

THE COVENANTER June 21, 2020



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

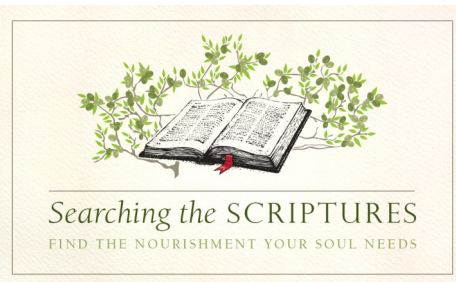
. Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, June 21st :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

Prayer Concerns: Mike Swanson in home palliative care; Joe & Mary Berry, Joe having trouble with his foot, being sent to specialist for further test; Sandy Perkins and family in the passing of her son in Memphis, Tenn June 14th; Robyn Malone's father-in-law, Jim Ansley, recovering from unexpected open heart surgery in Brevard, NC; Our Nation, for protesters, police, elected officials and church leaders; John, Mary Sue, & Elizabeth Brewer with health issues; the Sardis Presbyterian Church in Jefferson; 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; Ginger Davis-Beck undergoing cancer treatments; Paula Zimdars undergoing radiation treatment; Anne Page struggling with rehab at Heritage; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; & Anna Holshouser at home.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS— June 21-28

Monday	Psalm 13: 1-6
Tuesday	Psalm 14
Wednesday	Psalm 15
Thursday	Psalm 16
Friday	Psalm 17
Saturday	Romans 6: 12-23
Sunday	Matthew 10: 40-42



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A REMINDER TO ALL MINISTRY TEAMS: Revised budgets are due to Pam Knox pnknox@yahoo.com, no later than June 22 so that she can put together a new budget for the new fiscal year, 2020-2021.

Thank you!

Dear Covenant Family,

Over 50 years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. launched a "Poor People's Campaign" to address massive injustice in our country's political and economic structures. Moving beyond societal inequalities surrounding race and civil rights, King became laser-



focused on the deep-rooted reality of dehumanizing poverty that transcends racial lines. In fact, that was what he was working on with great intensity when the powers that be sought to silenced his message in Memphis. Today the Rev. William Barber and local leaders across the country have taken up that mantle and re-launched a new Poor Peoples' Movement. And like the kingdom banquet of the Jesus, we're all invited to the party. This **Saturday, June 20th** beginning at 10am, a nation-wide virtual rally will be held in lieu of the planned mass gathering in Washington, DC that was cancelled due to COVID-19. Please consider tuning in to the link published in our newsletter. And let us pray for God's Spirit to lead us into greater actions of love and solidarity with our poorest neighbors in the days to come. *Pastor Mark*

Please click on this link to register to view the event: <https://www.june2020.org/>

As members of the Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, we represent diverse faith communities from across Athens and surrounding communities. We speak of spiritual life in different terms and call upon the Divine by different names. We hold different sacred writings to be authoritative. Even within our own faith traditions, there is wide difference in doctrine and practice. And yet, we are mindful in these troubled days of the words of a Georgia prophet who once reminded us, “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

As faith leaders, we are deeply troubled by the systemic racism that continues to plague our nation, state, and city. The recent deaths at the hands of the police of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and the extrajudicial killing of Ahmaud Arbury are but the latest symptoms of a spiritual disease that, left unaddressed, threatens to unravel the very ties that bind us together into one human family. It is precisely because we believe that all human beings are tied in a single garment of destiny that we lift our collective souls to affirm together with one voice: Black Lives Matter.

We urge those who lead our cities and who are charged with keeping the peace to remember that they were commissioned as public servants, not warriors, and that lasting peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but rather the establishment of justice. We unequivocally support those citizens who use peaceable assembly and nonviolent direct action to speak truth to the powers that be, and we condemn any attempt to intimidate or threaten those who would exercise their rights.

We invite the community to join us on the steps of City Hall on June 19th at 5 p.m. for a time of interfaith prayer for peace and justice in our city. Masks and social distancing are requested.

As people of faith, we believe that diversity was intentionally woven into the very fabric of creation. As we have come to know each other as friends and colleagues, at times we have become painfully aware of lines of difference. At the same time, we have also discovered that we have far more in common than we once knew. It is our fervent prayer that Athens can be a model for Georgia and the world beyond of a thriving network of mutuality. It is up to all of us, working together, to make it so.

