

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Dec. 27:

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

THE COVENANTER

December 27, 2020

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



With the New Year 'just around the corner' practicing generosity to help others brings delight to our hearts and to the holiday season. Someone has said, "The best way to catch the spirit of Christmas is to give it to someone else."

To help us restore life-giving balance, Covenant offers alternatives, so that giving can once again become the sign of the season which celebrates the gift of God's serving love, born in a stable in Bethlehem long ago. Below are descriptions of the special opportunities to give.

On page 2 of the newsletter are other benevolent opportunities to support. If you wish you can make your check payable to: Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate how you want your contribution to be used.

Opportunities to Give

MEALS ON WHEELS - to be received in the month of December sponsor persons who receive a daily meal through the "Meals on Wheels" program. The annual cost (including food & expenses) to provide meals for one person is \$1,848.00. Last year's offering enabled Covenant to support 7 older Athenians for this year. The congregation is encouraged to give generously as a way to participate with our members and friends making deliveries: Jim and Jere Bowden, Marilyn Brown, Phil Hale, Phil & Linda Koehler, Dorothy & Jim Newland, Caren Snook, and Heide & Juergen Wiegel.

Consider making a special gift in honor or in memory of a loved one.

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Outreach Ministries or Local Community

Homeless Shelter - ecumenical ministry to provide lodging and food.

The Ark - an ecumenical referral agency which advises and helps those in need.

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank - ecumenical agency to feed the hungry. (see the Feed My Sheep table)

Jubilee Partners - a community of Christians who provide food, lodging and help for refugees and immigrants.

Habitat for Humanity - ecumenical efforts to build homes for those in need.

Our Daily Bread - Soup Kitchen at First Baptist Church downtown supported by many church and agencies which provides a hot noon meal daily to people in need.

Project Safe - a shelter or home to provide a refuge of safety, lodging, and community for women who have been abused physically or psychologically.

Interfaith Hospitality Network - Athens Area Churches unite to assist homeless families who become guests of the hosting congregation for one week at a time. Donations are used for supplies for overnight lodging and meals. Covenant currently provides services for IHN four times a year.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry- on a weekly basis **with the help from volunteers**, enables food insecure families to receive staples and frozen foods, many times to bridge the gap between food stamps and/or other assistance.

2020 Murphy Davis Christmas Packages for Georgia's Death Row- for over 30 years Murphy Davis made sure that every prisoner on Georgia's death row received a box of Christmas gifts that included essentials like socks, writing tablets and knit caps, as well as nuts, cookies and other holiday treats. All levels of donations and sponsorships are welcome. Sponsor a complete package for \$75. Visit www.newhopehousega.org to donate online or mail a check payable to New Hope House, P O Box 1213, Griffin, GA 30224. Presented through a partnership between New Hope House, Open Door Community, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Atlanta; and Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta.

Athens Nurses Clinic—is a 501(c)(3) non-profit health care clinic providing free evaluations, treatments, and education for acute and chronic medical and dental conditions to uninsured low-and -no income residents of Athens-Clarke County and the surrounding communities. ANC is located at 240 North Avenue, Athens, GA 30601

People Living in Recovery—is a peer led recovery community organization (RCO) dedicated to coming together so that participants can share stories of hope in addiction recovery. PLR is located at 240 North Avenue, Georgia 30601. (yes they are in the same building downstairs from the ANC)

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 #26

Anticipated Pledges \$ 225,000.00

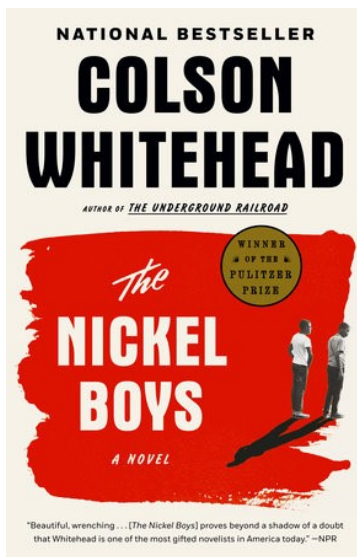
Actual Pledges—\$236,928.23

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Wednesday afternoons beginning in January 2021, 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. (Books are \$10 each)



Happy Holidays! And in between food and cheer prepare to join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club when it kicks back off in 2021! Starting in mid-January (further details to come) we will dive into Colson Whitehead's 2019 novel "The Nickle Boys." Based on true events, "The Nickle Boys" is about a reform school in Florida that operated for over 100 years and was responsible for a untold number of horrors' for the young people committed to its care. Whitehead's story came on the heels of an investigation by university archaeologists began discovering the remains of dozens on adolescent bodies. TIME's magazine named "The Nickle Boys" one of it best books of the decade. Email twilliams@covpresathens.org for more details!

