

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Jan. 03:

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

THE COVENANTER January 03, 2021

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR

I wanted to report the results of our Christmas projects of baking cookies for home-bound members and those living alone, as well as for our food pantry recipients. With the help of several CC Ministry Team volunteers, we took (or at least attempted to take) Christmas goodies to about 24 people from our congregation who needed a little TLC. Probably most important was the call and personal contact made by those who donated the cookies. Thanks to June Meyers and Jere Bowden, the traditional Christmas cookie exchange hostess, for taking the lead on that project.

Our other project was to collect money from the congregation and buy gift cards for our neighbors in need. Travis Williams suggested we include a \$30 Walmart gift card in the special Christmas food boxes, which were distributed on Tuesday, Dec. 22nd. We collected a total of \$1800.00 and were able to provide 60 families with a \$30 gift card. Travis said all 60 cards were distributed in the first 90 minutes of the food pantry hours and that the recipients were both surprised and appreciative.

Thank you again, wonderful Congregational Care Ministry Team, for all you do to care for our Congregation and for others. You are simply amazing! Luanne Rigsby

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, January 14th at 9:30am via ZOOM

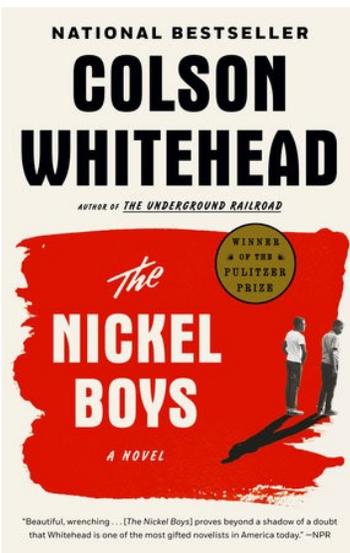
Presbyterian Women will meet on ZOOM at 9:30 am **Thursday, January 14th**. Please join us as Arnelle Combs will lead Lesson 5 on "Lamenting Life." *Sometimes it is life, rather than death, that is the cause for lament. Readings from Job 3.*

Email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org for your ZOOM Invitation.

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 Nickel Boys." Based on true events, "The Nickel 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 when they began discovering the remains of dozens on adolescent bodies. TIME's magazine named "The Nickel Boys" one of it best books of the decade. Email twilliams@covpresathens.org for more details!

Emmaus Road Class
will NOT meet
Sunday, January 3.

ZOOM BOOK STUDY RESUMES

An "Altar in the World" resumes
Tuesday, January 5 at 10am.

Look for your Zoom Invitation in your email next
Monday, January 4,

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 Reaves*, Co-Chair, B&G MT



I finally remember what Zoom meetings
remind me of!

Prayer Concerns: The Huberty Family in the passing of Greg's father, Carl on Monday, Dec 28th; Beth Nunnally; Shirley Hunt at North Fulton Hospital with breathing problems; Sally Boardman, and David, following very successful surgery that completely removed the brain mass; 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.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday Genesis 1: 1-5
Tuesday Psalm 29
Wednesday Isaiah 60: 1-6
Thursday Psalm 72
Friday Psalm 73
Saturday Acts 19: 1-7
Sunday Mark 1: 4-11



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. Thank you to all that help keep the Little Food Pantry stocked.*

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

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #26
Anticipated Pledges \$ 225,000.00
Actual Pledges—\$244,822.23
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." *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 days and hours have changed.

It is now on THURSDAYS, 1pm—4pm.

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 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