

THE COVENANTER

July 12, 2020

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

Join us for Worship. Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, July 12th :

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

Prayer Concerns: the broken call between the congregation of Belle Terrace in Augusta, and their called pastor Renita Page; Dr. Percy Johnson and the Sardis Presbyterian Church and Nathan Wheeler and the Winder Presbyterian Church; Anna Holshouser recovering well at home from heart valve repair and a new stint; a Covenant neighbor, Drew, undergoing cancer treatment at Emory and for his family; 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; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112 .

DAILY BIBLE READINGS— July 13-19

- Monday Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24
- Tuesday Psalm 140
- Wednesday Psalm 142
- Thursday Genesis 28: 10-19a
- Friday Romans 8: 1-17
- Saturday Romans 8: 18-39
- Sunday Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

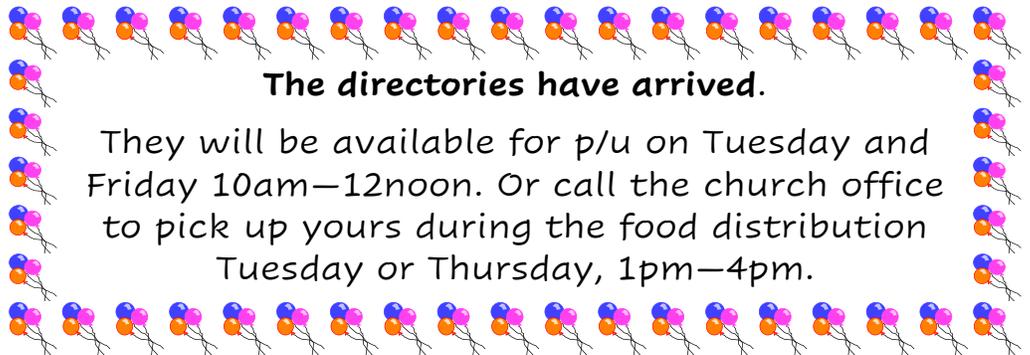


COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

The directories have arrived.

They will be available for p/u on Tuesday and Friday 10am–12noon. Or call the church office to pick up yours during the food distribution Tuesday or Thursday, 1pm–4pm.



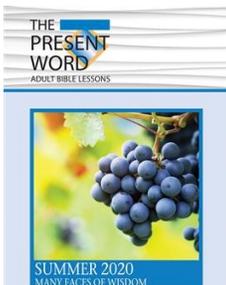


During the Covid-19 crisis we are scheduling online opportunities to grow in discipleship. Church school classes for all ages, midweek studies, and youth group programs from Montreat are available online, and the links to these opportunities which require ZOOM invitations may be viewed

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! <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/events/virtual-book-club-how-to-be-an-antiracist-by-ibram-x-kendi/>

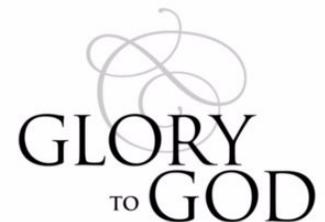
After exploring virtual VBS options, we will make available for families of preschoolers - 5th graders, weekly activities and resources created by Illustrated Ministry, *Compassion, Learning to Love Like God*. Envelopes of stories and activities will be mailed weekly to families. Questions? Please contact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

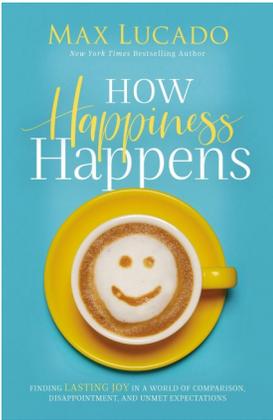


The Summer 2020 copies of *The Present Word* curriculum for adults have arrived! If you would like a copy so that you may participate in the Sunday virtual Upper Room class hosted by James Malone and facilitated by various class volunteers, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your 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 You Tube. 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.





The Journey Class will begin a new ZOOM Sunday School class using Max Lucado's book, "How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations". The class begins this **Sunday, July 12, 9:45 a.m.**, and copies of the book may be purchased from Amazon or your local independent bookstore.

These are tough times. Amid global isolation, economic downturn, and social unrest, could you use a dose of happy right about now? Learn the secret to lasting joy that will endure through any season of life. In How Happiness Happens, Max Lucado shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, one that produces reliable joy amidst any life circumstance. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this book presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out.

In this book, Max will help you discover:

Happiness is not selfish

People are a joy

There is strength in choice

Happiness happens when you give it away

What are you waiting for? Open the unexpected door to joy and walk in. There's no better day than today to start your happiest life yet.

Various class members plan to share responsibility for leading discussion by signing up and taking turns. Steve Rathbun will continue as technical host. Check the church website next week for ZOOM instructions!

