

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, May 30:

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

## THE COVENANTER

May 30, 2021



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



**The Re-Opening Task Force** met on Wed., May 26 to begin the steps necessary to return to in-person worship at Covenant. With the case positivity rate very low (a 7-day average of new cases per day was 5, as of May 25) in Clarke County, we believe we can re-gather with precautions in place that will reflect the CDC guidelines for indoor gatherings and respect the range of comfort levels that exist while emerging from a global pandemic.

As a first step to gathering, we will hold a brief service on Sunday, June 6 at 9 AM, to honor our high school graduates. That service will be held in the outdoor worship area. All are invited. You will find the guidelines for this first re-gathering in this newsletter.

As we return to in-person worship, the pre-recorded service will cease for obvious reasons. In order to serve the entire congregation, the lessons of the last 16 months clearly indicate that we need to live-stream our service. Particularly the families with young children, who are still awaiting a vaccine, may view their only option to be via live-stream.

Live streaming is new technology for Covenant. The necessary equipment has been ordered and the measures to install cameras and other provisions are in the works. We appreciate all that Asher Hill has taken on to make this happen in a timely way.

A few months ago the Session approved renovations to the Worship Center. This includes new paint, carpet, and a few more minor updates to aging fixtures, etc. In order to install the carpet, the pews will be temporarily removed. The original hope was to complete this work before re-gathering for in-person worship.

Since the guidelines for a safe return to worship have changed dramatically over the last two weeks, all of the efforts to speed up the necessary work to live-stream and refurbish the Worship Center are front and center. Must we complete that work before we re-gather? No, but there is a strong desire to at least be able to live-stream the service. If we return to in-person worship before the work is completed, we might need to briefly pause for one or two weeks while the major displacement occurs. If that happens, we can briefly return to a pre-recorded format.

*Just tell us when we are going to return to in-person worship, right? We are trying for a mid-summer return.*

Some have asked about worshipping outside until the renovations allow us to be inside. The heat is the main factor for steering away from that option. The unpredictable weather, limited seating, and lack of suitable amplification equipment add to the dilemma.

We will commit to weekly updates so that you know what we know. In the meantime, please hang in with us.

*Julie Bower, for the Re-Opening Task Force*

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

Dear Friends,

As people trying to follow Jesus, we have lots of reasons to believe that we need to "walk by faith, not by sight." The ancient and amazing story that gives us our identity reminds us over and over that we are to trust in God to provide our daily bread and all the other resources we need to fulfill the mission of justice, peace-making, and reconciliation we've been called to. Even so, to be good stewards of those resources, it helps to know what we're working with -- whether that's twelve eager disciples or five loaves and two fish.

In these days when many of us are focused on getting our COVID-19 vaccination cards filled out, I hope you will also be equally diligent in filling out and sending in your 2021-2022 pledge cards. While you can certainly mail in your pledges, we encourage those who are able to either email the office with your pledge or drop them off (though please call first to let us know you're coming). It will be good to see you!

Our finance team is working hard to send a budget to the session for its approval as we approach the beginning of our fiscal year on July 1st. Thank you in advance for your good and faithful participation in God's work of love and joy through Covenant Presbyterian Church. Grace and peace, *Mark*

If you would like a statement of your contribution record for the fiscal year 2020-2021 to date, please let Karen know at [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org). or you can call the church office 706-548-2756!

## **Friday Campus Clean-Up**

June 4, 2021 4:30pm – 5:30pm!



Bring and wear gloves. Bring and use garden spades, and weed diggers. We will remove litter from all around as well as clear out volunteer saplings and weeds from the Memorial Garden, the liriopie hillside along the Exit Driveway, the grounds near the raised bed garden behind the CE Building, and the area between the pavilion and Crestwood Drive. Let's be a big active crew, enjoying this fun for an hour!

## **Frequently Asked Questions About “Going Solar” at Cov Presby**

*Responses furnished by Turnsol Energy, the selected contractor . . .*

Explain how rooftop installation does not create problems with storm water seepage into the ceilings and rooms below the solar panel mounting racks?

Butyl tape is installed under feet and minimal penetrations are used. Panels and rails are 4" off the roof to allow drainage.

The proposed solar panel system is planned for installation on sections of the roof above the Fellowship Hall, above the hallway alongside church offices, and possibly above the Gathering Room.

Where are the solar panels and inverters manufactured?

Inverters are manufactured in Israel. The panels are up to you. The panels I spec'ed are Chinese, but we can go with USA panels if desired, for no extra charge.

How would you explain the procedures for long term care and maintenance

of the solar panels? One of the best things about solar is the low maintenance required. It is monitored, so if there are issues it shows up in monitoring. If pollen is high, they need to be washed off once a year.

What other solar panel installation jobs have you completed for churches, or other non-profits; and what is their experience with the operation and maintenance of these systems? Turnsol Energy has done multiple jobs for UGA. [When contacted, a UGA program supervisor indicated satisfaction with a variety of different solar panel installation projects performed by Turnsol Energy.]

