflicted by the Second World War upon both nations. A Czech-German working group was thus established, Gerhard being the secretary for the Czech part. The starting point of this cooperation was a statement made by the ECCB's Synod in 1995 on the topic of the expulsion of the Sudetenland Germans. As a result from the working group the book The Dividing Wall Has Fallen (1996) was published, which had the aim of seeking reconciliation and mutual understanding. Through his work, Gerhard demonstrated and reminded everybody that reconciliation is the true focal point of the Gospel. It was also as a result of Gerhard's effort that an agreement was signed between the ECCB and the EKD in 2003. Cooperation in the field of combatting the sexual abuse of women and children in the Czech-German bordering areas followed this agreement.

However, Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus' work did not only focus on Germany. He also initiated the cooperation of the American Working Group in the Czech Republic and the Czech Mission Network in the USA. He established and developed contacts with a number of churches across Europe and also supported the ECCB's friendship with the Presbyterian Church of South Korea. It was Gerhard's initiative, that this informational bulletin has been issued for the many international partners of the Protestant Theological Faculty, of the ECCB and its Diaconia.

Gerhard also proved a very skilled organizer and coordinator, for example when coordinating the aid during the floods of 1997 and 2002, organizing the Meeting of Christians in Prague in 2005 or during the celebrations of the 600th anniversary of the death of Jan Hus in July 2015. Gerhard supported these events with his detached view, his good estimates and communication, and he managed the preparatory teams with professional routine.

At the good-bye party for Gerhard, organized by the Synodal Council on 1 April 2017 and attended by approximately 150 Czech and international ecumenical partners, gratitude for his understanding, openness and friendliness were most often expressed. Gerhard's work has enriched our lives and serves as inspiration for many. We are glad that Gerhard's friendship lasts and we can still meet him in various roles dealing with Czech and international ecumenical activities.

## WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST Saturday, October 20th at EAST FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH 400 Arch Street

**9:00 am** All women are invited to this monthly Women's Fellowship Breakfast at EFBC. If you have questions (or want to carpool), see Coffee Worth, Sue Rathbun, or Jere Bowden. Join us for Lunch Bunch, every final Tuesday of the month, at DePalma's Eastside at 11:30am. Next one is <u>Tuesday, October 30</u>. Always good food & fellowship to share. Separate checks - meet you there.

### Special Sundays Ahead

Sun. Oct. 21 IHN hosting week begins

Witness Sunday with guest preacher Edwin Gonzalez

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance consultant for Puerto Rico

9:30am, Church School for youth & adults in F. Hall with Rev. Gonzalez

12:15pm, Catered Luncheon in Fellowship Hall

 Sun. Oct. 28 Guest preacher from the Czech Republic, Gerhard Frey-Reininghaus 9:30am, Church School for youth & adults in F. hall with Rev. Frey-Reininghaus
Sun. Nov. 4 All Saints Sunday with necrology read during worship



9:30am, What It Means to be Presbyterian, led by pastors

6:00pm, Taizé Worship Service

## Are You A "Wishful" Recycler?

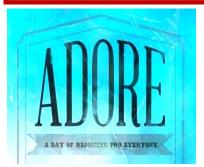
TerraCycle only accepts plastic packaging from specific products. The TerraCycle collection drawers are clearly labeled with the acceptable products.

## They are:

- \* Candy bags and wrappers
- \* Cereal bags (liner bags from boxes of cereal)
- \* Cheese bags and wrappers
- \* Chip and salty snack bags
- \* Arm & Hammer detergent power pak and baking soda bags
- \* Toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and floss containers
- \* Personal care bottles and tubes (shampoo, liquid soap, makeup containers, lotion tubes, etc. NO mouthwash, artificial tears, deodorant containers.)

Any bags or wrappers that originally contained any other kind of food products contaminate the recycling drawers. Please be mindful of what is acceptable and what is not.