Mike Swanson died peacefully this week in presence of his beloved wife, Paige Cummings, after a protracted struggle with an aggressive cancer. The two of them made plans for a celebration of his life once it is safe to gather in large groups. It was Mike's wish to have his family and friends honor his memory with gifts to the Athens Nurses Clinic, an extraordinary medical ministry to our neediest neighbors in Athens. Paige Cummings serves as its executive director, and over the years, Mike spent hundreds of hours supporting Paige in her efforts to address the medical needs of our vulnerable, medically fragile friends needing healing. When the Clinic's largest donor was unable to continue its financial support of this critical ministry due to the coronavirus, it distressed Mike greatly. He felt that the community safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors was torn, and from his hospital bed, he was brainstorming with Paige for other sources of funding. For those who would like to honor Mike's commitment to our vulnerable neighbors, donations may be made in his memory to the **Athens Nurses Clinic, 240 North Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**, or to Covenant Presbyterian Church (earmarked Athens Nurses Clinic), 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA



While we shelter in place, Jesus will continue visiting us in the most unusual of places! On no particular schedule, a plastic figurine of Jesus, *Flat Jesus*, may show up on your doorstep or in your mailbox, and you are invited to create a scene anywhere you choose, include your family, pets, anything you'd like, and *Flat Jesus*, take a photo using your cellphone or some device, and send it to the church office Karen Wetherington will post it on the church's FaceBook page, and we'll have fun guessing where, and maybe who (if you disguise yourselves!) *Flat Jesus* may be visiting. *Travels with Flat Jesus* will be a wonderfully creative, quirky, fun way to stay connected during this season of quarantine. Once *Flat Jesus* visits you, you may "send him packing" to the home of another Covenant friend.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FAMILY PROMISE (Formerly IHN)

The July 12-19 dates for Covenant's rotation for Family Promise have been added to the SignUpGenius Link. Athens Church of Christ (ACOC), a wonderful facility for the families, will continue serving as their temporary home. The families have been at ACOC since the beginning of the pandemic...the address is 3720 Mars Hill Road. The families are very comfortable at this site. Volunteering is so, so easy here, and you stay safely apart from everyone. We will have three families during our week.

Please click on the following link to find a good spot to help these families as they get back on their feet.

[SignUpGenius Link](#)

To see a tour of the ACOC facility click on this link –

[Family Promise of Athens Static Site Tour](#)

We do need volunteers to be on-site throughout our week, along with dinner meals. Dinner preparers just drop the food at a table inside the door...Susan Parish will let food volunteers know food issues/preferences/etc. We also need two over-nighters each night, and volunteers through the day.

In the last few weeks, two of our families have obtained permanent housing and have moved out. Each has been extremely grateful for a safe place to be, a true shelter in the storm. We now have two new families to keep us at 3. The two new families have moved in after quarantining per CDC recommendations and guidelines for the past two weeks at a local hotel before moving into the building.

Members of the Covenant congregation are invited to submit nominations for the session. Nominations must be received by July 15, and should be sent to any of the three members of the nominating committee: Helen Epps - 706-769-8938 or eppshelen@gmail.com

Patti Huberty - 706-549-5038 or pattih720@gmail.com

Bill Barstow - 706-546-7495 or 706-614-9078 or webarstow@gmail.com

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!

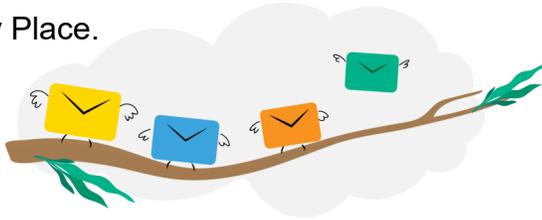
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #52
Anticipated Pledges \$463,780.00
Actual Pledges \$454,929.38
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Ms. Anne has returned to Avery Place.

Anne Page

124 Avery Place, Room #145

Winterville, GA 30683



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.





Dear Covenant Family,

I hope many of you tuned in to last Saturday's virtual Poor People's Campaign Rally. If you did, you joined over 2 million participants nationwide, according to the most recent count

by Repairers of the Breach, one of the principle organizing groups for the rally. If you were not able to watch, I think it remains available for viewing at www.June2020.org. As a follow up, we are offering a link to the PPC's Policy Platform. This document is a summary of the "Legislative and Policy Priorities of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival." I commend your prayerful attention to the vision and hope it contains, especially as we enter election season. Grace and peace, Mark

Please click on the link below to access the PPC's Policy Platform:

http://covpresathens.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PPC-Policy-Platform_v6.pdf



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.





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.

Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.”

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.*



For the month of June Covenant served **312** food insecure households. This number includes 140 children and 48 senior citizens. Total number of individual people served was 808. *Thank you Covenant Volunteers and all those who have contributed so generously to this ministry!*