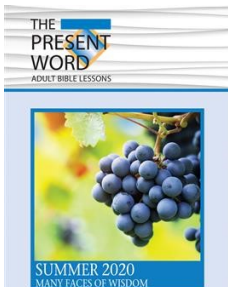
Rev. Dr. Ryan Baer, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Athens; **Sohayl Moshtael**, Bahá’í Faith, Secretary ICPGA Board of Directors; **Rev. Justin Floyd**, Senior Minister, First Christian Church Athens; **Rabbi Eric Linder**, Congregation Children of Israel, Chair ICPGA Board of Directors; **Rev. Nathan Hilkert**, Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church; **Rev. Dr. James Washington Jr.**, Senior Pastor at New Grove Baptist Church, Winterville, Vice-Chair ICPGA Board of Directors; **Rev. Bronte Colbert**, Senior Minister, Unity Athens; **Rev. David W. Key, Sr.**, Founding Pastor, Lake Oconee Community Church; **Rev. Michaela Lawrence Jeffery**, Pastor, Athens Georgia Seventh-day Adventist Church; **Tim Johnson**, Co-Clerk, Athens Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); **Rev. G. Anthony Spears**, Pastor of Our Hope Metropolitan Community Church; **Rev. Abraham Mosley**, Pastor, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church; **Dexter Joyner**, 1st Counselor Athens Stake Presidency, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; **Rev. Dr. Carol Strickland**, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Athens; **Rev. Dr. Ginny Dempsey**, Associate Pastor for Students, Milledge Avenue Baptist Church; **Libby Hollett**, Communication Specialist, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Athens Georgia Stake; **Rev. Bobbie Epting**, Retired, PCUSA; **Rev. Dr. Nathan Byrd III**, Minister to Older Adults, Milledge Avenue Baptist Church; **Rev. Kathleen Deegan-Neal**, Retired Elder, Watkinsville United Methodist Church; **Rev. C. Craig Topple**, Chaplain, St. Mary's Health System; **Rev. Dr. Don Randall**, Affiliated Community Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens; **Rev. Hattie Lawson**, Associate Minister, New Grove Baptist Church; **Rev. Mary P Bagby**, Elder of Sound Doctrine Ministry; **Rev. David B. Gladson**, Board Certified Chaplain; **Rev. Dr. C. Franklin Granger**, Minister of Christian Community, First Baptist Church; **Rev. Barbara H. Rodgers**, Honorably Retired pastor of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and a member of Northeast Georgia Presbytery; **Rev. Ronnie Swoops**, Pastor, Oconee Baptist Church; **Rev. L.T. Crawford**, Pastor, Little Valley Church; **Rev. Mark Harper**, Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church; **Rev. Dr. Rindy Trouteaud**, Covenant Presbyterian Church; **Rev. Diane Bales**, Minister, Disciples on Campus; **Rev. Alison Wilbur Eskildsen**, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



During the Covid-19 crisis we are scheduling online opportunities to grow in discipleship. Church school classes for all ages, midweek studies, and youth group programs from Montreat are available online, and the links to these opportunities which require ZOOM invitations may be viewed weekly on our church website: covpresathens.org. Please make it a habit to check the website often for links to our weekly newsletter and other communications, online giving, and our Sunday morning virtual worship services!

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has a series of virtual events and learning opportunities for adults and high schoolers this summer. Every Friday, 1:15 p.m., peace activists from around the world gather for casual conversation, updates and connection. A virtual book club will begin in August and the book that will be read and discussed is *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi. Please consider joining these discussion groups which promise to be lively and engaging!

After exploring virtual VBS options, we will make available for families of preschoolers - 5th graders, weekly activities and resources created by Illustrated Ministry, *Compassion, Learning to Love Like God*. Envelopes of stories and activities will be mailed weekly to families. Questions? Please contact Rindy Trouteaud, rindy@trouteaud.com.



The Summer 2020 copies of *The Present Word* curriculum for adults have arrived! If you would like a copy so that you may participate in the Sunday virtual Upper Room class hosted by James Malone and facilitated by various class volunteers, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your book during our drive-thru Food Pantry hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

Let's Lift Our Voices Together!