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team



## **Community Outdoor Worship Celebration**

Saturday, October 20th

Noon - 6:00 PM

4080 S. Barnett Shoals Rd., Athens, 30605

Featuring: Local Christian Worship Teams, Prayer Tents & Testimonies Antique Cars & Hourly Prize Drawings Activities for the Kids Bring your lawn chair and a cool beverage! (A.D.O.R.E. is a tobacco and alcohol-free event.) Learn more @ acmin.org > events > ADORE Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. -Ephesians 5:19

Hosted by Athens College of Ministry and sponsored by Cable East and Roll Off

## 5th Sunday Worship Experience - Our next 5th Sunday worship experience will be on a 4th Sunday during a month with 5 Sundays. Sunday, December 23 rather than Sunday, Dec 30th presents a good time to live into the spirit of the Christmas season and the spirit of 5th Sundays, as we seek the Spirit's leading in and through our children and youth. More to come.

### Child Liturgist (10:45 Service)

10/07	Ruby	Please let Craig Topple know
10/14	Luke Shannon	if your child would like to
10/21	Jacob Page	become a part of the rotation: ctopple@covpresathens.org
10/28	Eli Stone	

*Instructions*: The bulletin is emailed by the end of the week on your week. Practice with your child. During the "Voluntary" of the worship service, the liturgist may join the pastors in the chancel. To begin, your child can invite the congregation, "Please join me in the Call to Worship."

**Going underground with WoRM!** "let the little children come unto me." - Jesus We are excited for a new WoRM school year! Great teachers and shepherd are involved, providing our children the opportunity to learn the faith! <u>The October Scripture: Exodus 3: 14</u> Memory Verse: God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I Am has sent me to you."

October Schedule is:

God be praised!

DATE	K-2	3rd—5th	Music Time	Story Teller
10/07/2018	Christine/Megan (Oasis)	Craig/Wanda (Hebrew)	Betsy B.	Megan
<u>10/14/2018</u>	Kay/Adam (Temple Courtyard)	Christine/Jennifer /Jerry (Oasis)	Betsy B.	Christine
<u>10/21/2018</u>	Luanne/Susan (Potters Workshop	) Carrie/Jere (Temple Courtyard)	Betsy B.	Craig
<u>10/28/2018</u>	Patrick/Jerry (Loaves & Fishes)	Combined	Betsy B.	Jerry

Parents Corner: Fellow Parents, learning Bible stories is such an important part of our self-understanding: we become connected with a deeper story; we come to recognize ourselves as part of God's story. However, if you're like me, you may cringe at aspects of some of the stories found in the Hebrew Scriptures (aka Old Testament); and, even some from



the New Testament. Our challenge is often to hold those troubling aspects of the Story together with those comforting aspects, and help our children to do that as well, as they encounter a people of faith trying to make sense of who they are, who God is, and who they are in relationship with God and others in the world. All this to say, in October we continue our journey with the Israelites found in Exodus this month, specifically chapters 3-4. We find what might be considered disturbing aspects, but also aspects

essential to our understanding as a "people of the Book". Please take the time to read through these chapters with your children over the course of this month. Maybe it becomes part of a family "bedtime routine" to read it together, or separately before going to bed. Take time to allow your children to ask questions, and ask your own questions! It's okay to say, "that would be a good question to ask at WoRM, or "let's go ask Pastor" about that. There's some of the *coolests* stuff here in these chapters, including the "Burning Bush," and Moses turning a stick into a snake! The Exodus is a story of conflict and oppression, as well as liberation and redemption. It has inspired peoples for generations. Now it's our children's turn to get caught up in the story of God found in these pages! **Remember**, be sure to help prepare your children for WoRM by telling them who their teacher is and where their lesson will be. The **renovation of Loaves and Fishes** room seems to be near completion. As soon as word comes we can move back in there, we'll do so.

### YOUTH NEWS!

**Sunday Mornings (9:35-10:30)**: Join Abby Horvath for B.A.S.I.C. in the youth room!

Sunday Evening Youth Group 5pm - 7pm at church unless otherwise announced:

Parents will be kept informed through the Covenanter, emails and Facebook. If there are any questions about what is going on, contact Craig Topple: <u>ctopple@covpresathens.org</u> or 505-785-4890.

Oct. 7: Youth Group (7pm Youth Leader Mtg)

Oct. 14: Youth Group

WEDNESDAY COVENANT CONNECTION at 5:30pm—7:00pm 5:30—6pm Bible Study with Pastors Mark and Beecher 6:-6:30pm supper 6:30-7:00pm Faith and Film with Craig Barber Please note: there will NOT be CovConn on 10/31

Oct. 21: Youth Group Oct. 28: Halloween Bowling! We will join with other area youth-in costume-for a night of fun and bowling at Showtime Bowl. 5:00pm Dinner at Covenant; 5:30pm departure for bowling alley; 7:30pm P/U at bowling alley—555 Macon Hwy, Athens, GA 30606 706-548-1028.

