

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, May 09:

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

## THE COVENANTER

May 09, 2021

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



*Happy Mother's Day*



### Retirees' Luncheon (formerly known as the Graduates Group)

**Tuesday, May 11 at 12:30pm**

Join us on **Tuesday, May 11**, for the happiest of reunions with Covenant's beloved former music director and horticulturist extraordinaire, Cliff Brock, who will share gardening tips and insights, *It's Spring...Time to Play in the Dirt*. Our ZOOM luncheon and program will begin at 12:30 p.m., and if you'd like a ZOOM invitation, please contact Rindy Trouteaud via e-mail, [rindy@trouteaud.com](mailto:rindy@trouteaud.com). The link will be sent on Monday, and if you're a Retirees' Luncheon "regular", you're already on the list to receive the link! This will be our last monthly virtual gathering until the fall, so don't miss the opportunity to share good conversation with friends.

### Stewardship Campaign for 2021-2022: *To Breathe Again!*

Please see page two for a letter from Church Treasurer, Pam Knox and a link to the newly revised proposed budget for 2021-2022.

### Process for the Election of Elders Begins!

The session approved Kay Brooks (Chair), Tim Foutz (Co-chair), and Chris Wilson as this year's team. While normally the congregation would elect the third member of the nominating committee, the session decided that since we are still unable to regather due to the pandemic, they would perform that function just as they did last year. What you as the congregation CAN DO is help the nominating committee create a pool of possible candidates for the office of elder. If you have suggestions and have received permission from the person you are recommending, or if you would like to recommend yourself, please send those names by email to Kay Brooks at [kbrooks1471@charter.net](mailto:kbrooks1471@charter.net). Thank you for helping us discern who God's Spirit is calling to serve our community of faith in this essential role.

#### ***Present Members of the Session:***

Class of 2021—Rich Reaves, Sarah Shannon, Paige Campbell, Steve Rathbun

Class of 2022—Don Bower, Kay Brooks, Brian Striggow, Chris Wilson

Class of 2023—Linda Koehler, Clayton Adams, Kathy Boardman, Jennifer Frey

Luanne Rigsby, Clerk of the Session

Dear Covenant congregation,

As promised, here is my description of the proposed 2021-2022 budget for the church. You received a proposed budget in the packet you got by mail, but it has since been updated to include an additional recommendation from Personnel, so a revised version will be emailed, available online, or through regular mail by request for you to look at as you consider your pledge to support Covenant financially. If you have already sent in a pledge based on the old budget and wish to reconsider your pledge in light of the updated information, please let Karen know.

You will notice that the jump from last year's budget to this year's budget is quite large. Some of that is artificial, since we revised the 2020-2021 budget to reflect the reality of the pandemic shuttering several of our programs. Our pledges for last year were also lower than expected due to our uncertainty with what we would be able to give. Last year's revised budget was cut down to remove several items like support for Montreat, the summer mission trip, two music interns, the Pastor's contingency fund, and the Long-term Maintenance contribution. I have put all of those back into next year's budget to fully account for all our normal (non-pandemic) expenditures. That alone raised the proposed budget by \$35,000. Since our pledged income in the current fiscal year (2020-21) has been higher than expected, we may be able to do some similar adjustments to the next year's budget based on giving beyond the pledged amounts this year. We have also used some of the additional income this year to work on refurbishing the Worship Center and other parts of the property while it is not being used based on guidance from Session.

The other large changes to the budget are a proposed expenditure of \$25,000 for HVAC maintenance and improvement of ventilation, the hire of a music coordinator to replace Jacob, and Personnel-recommended salary raises of 1.5% for all staff members, including our contracted custodial care, which has not been increased in several years. Travis Williams' salary was adjusted to reflect his full year of work instead of the partial year he worked in 2020-21. The latest recommendation from Personnel, added to the budget after your mailed copy was sent out, includes a change to hire a full-time Technical Director at \$45,000 (plus FICA and \$11,000 for health care) to replace Asher Hill's part-time pay of \$24,000 per year. Other changes recommended by the ministry teams were relatively small and reflect a return to more normal operating conditions as we return to in-person worship next fiscal year.

If you have any questions about the proposed budget, you are welcome to ask me by email at [pnknox@yahoo.com](mailto:pnknox@yahoo.com) or by phone at home at 706-543-9560.

Thank you all for your faithful, generous, and continuing support of Covenant financially as well as in the many other ways you contribute to the ministry of our congregation! We are blessed to have so many people who are involved in the life of the church and its outreach to the community, especially in this very unusual and challenging time.

