

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, October 25:

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

## THE COVENANTER

### October 25, 2020

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



### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

*All Saints' Day*

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SAINTS GOES TO THE HEART OF OUR FAITH; DEATH HAS NOT WON (1 CORINTHIANS 15: 55-57); IN ALL WE DO WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY FELLOW CHRISTIANS, LIVING AND DEAD (HEBREWS 12: 1); AND IN THE END WE WILL JOIN OTHERS IN PRAISING GOD ETERNALLY (REVELATION 7: 9-10). IN WORSHIP WE WILL REFER TO THEM DURING A MOMENT OF RECOGNITION AND PRAYER. PLEASE EMAIL KAREN AT KWETHERINGTON@COVPRESATHENS.ORG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH THE NAME AND DATE OF PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NECROLOGY. THANK YOU!

### Blessing of the Pets - TODAY – October 25 at 4 pm

We will hold our annual Blessing of the Pets service on **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm** in the outdoor worship area behind the church building. There will be social distancing and humans will be expected to mask. If you cannot attend, but would like to participate, please post a photo of your pet and his/her name on our church Facebook page, and you will be included!

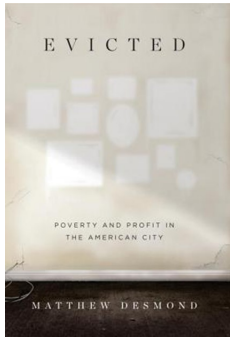


COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)

Are you all thumbs in the kitchen? Then how about decorating a pumpkin and taking a "selfie" of you and your creation? You may carve, paint, dress up your pumpkin or pumpkins...unleash those creative juices! Multiple entries are invited. Simply send those selfies to Karen Wetherington [atkwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:atkwetherington@covpresathens.org) by **Wednesday, Oct. 28** so that she may post them on our church Face Book page. Who knows what unique, possibly strange prize will be awarded to the winning entry and delivered to the home of the pumpkin artist or artists?

**Questions? Contact Kay Brooks, [kaybrooks1471@charter.net](mailto:kaybrooks1471@charter.net).**



**Join the Social Justice Book Club! NEW STARTING DATE: November 10th** we will dive into the MacArthur Genius Award winner Matthew Desmond's *Eviction: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Each week we will examine the irrevocable damage caused by evictions, systemic poverty, discrimination, and exploitation. Based on years of entrenched fieldwork and meticulously assembled data, through *Evicted*, we will explore the causes of extreme poverty and fresh ideas for solving the devastating, uniquely American problem. Each week, starting at 7 PM, we will discuss the book, issues of poverty, discrimination, and justice with professors, housing experts, and community leaders. For more info email Travis at [twilliams@covpresathens.org](mailto:twilliams@covpresathens.org). Book are available for purchase from the church office. \$15 each or you can order your book online on Amazon for \$15.28 plus shipping.

**Parents and All Who Love Our Toddlers and Preschoolers!** We have added a weekly offering for toddlers and preschoolers on the virtual ministries page of our church website, [www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org). Scroll to the bottom of the site and look for stories, songs, and fun activities to help our younger children understand some beloved Bible stories!

**Middle School & High School Youth Groups!** Our middle school and high school youth groups will gather briefly to "check-in" with each other and support the work of our Food Pantry. Middle schoolers will meet to fill Halloween goodie boxes, 4-5 pm, and high schoolers will meet in the basketball pavilion for conversation, 5-6 pm. We will all be masked and practice social distancing.



## Diaper Drive

Although COVID-19 has had considerable impact on the health of our elders and immunologically compromised, our youngest Athens are also in grave danger. In fact, the economic fallout has threatened the ability for many families to cover their diaper needs. Did you know that diapers cost the average family \$900 a year and that 1 in 3 American families struggle to meet this need? This tremendous burden creates what the Athens Area Diaper Bank calls "diaper need." Diaper need is a lack of sufficient supply of diapers to keep babies clean and dry and Government programs, like food stamps, do not cover diapers. 8,000 baby Athenians are at risk of diaper need and we can help. Join us as we partner with the Athens Area Diaper Bank for a month-long diaper drive by bringing unused diapers of all sizes to the church and let's keep every Athens area baby clean, dry, and healthy! You can bring the diapers by the church office on Tuesdays or Fridays 10—12noon or with the Food Pantry volunteers Tuesdays 5pm—7pm, or Thursdays 1pm—4pm. For more information email Travis at [twilliams@covpresathens.org](mailto:twilliams@covpresathens.org) or visit [athensareadiaperbank.com](http://athensareadiaperbank.com).

**Prayer Concerns:** Rev. Paul Evans of Jefferson Presbyterian Church, recovering from heart surgery; the Sardis Presbyterian Church, grieving with their elder DeGaria Dowdy upon the sudden death of her husband Chris; the Open Door Community and their wide circle of friends upon the death of Murphy Davis after a long journey with cancer; Shirley Hunt now in rehab at Landmark Hospital in Athens; All poll workers and elections officials; Ginger Davis-Beck undergoing cancer treatments; Dan Stoneburner waiting surgery option; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112;

**Shirley Hunt would love to hear from her church family while she is in rehab.** Cards can be mailed to: Landmark Hospital,  
Attention: Shirley Hunt Room #206, 775 Sunset Drive, Athens, GA 30606.

**Daily Bible Readings** Oct. 26– Nov. 1

Monday Psalm 62  
Tuesday Psalm 12  
Wednesday Psalm 96  
Thursday Revelation 7: 9-17  
Friday Psalm 34: 1-10,22  
Saturday I John 3: 1-3  
Sunday Matthew 5: 1-12



*All Saints' Day*



**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 5pm—7pm and Thursdays 1pm - 4 pm at the Food Pantry. *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 !!!