As the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions to shelter-in-place continue, we would like to make available copies of our hymnal, *Glory to God*, for those who would like to join in the singing of hymns during our virtual worship services on YouTube. If you would like a copy to keep in your home, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your book during our drive-thru Food Pantry hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.



HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/> . Or you can click on this link 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 #49

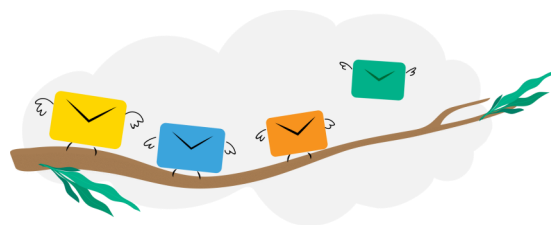
Anticipated Pledges \$437,023.47

Actual Pledges \$428,564.45

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Anne Page is currently in rehab at Heritage Athens, Room 604. 960 Hawthorne Avenue Athens, GA 30606.

She would love to receive cards from her Covenant family.



Little Food Pantry – We continue to seek out new and faithful ways to respond to the needs of the food insecure and homeless friends in our community. UGA students built a Little Food Pantry on our church campus. It is located outside the doors of our fellowship hall. Little Food Pantries are scattered throughout Athens, and their purpose is to respond to the emergency food needs of hungry folks. We encourage you to help us keep our Little Food Pantry stocked with pop-top single serve canned goods that do not require cooking, peanut butter and jelly, packaged crackers, healthy snack items. Small individual personal hygiene items (ie: soap, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, and shampoos) in a ziplock bag with a granola bar of some kind is also needed. Please remember everything must be sealed to prevent ant infestations...

The Covenant coffee closet still has lots of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate ! Although the regular office hours and services are suspended, the church is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Food Pantry from 1 - 4 PM. *Please call the church office at 706-548-2756 and place your order and when you would like to pick it up. A food pantry volunteer will hand your order as you drive through the parking lot.* In this time of uncertainty, let's not forget the hard working farmers and their families who depend on the Equal Exchange folks to buy their coffee at a Fair Price !!!

Any questions please contact Sandy Whitney at sandrawhitney08@gmail.com.



Worship and Music Virtual Conference

June 21-26, 2020

There is still time to [register](#) for this exciting online conference!

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) is so excited to be able to host a Worship and Music Conference, even amid the challenges these days. The online conference is almost here! We are joyful to be gathering together virtually, “**From Every Time and Place,**” **June 21-26**, with the same spirit we would bring when we have gathered together in-person at Montreat for the past 50 years.



Join us online this summer!

- Live Worship and Interactive Worship Reflections
- Masterclasses and programs with choral and handbell clinicians
- “Montreat Moments” throughout the day - even ice cream at The Huck!
- Daily Concerts, including the Organ Recital and Hymn Festival
- Save money on travel, lodging, and even the registration rate!

Join us from every time and place for our online conference!

Visit www.presbysmusic.org/2020conference to learn more.



Piedmont Urgent Care is now offering both Covid-19 tests, and antibody tests for everyone, with test results available in 6 hours. Please contact Piedmont Urgent Care for further information.

If you need a helping hand or (just someone to reach out to you) during "Sheltering in Place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please contact Congregational Care Ministry Team and we will do our best to be of assistance. Let us know of your needs by either calling Luanne Rigsby at (706) 769-1066 (home) or (706) 224-3828 (cell) or emailing her at luannerigsby@gmail.com or Don Bower at dbower@uga.edu.





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

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.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry will be starting up again on Tuesday, June 16th after taking a week off to reassess our safety procedures. New procedures will be in place in order to keep our volunteers and neighbors safe. All current Food Pantry volunteers have received specific information about these new procedures. Please see below information if you are interested in volunteering with the Emergency Food Pantry.

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
bpless@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.



For the month of May Covenant served **469** food insecure households. This number includes 280 children and 100 senior citizens. Total number of individual people served was 1,082. *Thank you Covenant Volunteers and all those who have contributed so generously to this ministry!*