

THE COVENANTER

August 30, 2020

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

Current Guidelines for Gathering on Covenant Property

While the Covenant session, and probably all of you, would like to re-gather as a congregation for worship, study, and fellowship, the risks of doing so brought on by Covid-19 are currently too high for that to be possible. Please know that Covenant has a Re-Opening Task Force that is doing an outstanding job of monitoring conditions and exploring possibilities for a safe return to our life together as Christ's Body.

In the meantime, we hope the following guidelines for indoor and outdoor gatherings on Covenant property will prove helpful. For the time being, no groups will be permitted to gather in Covenant buildings for worship, Christian education, meetings, or fellowship.

Building use is allowed for:

1. Groups with fewer than 10 members who are utilizing the worship center to prepare for or record virtual worship.
2. Volunteers in groups of three to four serving our food insecure neighbors through the food pantry currently housed in the fellowship hall and kitchen.
3. Church staff, volunteers, and contract workers doing routine office and maintenance or repair work.

In all these scenarios, anyone who is inside a Covenant building is required to wear a face mask and practice appropriate social distancing.

Outdoor use:

Until further notice, with the understanding that the church building remains inaccessible, including restrooms, the following practices are requested for engaging in outdoor group activities on the church grounds:

1. Sanitize hands immediately prior to entering the outdoor area. Make hand sanitizer available during the gathering, should it be needed.
2. Wear face masks whenever feasible (*nose* and *mouth* face coverings, preferably using 3 layers made of cotton cloth), with the exception of eating or playing an instrument.
3. Maintain a *minimum* of 6 feet to safely social distance.
4. Limit group size to 15 or fewer people.

Thank you for your prayers, patience, and cooperation in these challenging times .

The Re-Opening Task Force

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, August 30th:

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



**Parents and Friends of Our Covenant Children...
Save the date!**

Rally Day Drive-Thru

**Tuesday, September 1, 5- 7 p.m. and Wednesday, September 2,
2 - 3:30 p.m.**

Steer your car through our food pantry drive-thru and pick up a bag filled with surprises, Sunday School materials and supplies, and a home-baked treat!

See the *Covenanter* next week for more details!

Prayer Concerns: Our Nation, for protesters, police, elected officials and church leaders; John, Mary Sue, & Elizabeth Brewer with health issues; 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; Anna Holshouser recovering well at home; Ginger Davis-Beck undergoing cancer treatments; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112 .

Daily Bible Readings August 31—September 6

Monday Luke 10: 25-37

Tuesday I John 3: 1-3

Wednesday I John 3: 18-24

Thursday I John 4: 7-21

Friday Philippians 2: 1-4

Saturday Philippians 2: 5-11

Sunday Philippians 2: 12-15

Sunday, September 6, Rindy Trouteaud will offer a communion reflection on leaning into God's love, and we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

GRADUATES ZOOM LUNCHEON !

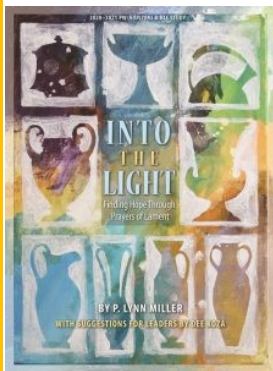
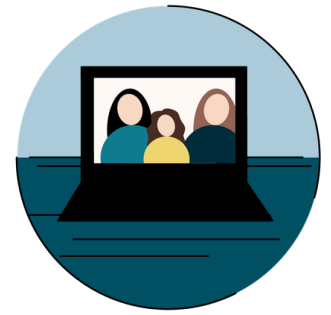
Tuesday, September 8

12:30pm

Dig out your fine china, make your lunch and join us for a virtual gathering!

We will “check in” with each other, share a short story about the best thing that happened to you since we last met, and enjoy one another’s company!

Contact **Betsy Pless**, Older Adult Ministries Coordinator, for your ZOOM invitation at bppless@gmail.com



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 9:30am via ZOOM

In this nine-lesson study, P. Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn’t fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God’s inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church’s most timely gifts to the world. Study book will be available soon. **\$10 each.** Please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org to request a study book and receive your Zoom invite.

Dear members, the Session Nominating Committee needs your help!

We currently have two members who have graciously agreed to be nominees for the upcoming 2020 class of Elders. ***We are in need of two more.*** We ask that you please prayerfully consider serving Covenant in this manner. ***If you are willing to be a nominee please contact one of the Nominating Team members ASAP.***

Helen Epps

eppshelen@gmail.com

Patti Huberty

pattih720@gmail.com

Bill Barstow

webarstow@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Zoom Book Study: *Surely Goodness and Mercy: A Journey into Illness and Solidarity* by Murphy Davis

Beginning September 9th at 10 a.m.

