

THE COVENANTER
April 12, 2020

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



Please click here to view Covenants Easter
Worship Service, Sunday, April 12th at
8am: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCCKRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A)
Now available Good Friday Worship Service.

Prayer Concerns: Augustus Curry (neighbor of Covenant) and family in the recent death of his wife, Cynthia; For those who are affected by the COVID-19 illness, as well as their caregivers, our healthcare professionals, government leaders and those who are working around the clock to minimize the impact of this virus; Heide Wiegel at home recovering well from back surgery; Shirley Reinert slowly recovering from a car accident; Mike Swanson recovering at home from chemotherapy; Paula Zimdars FREE of cancer; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Ruth Brewster at Arbor Terrace #222; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; John & Elizabeth Brewer, Dot Handley recovering well at home & Anna Holshouser at home.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
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covenantp@covpresathens.org

DAILY BIBLE READINGS—April 13—19

Monday	Psalm 16
Tuesday	Isaiah 25: 6-10
Wednesday	Psalm 23
Thursday	Psalm 131
Friday	Psalm 62
Saturday	Lamentations 3: 24-26
Sunday	Psalm 46

Beloved Community,

The **Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition** is asking your help to aid undocumented neighbors who are struggling financially during the Corona crisis.

* Evelyn and Hector have four children at home, and they are afraid to visit food distribution sites as they have no access to health care should they become ill. Their work cleaning homes and doing small home repairs has almost completely dried up.

* Rosa works at a nursery part time, but with schools closed she has to pay child care. After she pays her rent, she will only have enough money for food for two weeks.

* Lupe washes and irons restaurant linens but now is only working 3-4 hour a week. She is very concerned about bills and food.

* Diana was laid off from the chicken-processing factory; she and her 3 children are living on school meals and emergency support.

The U.S. CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act will send most Americans a "corona check" for \$1200 plus \$500 for dependent children (but NOT citizen children of undocumented parents) soon. Most Americans. But not an estimated 11 million residents who are undocumented. A rough estimate is that there are over 3000 such households in Athens Clarke County. They will not receive unemployment checks, nor CARES Act checks.

We are calling on the ACC community, especially the strong faith communities, to dedicate a portion of their CARES check if you are able. Show undocumented friends, neighbors, employees, restaurant workers, health care workers, and elderly or disabled community members that Athens Clarke County CARES about them!

What can your ACC CARES donation do?

Based on a \$1200 check,

10% = \$120, food for two weeks for a family of 4

20% = \$240, utility bills for one household for one month

50% = \$600, partial rent for a mobile home

100% = \$1200, rent and utilities for one family for a month

The Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (ISC) is committed to raising \$50,000 to offset the crushing financial hardships undocumented members of the community are already experiencing. Dignidad Inmigrante en Athens will identify those in the undocumented community who need immediate assistance. ISC will evaluate applications. Your generous donation will go to Support for Immigrant Families in Crisis. SIFIC will allocate all funds to individuals and families, with no administrative costs. All are members of the Athens Immigrant Rights Coalition (www.athensimmigrantrights.org).

TO DONATE

VIA WEBSITE: <https://www.athensimmigrantrights.org/community-support/>

MAIL A CHECK: Make out to "SIFIC" and ACC CARES in memo, mail to

SIFIC

452 N. Billups St

Athens GA 30606

VENMO: @SIFIC

SIFIC's fiscal agent is Casa de Amistad, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. With the CARES ACT, donation may be deductible for tax purposes. Please share your address if you would like a letter for tax purposes.

Family Promise (IHN)

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). As Covenant's host week of [April 19-26](#) approaches, and recognizing the troubling times that we are in during the current COVID19 crisis, we must be ever mindful that the homeless are particularly vulnerable, and of the urgent need to keep both Family Promise guests and our Covenant volunteers safe. Family Promise Athens has been making efforts to accomplish this by housing guests at a static site at *Athens Church of Christ* on Mars Hill Road where guests are housed in three small cottages within a spacious indoor area where social distances may be maintained. You are encouraged to view a YouTube video tour of the site to see the set-up and learn more about efforts to maintain guest and volunteer safety. It may be found at <https://youtu.be/B1jIutMY8wU>. The three guest families only recently moved into the Church of Christ facility on April 5, so hosting of families in this setting is still a work in progress; although questions may remain about measures needed to maintain guest and volunteer safety in all of the traditional roles, these questions will continue to be answered during the time leading up to our host week. Certainly, we can make a difference not only through volunteer efforts but also through financial contributions. People interested in volunteering may sign up electronically using Signup Genius at <http://bit.ly/FPApril>. While Family Promise Athens is seeking volunteers as day, evening, and overnight hosts, Covenant is not obligated to fill all of the volunteer slots and we believe that one very meaningful contribution would be to prepare hot nutritious evening meals (with separate containers for each of the three guest families); drop-off is 'non-contact' and delivery can be arranged if needed. If you are not comfortable with volunteering, funds are urgently needed to fill in slots normally staffed by volunteers. Contributions to those efforts may be made at <https://www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-of-athens>.