*"The Cave" - Fridays after school for Youth!* Every Friday, 3:30pm—5:30pm, that school is in session. The goal of the Cave is to provide a safe, supervised space for youth while fostering positive relationships among the youth's peers and adults alike. *Volunteers are needed. Please contact Dibenhi at dibenhi.reyna@gmail.com.* 

Wonderful Wednesdays

**10:00am Adult Bible Study**—This fall we explore the relationship between our Christian faith and science, guided by a DVD series from Living the Question, "Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith!" Facilitated by Mark Harper.

### COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

MENU: Oct. <sup>10</sup> Hom. Moc. Cheese Hom. Moc. Cheese Hom. Moc. Cheese 6:00pm — 6:00pm K-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant Time 6:00pm — 6:30pm Family Dinner for children, youth and adults 6:30pm — 7:00pm 3rd—5th Grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

## WEDNESDAY COVENANT CONNECTION For Youth

3:30pm Supervision for Middle and High School Youth in the youth rooms begins

5:30pm "Wednesday School-Bible Study" for Middle School Youth led by Mark and Beecher

(optional for High School), High School Youth continue to fellowship

6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Faith and Film 7:00pm Depart

6:30pm Adult Bible Study—The Dark Ages—an Age of Light! The extraordinary art of an overlooked era. In the DVD series, witness the mysteries of early Christian art, Islam's masterly mosques, intricate Anglo-Saxon metalwork, and the painstakingly illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels. Facilitated by Beecher Mathes.

## TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

7:00pm-7:30pm

## Come & join us for this new offering at Covenant every Wednesday night. This introspective worship is built on these 3 tenets: *repetitive song, prayer, and silence.*

Led primarily by the pastors and Cliff Brock, the services will include devotional music and chants from the Taize tradition, along with scripture and prayer. This time of centering and prayer is open to the community, so please share this invi-

Covenant is collecting for the Athens Area

feed my sheep." Emergency Food bank for the month of

**OCTOBER:** canned tomatoes, canned pasta, canned

*meats (spam, beef stew, chicken – <u>no seafood</u>)* and as always brown paper

bags. Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough.

Grace Eubank would love to hear from you-

her Covenant family. Her address is:

"If you love me

Grace Eubank Branchwater Village #26 763 Medical Center Parkway Boaz, AL 35957



The Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement is sponsoring a GET ON THE BUS & VDTE tour. It is a nonpartisan movement designed to motivate youth(18 & up) and minority voters. We are looking for volunteers to drive people to the polls on Saturday, October 27th (9-3pm), Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Bert Ballard-Myer at mysammiel@yahoo.com or 706.207.2665 if you are interested in volunteering to drive, or if you need to sign up for a ride to the polls.

Come one & all on the next **Restaurant** Roadtrip to Zoe's Kitchen, 145 Alps Road, on Tuesday, October 16, at 11:30am. Signup on the bulletin board to let us know you're going, and/or carpool from the church at 11:15am. Separate checks. Good Mediterranean food this month, and always great fellowship!



The Athens Mother's Center is hosting an indoor yard sale October 20-7:30am—12:30pm.

This event is open to the community. We have a maximum number of spaces available, so make sure to sign up. Register to <u>rfmarchette@gmail.com</u>. Each table is \$10. You keep all profit. Please be prepared to set up your table Friday after 5:30pm before the event.

\*You will be in charge of your own table and pricing\*

If you'd like to just donate items, AMC will have a table for donations! Happy Selling/Shopping! **SAVE** Presbyterian Women Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community DATE! The fall

workshop "Let's Talk!" for our presbytery's Presbyterian Women will be held Saturday, October 27, from 9am-2pm, at Sardis Pres Church in Jefferson. All are welcome. Mark Harper is one of the leaders this year, along with Sardis pastor Cheryl Barnes, on the topic of racism & immigration. This event is FREE and includes breakfast & lunch. REGISTER by Mon. Oct. 22 with Julie Usry (706-814-4005) <u>usryj@comcast.net</u> - and <u>SIGNUP</u> on the carpool list on the bulletin board – hope we have a good turnout!