Facilitated by Mark Harper

The book may be ordered from

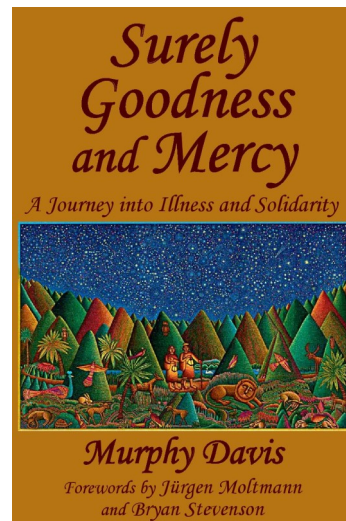
The Open Door Community

P.O. Box 10980

Baltimore, MD 21234-0980

404-290-2047

opendoorcomm@bellsouth.net



About the book:

Murphy Davis is a Presbyterian pastor and life-long advocate for the poor. After being diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in 1995, Murphy began an unexpected journey into a deeper solidarity with those who are vulnerable and on the margins of our society than she ever imagined. As another Presbyterian pastor, Nibs Stroupe, has written, "*Surely Goodness and Mercy* takes us down into the soul of one woman battling for her life, and out into the soul of our unjust and absurd American healthcare system. It testifies to the power and necessity of community. This book will inspire and convict us, as it takes us on a searing and redemptive journey of one person fighting for her life and then finding her life in the most unexpected places."

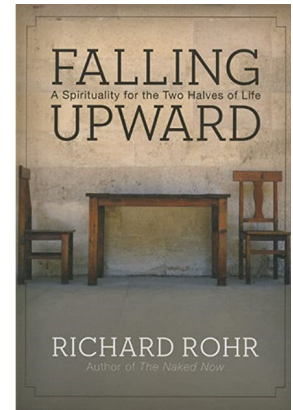
Please join us for what promises to be a challenging yet ultimately joyful conversation about God's remarkable way of accompanying us through the valley of the shadow of death, and into the light of resurrection hope. To participate we will need your email address so that you can Zoom in on Wednesday mornings; please send that to Mark Harper at mharper@covpresathens.org. And go ahead and order your copy of the book at the cost of a \$15 suggested donation. For a \$20 donation the Open Door will provide a free copy to a prisoner or someone who cannot afford to purchase it. I look forward to seeing you again on Wednesdays!

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ZOOM STUDY

Beginning September 09 at 4pm

Falling Upward, A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life
by Richard Rohr

Facilitated by Rindy Trouteaud. The book may be ordered from Amazon.com, various prices depending on format and whether you purchase it new or used or the Bookstore at the Center for Action and Contemplation, store.cac.org.



About the book

In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr, Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone down" are the only ones who understand "up." Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as "falling upward." In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness.

This message of "falling down" - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions, including and most especially, Christianity. In this book, Rohr offers a new paradigm for understanding one of the most profound of life's mysteries: how our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth. Drawing on the wisdom from time-honored myths, heroic poems, great thinkers, and sacred religious texts, Rohr explores the two halves of life to show that we grow spiritually much more by doing wrong than by doing right. With rare insight Rohr takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves of life are actually stepping-stones to the spiritual joys that the second half of life has in store for us.

Consider joining us for conversations about living the abundant life Jesus promised his followers. To do that we will need your email address so that you can Zoom in on Wednesday afternoons; [please send that to Rindy Trouteaud at rindy@trouteaud.com](mailto:rindy@trouteaud.com).

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.

*the **Tuesday Food Pantry hours are 5PM-7PM**. This is being done with the thought that there may be people who work and are also in need of assistance from the Food Pantry. There also may be volunteers who work but would like to volunteer. The Thursday Food Pantry hours will remain the same: 1PM-4PM. A hearty THANK-YOU to the many volunteers who help feed our neighbors.*

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!

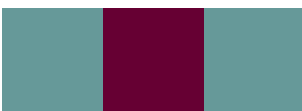
Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

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.*



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 #08
Anticipated Pledges \$69,230.77
Actual Pledges \$66,498.93
Thank you for your faithful giving!



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 zip lock bag with a granola bar of some kind is also needed. Please remember everything must be sealed to prevent ant infestations...*Please no raisins.*



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 sandr_awhitney08@gmail.com.



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.



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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Frey | 27 Asher Hill |
| Dennis Calbos | 28 Alice Herndon |
| 3 Beecher Mathes | Christina Noel Reaves |
| Megan Sperr | 29 Anne Page |
| 4 Adam Brooks | |
| 5 Kay Swan | |
| 8 Shari Cobb | |
| 9 Jeremy Reaves | |
| 12 Steve Follin | |
| Joyce Placek | |
| 15 Jimmy Avants | |
| 16 Mary Barnett | |
| Ginger Davis-Beck | |
| 20 Zoe Brewster | |
| 22 Mark Bell | |
| 25 Janet Smith | |
| 27 Chris Harper | |