

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Nov. 15:

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

THE COVENANTER

November 15, 2020

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

The Session has called for our **Annual Congregational Meeting** to be held on TODAY—**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 do not have access to a computer or phone and would like to vote on the Terms of Call please call Karen at 706-548-2756 to vote.*



Before you know it, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will be upon us, and our ministry teams are busy planning creative ways to deepen our understanding of the significance and transformational possibilities of these seasons. In the season of the pandemic, we are hoping to build on our connections as a family of God, so in the next few weeks we will include articles in the newsletter and on our website about worship, learning, mission, and fellowship opportunities for your participation.

Our immediate need, however, is for help enhancing our Christmas Eve virtual worship service. To that end, we are asking that you take a photo of you and your family members/friends holding lighted candles while standing in front of a "Christmasy scene", such as a Christmas tree, wreath, etc. Use a cellphone or other device, and make sure that you hold the cellphone or device HORIZONTALLY so that your images fit our YouTube screen.

We will include your photo in a montage set to music ("Silent Night", "Joy to the World") concluding the Christmas Eve virtual worship service. We ask that you send these DIGITAL photos to our "tech guy", Bob Trouteaud, either by e-mail, bob@trouteaud.com, or by texting, 404.405.6085. If you need assistance taking these photos, please contact Karen Wetherington and she will either answer your questions, refer you to someone who can answer your questions, or arrange a time for a volunteer to take your photograph.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A big shout out to our Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator Travis Williams for connecting Covenant with Grow It - Know It. This is a terrific, visionary program in our community that is addressing food insecurity in creative and effective ways. I can't think of a better way to make use of our building during the pandemic -- or any time, for that matter. Thank you, Travis and Wick for your leadership, and here's to finding ways to deepen our partnership moving forward.



Covenant Presbyterian Church Community,

Having grown up in a Presbyterian church community, it is particularly special for me to now be working with a Presbyterian community at this time in this community to support children in Athens. We thank you for providing kitchen space to our program Grow It Know It to prepare meals for the children we work with.

It is a blessing to use Covenant's kitchen space on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm. We realize that there is a certain amount of trust a church community must place in a partner, especially one who is using space where the church community shares fellowship. We also understand a church community is extending themselves even further when lending space during a pandemic. We will do our best to honor this trust by leaving your kitchen space in as good or better shape as we found it. The space you are sharing is helping us prepare 30 meals a week for elementary and middle school age children at the East Athens Community Center and the East Athens Resource Center. We use food items from UGA's Campus Kitchen program and produce grown at UGArden, both being our sister programs. We also have been able to use produce grown at Clarke Middle School where we have been assisting teachers, students, and staff since 2014. Some of the children at East Athens Community Center and the East Athens Resource Center have recently been in and out of homelessness. All are in a place of great need. We know from the children, their mentors, and some of the parents that the meals the kids are receiving are greatly, greatly appreciated. As long as you are able to share your kitchen space, we would appreciate the time to use it. We are flexible in our timing as to when we are able to cook and prepare the meals, so if our current time of Wednesday 10am-2pm becomes inconvenient, please let us know. Thank you.

Wick Prichard, *Grow It Know It Program Coordinator*

Office of Service-Learning University of Georgia

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warwickp@uga.edu

Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers Advent is around the corner and here are our youth group activities for

November:

Middle schoolers - during the month of November you are invited to be a part of upcoming Advent worship services by taking and submitting photos to the church technology team. Think about where you might see Jesus today - in your neighborhood, outdoors in nature, maybe your school, on the soccer field, at your grandparents' home, in the Chick fil-A drive-thru, sitting in a Zaxby's booth, in the Walmart parking lot, anywhere you think Jesus might hang out - and using your cellphone **HORIZONTALLY**, snap photos of scenes. Then, send those photos in a text or e-mail to: **bob@trouteaud.com** or **404-405-6085**. We will use your photos in a montage at the end of our Advent worship services beginning Sunday, November 29 and continuing through Sunday, December 20. You will be listed under the photography credits on the YouTube videos that include your photos. Questions? Contact Rindy by phone or text, 678-231-7556.

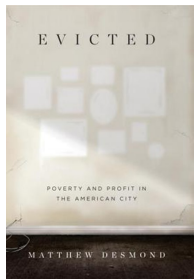
High schoolers - this month we begin designing and assembling our Christmas float that will "visit" our friends and neighbors who are homebound and wanting to see and hear the Good News of Christmas in a way that lets them know how much they are loved and missed. Youth group leaders will set up outdoor work sessions in consultation with you. These work sessions will require masking and social distancing and will be arranged to meet your busy schedules. Bert Ballard-Myer will contact you via the app, GroupMe. If you need to install this app on your cellphone or other device, please call, text, or e-mail Bert, mysammie1@yahoo.com and 706-207-2665.

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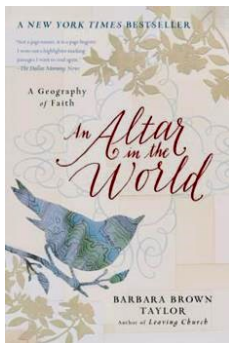
WEEK BIBLE STUDIES!



Join the Social Justice Book Club! Next Zoom Meeting November 17 at 7pm.