**2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET**— A Not So Silent Night

A big thanks to everyone who signed up! Please send your submissions to kwetherington@covpresathens.org. Devotionals are due in the office by Sunday, October 7. Questions? See Pam Knox or call the church office.

Congratulations to **Tom Cooney** who was recently awarded the 2018 J. W. Fanning Humanitarian Award from the Piedmont Athens Regional Foundation for his contributions to the Loran Smith Center for Cancer Support. Tom's primary contribution consisted of writing more than 70 stories over a ten year period about cancer patients' experiences which were published in the Smith Center's Newsletter "Facing Cancer with Love and Laughter".

THE



World Communion Sunday: Many thanks to Carol Huber and Juergen Wiegel for their beautiful display of bread and grapes. And to James Malone, Marie Ballard-Myer and Ann Anderson for setup and clean up.

#### WEEK OF October 14, 2018 SUNDAY-

8:30am Worship 9:30am Church School for all Ages 10:45am Worship 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous 4pm Blessing of the Pets 5:00pm Youth Groups

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED 8am Covenant Breakfast Club 6:30pm Scouts

#### **TUESDAY-**

9:30am Athens Mother's Center 13:30pm Restaurant Road Trip Luncheon at Zoe's Kitchen 6:30pm Stated Session Meeting 7pm—8pm The School of Thought (Cliff Brock) 8pm New Freedom

#### WEDNESDAY-

10am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm—7:00pm CovConn 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Taize Worship 7:30pm LAG Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir

#### THURSDAY-

2:oopm Knitters & Knotters 6:30pm—8:oopm YOGA 7:oopm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

#### FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center 3:30pm The Cave 5:30pm Set up for AMC Yard Sale 8pm New Freedom

**SATURDAY**– 7:30am—12:30pm AMC Yard Sale in FH Fellowship Hall Cleaned

#### WORSHIP—October 14, 2018

#### 8:30am

Reader: Wayne Crowell

Coffee: Lola Bell

Ushers: Steve Bell

10:45am— Liturgist— Luke Shannon

Reader: Sarah Shannon

Ushers: Heide & Juergen Wiegel, The Tweedells

Greeters: The Tweedells

Congregational Care: Linda Koehler

Counters: Paige Campbell, Sue Loegel

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Steve Bell

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Ed Ralph (Oct 15-21)

Nursery/Super: Pam Knox

Birth-Walking: Pam Knox

Walking—5 years old: Chuck Rosenberger, Kathy Stege, Lindsey Bowden

#### WEEK OF October 21, 2018 IHN BEGINS SUNDAY- WITNESS SUNDAY

8:30am Worship 9:30am Church School for all Ages 10:45am Worship 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous 5:00pm Youth Groups

WITNESS 12:15pm LUNCHEON

#### MONDAY-

OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Scouts

#### TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center 9:30am Presbytery Meeting at Oconee 12:30pm Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside 7pm—8pm The School of Thought (Cliff Brock) 8pm New Freedom

#### WEDNESDAY-

10am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm—7:00pm CovConn 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 7:00pm Wednesday Taize Worship 7:30pm LAG Meeting 7:30pm Adult Choir

#### THURSDAY-

2:oopm Knitters & Knotters 6:30pm—8:oopm YOGA 7:oopm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity) 8pm Happy Squares

### FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center NO Cave 8pm New Freedom

### SATURDAY-

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

#### WORSHIP—October 21, 2018

#### 8:30am

Reader: Rich Reaves Coffee: Sharon Edwards Ushers: Rich Reaves, Wayne Crowell **10:45am–** Liturgist— Jacob Page Reader: Paige Campbell Ushers: Jim & Dorothy Newland, Dick Zimdars, Stephanie Cahill, Betsy Pless Greeters: Sandy & Jim Whitney Congregational Care: Linda Koehler Counters: Judy Capie, Ellen Stoneburner

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (Oct 22-28)

Nursery/Super: Joan Baird

Birth-Walking: Joan Baird

Walking-5 years old: James & Robyn Malone, Hannah Barnett