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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

THE COVENANTER
 April 19, 2020

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



Update on Stewardship Pledges for 2020-2021

We are in the middle of our annual stewardship / pledge program but with “sheltering in place” this year is anything but normal. In past years, we would have already celebrated together at our Stewardship Luncheon after all the pledges had been received and next year’s budget finalized. So far, just over 50% of the pledge cards have been returned. This is understandable because in past years you probably just dropped off your pledge card when you came to church. But this year, we need to have everyone mail, or email, your pledge to the church office.

Your pledge commitment is needed to help us plan for our summer activities and community missions. Your support in the past has helped us make a difference in our community and around the world. I would like to encourage you to make a pledge to the mission and ministry of our church. You will be a part of transforming lives! If you have not returned your pledge card, please mail it to the church soon. You can also call the church office to request a new pledge card if you misplaced the original. Thank you for your continued support!

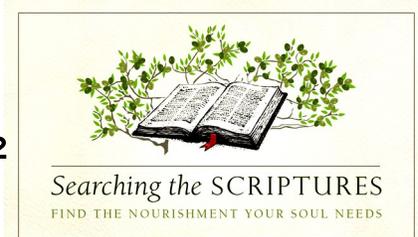
Prayer Concerns: Ginger Davis-Beck diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (please no phone calls at this time, but emails are welcome, gingerdb@bellsouth.net); Abby Horvath’s grandmother, “Gma” diagnosed with Coronavirus; Mark Harper’s Aunt Mary-Morrison and Uncle Herb Harris of Philadelphia, both with Coronavirus; Steve Follin/Linda Roger’s neighbor, Mike Malcom, as he battles a malignant brain tumor; 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, & Anna Holshouser at home.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
 Athens, Georgia 30605
 706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
 www.covpresathens.org
 covenantp@covpresathens.org

DAILY BIBLE READINGS—April 20—26

Monday	Psalm 16: 1-11
Tuesday	Psalm 17
Wednesday	Psalm 18: 1-19
Thursday	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32
Friday	I Peter 1: 3-9
Saturday	John 20: 19-23
Sunday	John 20: 24-31





FAITH FORMATION—Until we gather again as a community of disciples, please join these virtual opportunities to grow in your faith. The assignments and ZOOM meeting times will be updated weekly. Because of security concerns, all classes are by invitation only, and if you are interested in attending, please contact the host and you will be issued an invitation to participate in the ZOOM meeting. Not familiar with ZOOM? Let your host know and, if necessary, alternative means of participating in the class (FaceTime, cellphone call) will be arranged.

ADULTS

B.A.S.I.C. Class—We're exploring a weekly class using the film series, *Allegiance to Empire*. There are still some technical kinks to work out, but hopefully, the first film and a discussion guide will be available next week. If you'd like to participate, please watch for details in the coming week, including how to receive a ZOOM invitation.

Emmaus Road Class—Sunday, April 19, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Bob Trouteaud hosts and facilitates, and this week we'll discuss, "The Prodigal Who Stayed at Home". Contact Bob for copies of the chapter and an invitation to participate, bob@trouteaud.com.

Upper Room Class- Sunday, April 19, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., James Malone hosts and Jim Bowden facilitates the discussion, "Injustice Will Be Punished" Lesson 8, *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com, to receive your ZOOM invitation. If you need the Spring 2020 volume of *The Present Word* curriculum, contact Rindy Trouteaud at rindy@trouteaud.com, and a booklet will be mailed to you.

Journey Class—Sunday, April 19, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Steve Rathbun hosts and Phil Hale facilitates a "reconnect, regroup" conversation. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve at rathbun@uga.edu, to receive your ZOOM invitation. We will resume our discussion of the book, *Red State Christians*, next week, chapter 8.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday, April 28, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Rindy Trouteaud will host and facilitate a discussion of Lewis Smede's book, *Keeping Hope Alive for a Tomorrow We Cannot Control*, chapters 1-4. If you would like a copy of the readings and a ZOOM invitation to participate, please contact Rindy at rindy@trouteaud.com.

Sunday, April 19, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Dr. Brennan Breed, Columbia Theological Seminary hosts on Facebook a 5-week pop-up online Sunday School class on Paul's letter to the Philippians led by biblical scholars. Anyone and everyone is welcome! Sign up for course materials, readings, and other resources: <https://tinyurl.com/officehoursphilippians>.

YOUTH

All high school and middle school young people are invited to be a part of the intergenerational B.A.S.I.C. Class, *Allegiance to Empire*. Stay tuned for details, including how to receive a ZOOM invitation.

High School and Middle School Youth Groups

A word from the Montreat Youth Conference Leadership Team:

As we manage in a time of uncertainty for church programs, we thought it might be a good idea to experience a bit of our summer conference community now, so we asked our 2020 conference leadership if they could help us deliver a little Montreat Now. We've put together some online content from two of our largest summertime events, Montreat Youth Conference and the Worship and Music Conference.

This week's speakers are Rev. Cecilia Armstrong and Rev. Tony McNeill. To hear them (and previous speakers) go to: You Tube Montreat Now.

Confirmation Class – Mark your calendars for our Sunday, April 26 class via ZOOM at 2:00 p.m. and our ZOOM meeting with the session, Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

CHILDREN

This week we explore the story of Doubting Thomas, John 20: 24-29. Watch a short video of this story: YouTube Thomas Believes, and then complete the fun activities mailed to families with young children. If you would like to receive this mailing, please contact Rindy Trouteaud at rindy@trouteaud.com.

COVENANT CONNECTION

Enjoy the coloring pages to be pieced together into an Easter poster to display in a window of your home! If your young person did not receive this activity, please contact Rindy Trouteaud at rindy@trouteaud.com.

Note: Covenant Connection will discontinue for the summer at the end of April. Check for online activities next week!



A New Film for EARTH DAY April 22, 2020 Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, currently a sponsor of *Solarize Athens* and consulting in the formation of an Athens interfaith climate coalition, has invited us to celebrate **Faith Climate Action Week** (Earth Day + 50 years), **April 17-28**, by participating in the free streaming of a brand-new climate action film entitled “**THE HUMAN ELEMENT**.” This new film is by the same group that produced the award winning film “**CHASING ICE**” (TV-PG, 1h29m, Netflix streaming). You must register to request a free password at the following link — <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/2020/01/the-human-element/>. While on the site you may wish to explore additional services IPL makes available to the faith community.



HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/> . You will be directed to our donations link or at www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office. Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #41
Anticipated Pledges \$365,672.85
Actual Pledges \$352,814.59



If there's a mantra for living through this pandemic, it's "Wash your hands!" And yet, for our homeless neighbors and others without easy access to soap and water this necessary advice can sound like a cruel joke, emphasizing how dangerously marginalized so many of our sisters and brothers really are. Thanks to Hank Tweedell and his able assistant Carrie, those who pass this way now have access to an outdoor handwashing station at Covenant. After Bert and Marie Ballard-Myer initially proposed the idea, and then after a Sojourners magazine article reminded me of their great idea, I reached out to Hank who quickly figured out a way to rig up a timed shut-off sink and hand-soap dispenser on the fence that encloses our garbage cans. Now I've seen both homeless friends, as well as one or two postal workers who like to eat lunch at our picnic tables make use of this great resource that is keeping all of us safer and healthier. *Thanks to Hank and Carrie, Bert and Marie; and thanks! be to God!*

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*

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. For the month of March 331 families were served by the wonderful volunteers of Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry.

we will be following the 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. (if available)

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).

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."

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>>).

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