Emmaus Road Class
will NOT meet
Sunday, December 27
or
Sunday, January 3.

Dear Fellow Covenanter –

The Cov Presby Session hopes to implement a fundraising effort to create a financial base for installing a renewable, site-producing, electrical energy system using solar panels.

Ideally, the committee to lead this effort would feature interested members from the Building and Grounds MT, the Climate Change Awareness Task Force, the Finance MT, and the Green Dream Team. Members of these groups have been invited to take part, so now may be the moment to expand this opportunity to other interested parties.



Would you be willing to serve? If so, please alert me at your earliest convenience via e-mail at: richreav@uga.edu.

Participants will become equipped to explain about as well as answer questions for members and friends of Covenant relating to the:

- ♦ Project costs and component parts associated with the system
- ♦ Benefits of such a facility, in terms of long term carbon footprint reduction as well as financial savings from on-site electricity production
- ♦ Size and location options for this solar panel array;
- ♦ Completion time frames for necessary elements of the undertaking, and how these phases relate to payment of needed pledged
- ♦ Ongoing relationship with the church's current electricity supplier, Georgia Power

In this current era when energy consumers are being asked to examine their utilization choices, the Covenant Session believes the opportunities presented by employing a solar panel installation option should no pass by unexamined.

Kind regards, *Rich Reeves*, Co-Chair, B&G MT



Congratulations to new GREAT grandparents, Jere & Jim Bowden, and to new grandparents Dedee & Steve Bowden and new parents, Heather & Brian Rosso in the birth of Braxton James, December 14th. All are doing well.

and

Congratulations to proud grandparents, Don & Julie Bower on the birth of their grandson, Julian Wilson Houser born December 22. Proud parents are Emily & Chris Houser of Savannah.

Prayer Concerns: Greg Huberty's father at home under hospice care; Teresa Mauldin's mom, Betty receiving palliative care for stage 4 lung cancer; Beth Nunnally; Shirley Hunt at Roswell Rehab in Roswell; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Ginger Davis-Beck now at home receiving care; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; and for the Tweedell's dog, Jeff very seriously ill.

Shirley Hunt would love to hear from her church family while she is in rehab. Cards can be mailed to: Roswell Rehab, Attention: Shirley Hunt, 1109 Green Street, Roswell, Ga 30075

Daily Bible Readings

Monday Psalm 148
 Tuesday John 1: 1-14
 Wednesday Psalm 50
 Thursday Revelation 22: 1-5
 Friday Isaiah 60: 1-3,15-22
 Saturday Isaiah 9: 2-7
 Sunday Matthew 2: 1-12



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.*



Birthdays!

11 Jan Wolfe	21 Lily Herndon
Ross Johnson	23 Linda Koehler
2 Anna Holshouser	25 Jessica Wolfe
Pam Knox	27 Sharon Hix
4 Bob Reinert	Al Huber
Eli Whitehead	Charlie Huber
5 Cheryl Devaney	29 John Chamblee
6 Wyatt Herndon	Shannon Goodrick
10 Brian Parido	Rebecca Silver
Nathan Brooks	
13 Margaret Frey	
16 Mark Harper	
17 Joan Baird	
19 Karl Ritzler	
21 Jim Anderson	
Louise Schimmel	
James Foutz	

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.*

Check out Online Athens report on Covenants Emergency Food Pantry Ministry:

https://www.onlineathens.com/photogallery/GA/20201123/PHOTOGALLERY/112309993/PH/1?fbclid=IwAR3-uZv5qyR09_zOQf06il7MJG4uQABYVnfWP8FKSZAZd2qm-t6mCtUieAk



For the month of November the Food Pantry served over 1,222 folks, which includes 436 children and 150 folks over 65. Thank you Covenant volunteers and all those who contribute financially to the Food Pantry.