

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, June 6:

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

## THE COVENANTER

June 06, 2021

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

Due to some sensitive circumstances, and after consulting with Rindy and some members of the Re-opening team, I have decided to cancel the June 6<sup>th</sup> outdoor worship service honoring our high school graduates and commissioning our Montreat Youth Conferees and their adult leaders. We will be looking for other ways to highlight the accomplishments of these amazing young adults that you have loved and nurtured. Please understand that this was not an easy decision, but one that I believe is in our best interest at this time. I deeply regret the frustration and sadness this news will undoubtedly bring to so many of you who have been longing for a time to be together in God's presence. The Re-Gathering Task Force and the session continue to work towards re-gathering as soon as possible in the sanctuary. Grace and peace, *Mark*

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

Thank you to everyone that have returned their pledge cards for the fiscal year 2021-2022. We need to have all pledges in as soon as possible so that we can put together a final budget for the church since our new fiscal year will begin July 1st. If you have sent in your pledge already, then please let Karen Wetherington know (706-548-2756) what it was since it may have been lost in the mail. If you did not receive a pledge package, you can view the proposed budget online at <https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Revised-Proposed-Budget-2021-2022.pdf>

If you have not returned your pledge and do not wish to place the card in the mail, you may call or email Karen and tell her the amount. If you are not planning to pledge this year, please let Karen know that too so we do not continue to contact you.

If you have more questions, please feel free to contact Pam Knox, Church Treasurer, at [pnknox@yahoo.com](mailto:pnknox@yahoo.com) or 706-543-9560 for more information. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your love and support of Covenant.

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. When he said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22*

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!



## Church School Classes via ZOOM!

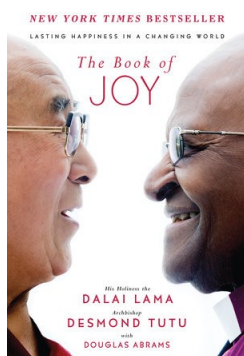
### Upper Room Class

Sunday, June 6, 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, June 6, 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.

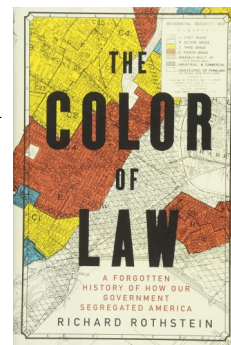
## WEEK DAY BOOK STUDIES



**NEW BOOK STUDY—We will **not** meet on June 8th—NEXT MEETING Tuesday, June 15 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.



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

### Voiced Objections to “Going Solar” at Cov Presby

#### *To the criticism that solar panels are a bad investment . . . .*

Viewed strictly as a financial investment, or compared with other options for financial investment, installing solar panels at Cov Presby has been labeled by some individuals as a poor choice. The return-on-investment is only about 4%. That is, investing in solar panels with \$95,000 over 30 years at a compounding interest rate of 4% would yield about \$220,000, which is roughly the same as the savings gained by the church from reducing purchases of electricity over this identical period of years, because Cov Presby would now possess its own electricity production via solar panel. This 4% is not a stock market's 8%, or some other estate investment trust's 12%, or even another greater return sum. Yet, (a) the gain in reduced carbon / greenhouse gas footprint, (b) the potential for more economical transition from natural gas to use of electricity in campus heating, (c) the witness-statement made via action taken toward more responsible stewardship of the environment, (d) the symbol of hope and faith in the future: all these positives must merit, embrace, and convey some significant value above and beyond the financial ROI.

#### *To the claim that solar panels are environmental failures . . . .*

Viewed by some individuals as ecologically unsound action, or merely a temporary panacea labeled renewable energy, solar panel power, along with windmill power, geothermal-vent power, tidal flow power, bio-mass power, hydrogen fuel cell power, etc., have all been critiqued as “too little / too late” for curbing climate change. They are viewed as false-idol worshipping, misplaced-faith mistakes, which accord too much hope in fallible human technology. Between February and March, 2020, the Cov Presby Session explored this viewpoint via use of the Michael Moore and Jeff Gibbs film entitled “Planet of the Humans”. This movie, marketed as a documentary, concludes that the only rational course for saving civilization or the planet is for conscientious people to apply their foremost creative energies to control of human population growth. Relying upon noticeably flawed evidence and argument, the film dismisses worldwide efforts to move toward greater use of renewable energy sources. Taking perspective or reflection of this nature quite likely can be called an exercise in due diligence. Yet, it might also serve to furnish a lens into some people's misanthropy. Ultimately, a majority of Session members wished to affirm taking action now at the church campus as they could, through acting locally while still thinking globally.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Covenant's High School Graduates; Dot Handley at home; Anne Page in hospice care at Avery Place; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; the conflict in the middle east; and our nation.

**Daily Bible Readings—June 7—13**

Monday I Samuel 15: 34—16:13

Tuesday Psalm 92: 1- 4, 12—15

Wednesday Mark 4: 26-34

Thursday II Corinthians 5: 6-10

Friday II Corinthians 5: 11-13

Saturday II Corinthians 5: 14-17

Sunday Psalm 30



...to Jim & Ellie McMinn celebrating  
their 60th Wedding Anniversary  
the week of May 27th.

**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 #49**

**Anticipated Pledges \$424,038.47**

**Actual Pledges— \$418,597.53**

*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 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...**

### **THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER BUY AGAIN:**

1. Styrofoam Cups: styrofoam is forever. It is not biodegradable. *Alternative*: buy recyclable and compostable paper cups or invest in some reusable mugs that you can take with you.
2. Plastic Wrap: in the past, plastic wraps were made with #3 PVC (polyvinylchloride), which leached toxins when heated or microwaved. Most brands have removed PVC's from household plastic wrap. However, commercial plastic wraps including those used at grocery stores, commonly contain PVC's.
3. Bleached Coffee Filters: Dioxins, chemicals formed during the chlorine bleaching process, contaminate groundwater and air and are linked to cancer. *Alternative*: look for unbleached paper filters or use reusable filters.



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.*

*For the month of May, 2021 Covenant served 889 food insecure neighbors, which included 298 Children, and 97 Senior Adults. Thank you Covenant staff and volunteers and those who generously support this important ministry financially.*