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. To receive your

Zoom invite please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org



-Tuesday Mornings, 10-11 a.m. In her critically acclaimed *Leaving Church*, "a beautiful, absorbing memoir" according to *The Dallas Morning News*, Barbara Brown Taylor wrote about her experience leaving full-time ministry to become a professor, a decision that stretched the boundaries of her faith. Now, in her stunning follow-up, *An Altar in the World*, she shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. As we

incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Through Taylor's expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

Wednesday afternoons, 4-5 p.m. "Radical Spirit" Feeling burnt-out from life, strung-out from social media, and put out by a society that always wants more from you? Beloved nun and social activist Joan Chittister, who appeared on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday, offers a practical, character-building, and inspirational guide to help you take control of your emotional life and redirect your spiritual destiny.

Joan Chittister, whom Publishers Weekly calls "one of the most well-known and trusted contemporary spiritual authors," is a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice, and a passionate proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment. Drawing on little known, ancient teachings of the saints, Sister Joan offers a practical program to help transform our thinking and rebel against our fears, judgments and insecurities.

"Freedom from anxiety, worry, and tensions at home and work, comes when we give ourselves to something greater," she argues. "We need to seek wisdom rather than simply facts, to think before speaking, and in turn create respectful communities." With a series of twelve simple rules for healthy spiritual living, Chittister not only reminds us, but pleads with us, to develop enduring values by shifting our attention to how God wants us to live. This book will teach you how to accomplish this.

Rindy Trouteaud will facilitate this ZOOM gathering after the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesdays, 4 -5 p.m. The starting date will be announced, and if you'd like to purchase the book "Radical Spirit", you may call the church office to place your order or you may buy your book from Amazon.com. A number of price and format options are available.

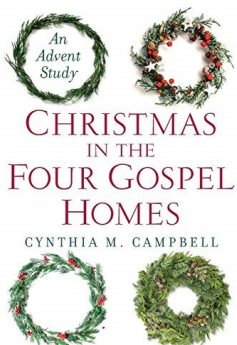
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

JOURNEY CLASS—It is 2003, and Muslim-American Mohammed 'Mo' Khan is living the high life in San Francisco. Born and raised in America, he has ridden the dotcom boom to material wealth at a young age, but post 9/11, his success begins to feel hollow as the conflict between Islam and the West deepens.

Al-Khizr is a Muslim saint from the time of Alexander the Great who appears in Mo's dreams and challenges him to embark on a quest to discover truth within the Islamic world. The trip takes Mo on adventures through Morocco, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Malaysia, and finally Thailand, all the while challenging Mo's misconceptions about Islam and exposing him to the rich mosaic of modern Islamic culture. Through it all, Mo and Al-Khizr keep a running dialogue that examines the intent of Islam, the diversity within the religion, and Mo's own relationship between his warring cultures.

This class meets on Sunday mornings, 10 a.m., and is facilitated by various class members. It is already underway, but you are invited to jump right into our study! Books may be purchased from Amazon.com, and they come in a variety of prices and formats. Check the church website to access the ZOOM invitation.

EMMAUS ROAD CLASS-



Experience how Christmas is observed in each of the four Gospels in this study, *Christmas Accounts in the Gospels*, written by Cynthia M. Campbell. This creative, four-session adult study will compare each of the Gospels to homes that Christians visit. Illustrations of each Gospel house are provided by artist Kevin Burns based on his interpretation of the shape and character of each Gospel. Together we will be challenged to see Christmas from the different perspectives offered in each house as we further reflect on the mystery of Jesus.

This class meets on Sunday mornings, 10 a.m., and is facilitated by Bob Trouteaud. It will get underway, Nov. 29, the first Sunday of Advent, and you are invited to jump right into our study! No need to purchase books, and be sure to check the church website to access the ZOOM invitation.

Prayer Concerns: Bill Lindstrom at home; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Alice, Patrick & Lila testing positive for covid19; Shirley Hunt now in rehab at Landmark Hospital in Athens; Ginger Davis-Beck doing some better after cancer treatments; June Meyer's niece diagnosed with cancer; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; for our Nation.

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 Nov 16—22

Monday	Psalms 95: 1-7a
Tuesday	Psalms 118: 21-24
Wednesday	Psalms 121
Thursday	Philippians 1: 3-11, 4: 4-9
Friday	Psalms 150
Saturday	Psalms 100
Sunday	I Thessalonians 5: 16-18



1 thessalonians 5:16-18



Did you know that diapers cost the average family \$900 per year and that 1 in 3 American families struggle to meet this need? Diaper need is a lack of sufficient supply of diapers to keep babies clean and dry.

Join us as we partner with Athens Area Diaper Bank for a month-long diaper drive by bringing unused diapers of all sizes to the church during the normal food pantry hours Tuesdays 5pm—7pm, or Thursdays 1pm—4pm. For more information email Travis at twilliams@covpresathens.org or thewilliamsproject@gmail.com.



Little Food Pantry –

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, 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 (air tight) to prevent ant infestations...*Please no raisins.*

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 #20
Anticipated Pledges \$180,112.30
Actual Pledges—\$173,076.93
Thank you for your faithful giving!

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. *Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team.*



Upcycling Flat Magnets

You know the kind:

The UGA football schedule on the frig, the back of your realtor's business card or the tiny paper tear off calendar from the mechanic, the removable ad from the phone book. Easy to glue onto the back of a card, piece of art, or other sign of encouragement, keeping it in sight of the recipient. Kathy Boardman will happily receive your extras, to extend this gentle ministry.



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 !!!

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

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

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 October Covenant Food Pantry served 777 food insecure people, 262 were children and 84 were older adults 65 and older. Thank you Covenant volunteers and the many folks who contributed financially.