Again, we urge you to take a look at the excellent video referenced above and check out the sign-up genius form. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Steve Rathbun (rathbun@uga.edu or [814-418-0785](tel:814-418-0785)) or Phil Hale (phale50@hotmail.com or [706-614-0812](tel:706-614-0812)).

Piedmont Athens Regional

is accepting donations of handmade, cloth masks from the community! If you'd like to donate, this is the preferred pattern: <https://www.statethelabel.com/pages/masks>
We're using these masks for both patients and staff and will take as many as we can get! If you're ready to donate or have questions, reach out to the Piedmont Athens Regional cloth mask team: Elaine Cook (Elaine.Cook@piedmont.org<<mailto:Elaine.Cook@piedmont.org>>) or Dee Dee Risher (DeeDee.Risher@piedmont.org<<mailto:DeeDee.Risher@piedmont.org>>).

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Services: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

Members, and friends of Covenant have been giving generously of their time and talents to the Emergency Food Pantry. As you can imagine, the need is great. On one day last week- food was provided to 56 families (120 people).

Needless to say, our cupboards then were bare and Karen immediately placed an order. Thanks to Mark, Rindy, and a whole host of others, we continue to adapt and make changes in order to keep our volunteers safe and adhere to standards like social distancing.

For example, this week we will be trying the following process one of our volunteers dubbed the "Chick Fi La" approach:

Food will be bagged ahead of time and placed on tables in the fellowship hall. More square footage there allows for ease of social distancing.

Meat and cheese will be added at the time of distribution.

Neighbors in need of food will be instructed by our "parking lot attendant" to drive up to the side door of the fellowship hall.

Food bags will then be handed off to the neighbor.

We have masks, gloves and sanitizer for volunteers

Currently, Covenant's Food Pantry is still available on Tuesdays, Thursdays 1pm – 4pm.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

STAY SAFE—If there is any reason at all that you should NOT physically volunteer-consider the following:

Make a financial donation to the Food Pantry by sending a check to Covenant and write "food pantry" in the subject line.
(You could send it in at the same time you send in your pledge). J

We can use grocery bags (paper or plastic), and small boxes to pack the food. If you call the church, someone could even come out to your car and get it.

If you are able to physically be present as a volunteer:

[Click the link below for an easy sign up](#) or call or email Betsy Pless 540-1719 bppless@gmail.com

You can just sign up for 1 day, or for multiple days. You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!

HOW TO SIGN UP:

Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/login/entry/611848298042>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.



Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

HOW TO GIVE—We have a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation on the website. Click on this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/>. You will be directed to our donations button. Or on the website click on Online Giving. Our deepest thanks for your ongoing support and pledges towards our new year of ministry during our current stewardship campaign.

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #40
Anticipated Pledges \$356,754.00
Actual Pledges \$346,454.59



Dear Covenant Family, The Zimdars family is reaching out this Holy Week to embrace you with joyful, dancing thanks for the prayers, cards, food, calls and flowers given to us through this Lenten season. Our journey with cancer began just before Ash Wednesday. Never have I FELT the fragility which houses my soul before. The ashes on my forehead stayed for days...Yet, I still felt a peace. I could feel the uplifting, gentle guiding and catching me when courage and faith eluded me. The Holy Spirit would firmly secure those attachments.

The last pathology report for Merkel cell carcinoma found that all 12 thigh lymph nodes were FREE of cancer. Glory be! Radiation will follow sometime in the near future, as it is known as an aggressive, rare cancer. But not till C-19 has abated. Prayers and praise for those confronted on a daily basis with this wicked virus.

Again, I say rejoice! Humbled, thankful, beyond grateful, *Paula & Dick Zimdars*

As you probably already know, Learning Ally (formerly Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic) has long been a cause dear to my heart. As a former teacher, I have long been aware that many students struggle with reading. In fact, research has shown that 1 in 5 students is somewhere on the dyslexia spectrum. During this time, when the coronavirus has disrupted so many lives, Learning Ally has generously eliminated their usual registration fees, so thousands of dyslexic students have signed up to use their quality audio textbooks and juvenile fiction books for free. What a boon this is for students who can no longer go to school! For this reason, this is an important time for you to give your financial support to Learning Ally.

Many of you know that I enjoy knitting. For this fundraising season, I have donated a shawl that I knitted. You can see pictures of the shawl on my fundraising page. Here is the link: <https://supportus.learningally.org/Caren2020> It is being raffled off; you will receive 1 virtual raffle ticket for each \$10 donation.. Many thanks for taking a look, *Caren Snook*