**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](http://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 #17**  
Anticipated Pledges \$147,115.45  
Actual Pledges—\$147,265.37  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*



The Session has called for our **Annual Congregational Meeting** to be held on **Sunday, November 15**, via Zoom at 11am – for the purposes of approving the pastors' call in the new fiscal year, reviewing the 2020-2021 budget, hearing updates on various ministries during this unprecedented year!

*Please look for your ZOOM invite in your email.*

*If you have not received your invite by Friday November 13 please notify the church office and one will be sent to you.*



### **Actions You Can Take for a More Humane Community!**

Contact lawmakers at the local, state, and federal level about pending animal welfare platforms. Enacting laws against malicious animal cruelty, animal fighting, killing marine mammals, stopping extreme confinement of farm animals, and banning trophy hunting of carnivores has been transformative. Public officials will act when they hear from people demanding change. Sign up for email alerts at [hslf.org](http://hslf.org).  
*Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team.*

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are well and enjoying this beautiful October weather. It's easy to become complacent when we have several weeks of really nice weather. Unfortunately, climate change doesn't quit and there is a group in Athens that is trying to do some good.

In May 2019, the Athens Clarke County (ACC) commission passed a resolution that said in part, "ACC will meet 1200 percent if its energy needs from clean and renewable energy sources produced on-or-for Unified Government properties by 2035." Funding was included in the most recent SPLOST to accomplish this goal Furthermore, the resolution stated, "The broader community of Athens-Clarke County will obtain 100 percent of its electricity needs from clean and renewable sources by 2035."

*100% Athens Renewable Energy Initiative* is seeking members of various churches to help with planning for the transition to renewable energy in the broader community by 2035. You can find out more about this group at its website: [100percentathens.org](http://100percentathens.org).

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact my old friend Dan Everett at [drdan.everett@gmail.com](mailto:drdan.everett@gmail.com).

Many thanks for you attention to this matter. *Caren Snook*



## Family Promise Week 2020

October 18-25

### Family Promise Week is Here!

Family Promise of Athens (formally known as the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens) will participate in Family Promise's national Family Promise Week, a weeklong event that seeks to raise awareness for the fight against family homelessness and the challenges low-income families are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The nonprofit is one of 200 Family Promise Affiliates nationwide.

Kelly Girtz, Mayor of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, has proclaimed the week of October 18 as Family Promise Week. Mayor Girtz urges all citizens to recognize and raise awareness of the issue of homelessness in our community. Davin Welter, Executive Director of Family Promise of Athens, thanks all volunteers and donors who help FPA carry out its mission of preventing families from becoming homeless, sheltering those in crisis, and stabilizing families so they are no longer at risk.

Each year in America, 2.5 million children experience homelessness. One in sixteen American children will experience homelessness before they reach the first grade. These children are three times more likely to be placed in special education programs, eight to nine times more likely to repeat a grade, and seven times more likely than their peers to commit suicide. The COVID-19 crisis has increased economic instability, creating an even greater risk of homelessness for American families.

Those who wish to support these efforts can donate to Family Promise of Athens at [FPGives.org](http://FPGives.org). A generous anonymous donor will match all gifts during this week. If we can raise \$25,000, the donor will match that amount with a \$25,000 gift.

### Make a difference by making a gift

You can make a secure contribution through our webpage at

<http://www.ihnathens.org/donate-now.html>



### *"A Song in Our Heart!"*

Advent Devotional 2020

THANK YOU! to everyone that has sign up. Your contributions are due on November 1. You can send them to me or to Karen at [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) and she will include them in the online version. If you have any questions, please email me at [pnknox@yahoo.com](mailto:pnknox@yahoo.com) or call me at home at 706-543-9560. Thanks again!  
**Please don't forget to send in your devotionals by November 1st. Thank you!**

A wise person once said that the first and last word in our lives should be “thank you.” It’s probably not a bad idea to use it more along the way, too. So please join me in offering our deepest thanks to these sisters in Christ who are completing a term of service as ruling elders on our session:

*Luanne Rigsby, Ellen Stoneburner, Mary Barnett, Katy Terry, Chris Wilson,  
Paige Mercer Cummings, and Helen Epps.*

Especially in these challenging pandemic days, while also helping us navigate the merger of the Covenant and Central congregations, all of these wonderful servant leaders have fulfilled their calling with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” We are grateful!

At the same time, we ask that you keep in prayer our newly elected officers in the Class of 2023. They are: *Kathy Boardman, Clayton Adams, Linda Koehler, and Jennifer Frey (serving a second term)*. Clearly God continues to call the people we need to guide us in our ongoing journey of discipleship. Please offer a word of gratitude and encouragement to these brothers and sisters as they prepare for a new season of life together.



1 Barbara Arnold	22 Katie Shealy
Marie Ballard-Myer	23 Bert Ballard-Myer
Sarah Parido	Melissa Cobb
2 Tom Nemetz	25 Wayne Crowell
4 Andrew Zimdars	26 Craig Barber
5 Jim Smith	27 Jonathan Arnold
9 Gene Holshouser	Dot Handley
10 Nash Boney	28 Sarah Lamb
Sydney Braswell	Emma Parido
16 DeLynda Tweedell	30 Deb Cureton
18 Jimmy Cobb	Sara Thompson
Jason Green	
Ezra Whitney	
20 Joe Meyers	

*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.*

### Some of our Volunteers!



Sandy Whitney, Chris Wilson & Sue Loegel

### 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](mailto: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.*