Beyond solar panel installation, does your company assure that all preconstruction requirements are duly permitted; and does your company align the system (including net-metering arrangements) with Georgia Power as the back-up supplier? I also own an electrical company (Drew Bowen Electric). We will pull a permit and help file the interconnection agreement. The interconnection agreement needs to have details about your Georgia Power account and an authorized signature on behalf of the church.

Does the solar panel generated power shut down, on those occasions that power goes off from the primary back-up supplier? Yes, this is a safety feature, in accordance with UL licensing 1798.

What measures are needed to expand the solar panel system in future, were that deemed to be desirable? Solar is easily expanded at any time with minimal additional effort.

What is your view of the advantages and disadvantages of including storage battery capacity with the system? I would love to sell you batteries, but they aren't really cost effective.

What is your understanding of the "appropriate quantity of inverters"? I have seen proposals with one per panel, or one per designated sector of installed panels. Both options are viable, and we can do either for the same cost. The micro-inverter (one per panel) is a good option for smaller systems and allows a clean look. The "string inverter" is also a good option, but it does require an inverter on the wall somewhere by the meter. It's really kind of an installer preference. Micro-inverters are harder to acquire at this moment, but that could change in a week.

What does your proposal mean by the terminology "initial up-front installation cost"? Are there subsequent up-front installation expenses? This is just the form language on the proposal that makes more sense when tax credits go along with it. There are not additional expected costs outside of cleaning the panels periodically.

What do you expect to be the duration of time needed for completing this project? Three weeks to a month at most. It could go quicker, but I like to give a longer time and make the client happy, as opposed to giving you best case scenario and then not living up to expectations.

*Rich Reaves, B&G Co-Chair*





## Church School Classes via ZOOM!

### Emmaus Road Class

Sunday, May 30, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Warren Combs hosts and different class members facilitate a discussion of the New Testament Letter of James using the resource, *Rose Visuals, The Book of James*. If you would like to participate, please contact Warren at [wecombs@gmail.com](mailto:wecombs@gmail.com).

CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

### Upper Room Class

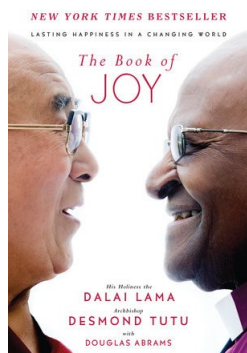
Sunday, May 30, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, please contact James at [gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com), to receive your ZOOM invitation.

### Journey Class

Sunday, May 30, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Steve Rathbun hosts and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using Brian McLaren's book, *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World*. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve at [rathbun@uga.edu](mailto:rathbun@uga.edu), to receive your ZOOM invitation.

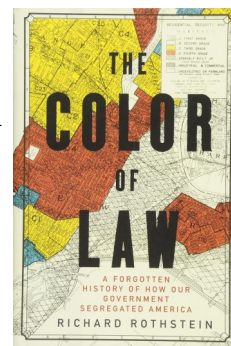
## WEEK DAY BOOK STUDIES

**NEW BOOK STUDY—Tuesday, June 1 at 10am**—Join us as we delve into the “**The Book of Joy: Lasting**



**Happiness in a Changing World!** The **Book Of Joy** is the result of a 7-day meeting between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, two of the world's most influential spiritual leaders, during which they discussed one of life's most important questions: how do we find **joy** despite suffering? This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye. We get to listen as they explore the Nature of True Joy and confront each of the Obstacles of Joy—from fear, stress, and anger to grief, illness, and death. They then offer us the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for lasting happiness. Throughout, they include stories, wisdom, and science. Finally, they share their daily Joy Practices that anchor their own emotional and spiritual lives. Mark Harper will facilitate this class! *Please send an email to [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) if you would like a Zoom invitation.*

Join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club as we discuss Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law*. Widely heralded as a “masterful” (Washington Post) and “essential” (Slate) history of the modern American metropolis, *The Color of Law* offers one of the most forceful arguments ever published on how federal, state, and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation. *The Color of Law* forces us to face the obligation to remedy our unconstitutional past. Join us starting **June 28th @ 7 PM** to explore this most essential read.







**ITEMS NEEDED for the food pantry, and the Little Free Food Pantry:**

Bottles of Water for the coming summer months.

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

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!*

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

Have you ever thought that a large, commercial surface PARKING LOT could be an ARBORETUM?

That vehicles, pedestrians, and trees can co-exist? Consider this: a tree canopy would help manage stormwater runoff, filter pollution, shade vehicles, mitigate the urban heat island effect, provide habitat and food for birds and wildlife. Such an arrangement would be a functioning ecological system that could also serve to educate (with signs) and inspire."



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

**EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!** The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank are in need of egg cartons. You can bring them by the church, Tuesdays 10am—12 noon, Thursdays, 1pm—4pm or on Fridays, 10am—4pm.

*Thanks!*



## **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.*