Pam Knox, Treasurer

**Please click this link to access the 2021-2022 Revised Proposed Budget:**

<https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Revised-Proposed-Budget-2021-2022.pdf>



## PENTECOST OFFERING

The world certainly looks different than it did this time last year. In addition to the coronavirus pandemic, we have been reminded of the harmful realities of the pandemic of racism, one that has plagued our country since its founding. In Matthew 25, we are called to address the inequities we see in the world, including confronting deeply ingrained racist systems and structures. In response to the denomination's Matthew 25 invitation and with support from the Pentecost Offering, we will begin taking action to dismantle structural racism in our community by using the local portion of this denominational offering to help underwrite the costs of our 8-week summer camp where children from our surrounding neighborhoods as well as children active in the life of Covenant will be challenged to work together to learn more about how we can care for creation and build a more environmentally sustainable future. Travis Williams, Covenant's Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator, in collaboration with the leadership of UGA's Grow It/Know It program, promises a unique and transformative outdoor camp experience filled with creative activities for young people.

The Pentecost Offering is one of five denominational offerings designed to nurture the faith of those who are the "church to come" - children, youth, and young adults. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. Forty percent of the funds received in this offering remain with Covenant for the purpose of addressing the spiritual formation needs of young people. The remainder, 60%, will be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to address the global needs of children, youth, and young adults. Please give prayerful consideration about how you may wish to fulfill our commitment to be a Matthew 25 church by giving to the Pentecost Offering. Please mark the memo portion of your check "Pentecost Offering". Thank you!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING

WOO! HOO! Meeting in person!

Thursday, May 13 at 9:30am

All Covenant women are invited next week, Thursday to the P.W. meeting to be held at 9:30 at the church pavilion (basketball court). In addition to fellowship and discussion on *HOPE* we will bring our own sack lunch and contribution for P.W.'s Birthday Offering. More details to follow.

### Funding Plans for “Going Solar” at Cov Presby



1. The Session has approved a matching plan for “going solar”, based upon using fiscal year 2020 unexpended revenues, as an incentive for seeking pledges. For every \$3,000 pledged, whether by a combination of multiple persons or a single pledging unit, \$1000 will be earmarked toward the solar panel system. As a result, \$75,000 in pledges will enable coverage of the \$100,000 project cost.

2. Participants interested in funding this Cov Presby capital improvement are encouraged to pledge, but then hold payment of funds until a temporary restricted account is created for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Such a dedicated account would be used to manage the flow of income and disbursements for implementing the solar panel project.

Once pledging is successfully completed, a full-funding conditioned construction contract would be kick-started, and the solar panel system installation completed in as few as 4 to 6 months. Payments to the installing contractor would be in phases corresponding to work progress on the project. Simply to illustrate, 50% could be paid on July 15, the next 35 % paid on August 15, and the final 15% paid on September 15.



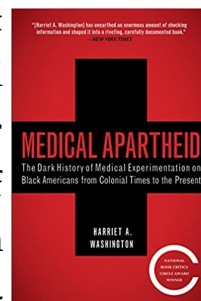
Our young people, preschoolers - high schoolers, have received in the mail this week, new spiritual formation resources for use at home. Families with children, preschool - fifth grade, will receive Illustrated Ministry's *An Invitation for Families*. This spiritual formation resource contains Bible stories, activities for families to engage in together, and coloring pages. Each week families will be invited to explore together one biblical story, and these stories will be listed on our church website. Middle schoolers and high schoolers will receive Illustrated Ministry's *Psalms Devotional* and each week our young people will be encouraged to reflect on a psalm through readings, music links, and activities designed to deepen understanding of the psalm. The "psalm of the week" will be listed on the church's website.

## WEEK DAY BOOK STUDIES

### TUESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY—

We will not meet this week. Stay tuned for next week's update.

Join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club as we explore Harriet Washington's, *Medical Apartheid*. This book details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge and tackles modern issues, revealing the root causes of many of the disparities that we see today with COVID-19. No one concerned with issues of public health and racial justice can afford not to read this eye-opening book. Next meeting is **Monday, May 10 @ 7 PM.** Send Karen an email if you would like to receive a ZOOM invitation for this book study, [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org).

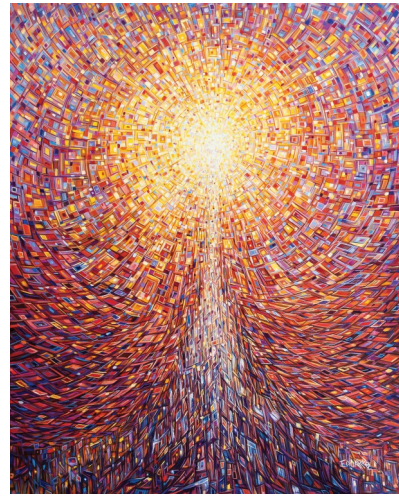




**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Anna Holshouser at home now after being in the hospital; Anne Page in hospice care at Avery Place; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

**Daily Bible Readings—May 10—16**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>I John 5: 9-13</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>John 17: 6-19</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalm 47</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 93</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1: 15-23</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Luke 24: 44-53</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Acts 1: 1-11</b>



**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](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 #44**  
**Anticipated Pledges \$ 380,769.23**  
**Actual Pledges— \$ 383,869.60**  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*



**Thank you** to all who have provided floral arrangements in the past. We especially appreciate the amazing talent of Juergen Wiegel, who has contributed his time and skill to provide beautiful arrangements and to coordinating the floral schedule for many years. If you would be willing to provide a flower arrangement for weekly virtual worship services, please check the dates below. We are now hoping to provide arrangements for Mar 21 through June 27. It is important to note that the services are actually recorded on Fridays, every week. This means that the flowers need to be placed in the worship center on Friday morning, by 10 AM. Please use the following link to view the available dates and to sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-provide> . For further information please contact Julie Bower (bower.julie@gmail.com) or Karen Wetherington (kwetherington@covpresathens.org) The Worship Ministry Team appreciates each one who contributes to the beauty of our worship services in this way. *Thank you!*



**ITEMS NEEDED! Yes! Covenant is still collecting these items for families in need. They will be distributed during the food pantry distribution. Bottles of Water for the coming summer months.**

**Gently used:** COATS for ADULTS & KIDS, WARM SOCKS, WARM HATS and SCARFS.

**Also needed are sweatpants, sweatshirts and socks! AND.....children's summer clothes,**

*Personal size shampoos and conditioners, lotions, toothpastes, etc (like you get by staying at a hotel) for distribution during the Thursday food distributions.*

Please drop them off at the church during Food Pantry hours, Thursdays 1pm – 4pm or Office hours, Tuesday 10am – noon, and Fridays 10am – 4pm. *Thanks!*

### **Do You Recycle at Publix?**

Even if you recycle at Publix, you may not realize that they accept more than just plastic bags and Styrofoam egg cartons. Plastic wrappers, such as those from toilet paper and paper towels are usually acceptable. Look for the recycling triangle on the wrapper. If there is a 4 inside the triangle and LDPE is printed below it, the wrapper is OK. If you get prescriptions at Publix, they come in annoying plastic bags. Thankfully, those bags can also be recycled.

When it comes to Styrofoam, the trays that are used to package meat, seafood and produce are acceptable. So are Styrofoam take-out containers. All Styrofoam must be washed clean and allowed to dry completely before you put it into a Publix collection bin. *Caren Snook* for the Green Dream Team

### **EARTH DAY, WEEK, MONTH, YEAR CONTINUES...**

#### **THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAN RECYCLE!**

- 1. APPLIANCES—MANY STORES WILL RECYCLE YOUR OLD APPLIANCE WHEN YOU PURCHASE A NEW ONE. GOODWILL ACCEPTS WORKING APPLIANCES. GO TO [WWW.GOODWILL.ORG](http://WWW.GOODWILL.ORG)**
- 2. ATHLETIC SHOES—MORE TAKES DONATIONS OF LIGHTLY USED RUNNING SHOES WHICH ARE RESOLD TO FUND SUSTAINABLE FARMING PROGRAM. [WWW.MOREFOUNDATIONGROUP.ORG](http://WWW.MOREFOUNDATIONGROUP.ORG).**
- 3. COOKING OIL AND MOTOR OIL—FIND A NEARBY DROP LOCATION FOR USED OIL: [WWW.EARTH911.COM/RECYCLING-GUIDE](http://WWW.EARTH911.COM/RECYCLING-GUIDE).**



**READ ABOUT EVEN MORE THINGS YOU CAN RECYCLE AT  
[WWW.GREENAMERICA.ORG/21THINGSTO RECYCLE](http://WWW.GREENAMERICA.ORG/21THINGSTO RECYCLE)**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY *JERE BOWDEN* AND THE GREEN DREAM TEAM**

## 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](mailto: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.*