

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, July 18:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

THE COVENANTER

July 18 2021

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

On Thursday, July 8, the Worship Ministry Team met to continue preparing for the long-anticipated re-opening. **The projected date to re-open is Aug. 1,** with in-person worship to begin at 10 AM, in the Worship Center. Among the facility scheduled for the Worship Center are new carpet and paint. A team of Covenanters worked hard on those selections several weeks ago and we are looking forward to the fresh new look. The carpet and paint project will not be completed when we re-open on Aug. 1, so you will get to see the "old" worship center a few more times before the project is completed. There is much to be excited about. And while the excitement to return is real and we earned it, didn't we?...there are reasons to be cautious as the Delta variant rears its ugly head around the globe. Each of us must take responsibility for deciding whether it is wise to return at this time to in-person worship. We certainly hope that everyone who chooses to return will be fully vaccinated. If you have a compromised immune system, we encourage you to weigh your options carefully, including to participate by tuning in to the live streaming of Covenant services. Asher Hill is overseeing the purchase and installation of the necessary components to make live streaming a reality in a few short weeks. In the meantime, the services will continue to be recorded and available on YouTube. There is one clear message coming out of the CDC and other reputable medical communities. Those who have not been vaccinated are particularly vulnerable to the Delta variant. There are also cases of fully vaccinated people contracting the Delta variant. We will abide by **the Guidelines to attend the Covenant Phase I In-Person Hybrid Church Services.** (Phase I is from the point of re-opening until the time when we reinstate our children's programming. Phase II is projected to begin in January, and will include opportunities for our children to come together once again.)



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Please do not plan to attend in-person service if you:

- are feeling ill in any way.
- have been diagnosed with a current case of COVID-19 or been exposed to someone who has.

Guidelines for Gathering in the Worship Center

- Complete a vaccination protocol if your health status permits such.
- Wear a mask at all times while inside the building. Wearing a mask reflects how much we are on guard with the Delta variant.
- Maintain six-feet distancing at all times, including entering and exiting the building, except for members of the same household.
- **Notify the church that you wish to attend in-person worship. *More information on how to do that will appear in an upcoming Covenanter. There will be a maximum number who can attend, due to seating capacity while distancing.***
- Children are welcome but must remain in the company of their parents/guardians. There is no in-person children's programming during Phase I.
- Other than household members (who may sit together), please leave 6ft or more between you and the others seated in the same pew. You will notice that every other pew is closed to help us keep a safe distance for all.
- We will encourage a contact-free experience for all. Please refrain from hugs, hand shakes, etc. We encourage you to wave or use prayer hands to greet those around you. For many valid reasons there will be a range of comfort levels, particularly in the early stages of our return. All must be respected.
- There will be no congregational singing at this time.
- Bring a hearty supply of patience for yourself and those around you. The new adventure begins!

We look forward to your participation as we begin worshiping in a very different way. This is not a "return to normal." We will be asking the Holy Spirit for gifts of love—joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23).

Respectfully submitted by *Julie Bower*

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, or you can call the church office 706-548-2756!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

The week of *July 25-August 1*, Covenant will host two to three homeless families in the Family Promise program. Due to Covid-19 concerns, this will not be in our church building. Instead, Milledge Avenue Baptist Church (1690 S Milledge Avenue) will continue to serve as their temporary home. We need volunteers to provide evening meals, and there will be a table ready in a vestibule area for food drop-offs. (The families we are hosting are once again eating meals as a group, so foods no longer need to be divided up.) We also need church members to serve as morning hosts, afternoon hosts, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. Please note that social distancing is still encouraged but hosts who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to remain in separate areas. (Hosting volunteers will be advised on up-to-date Covid-19 procedures closer to their time of service.) Especially during the summertime when so many are out of town, your help is needed for this unique opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, Brian and Valerie Stone are serving as coordinators this quarter. (valeriefreystone@gmail.com, 678-360-6983.) Please click on this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith>.



Dear Friends,

Disaster Relief!

As you may have heard, our sisters and brothers in southern Moravia in the Czech Republic suffered devastating tornado damage over the weekend. This is an extremely rare weather crisis in that part of the world. Please prayerfully consider making a donation towards relief help. Contributions can be made out to Covenant with disaster relief in the memo portion of your check and we will direct your gifts to the appropriate place. Thank you in advance for your generosity as we seek to strengthen our Covenant connection with this part of the Body of Christ.
Grace and peace, Mark



The Presbyterian Student Center will return to in person worship beginning August 24th. And the return of in person worship means the return of **PSC Dinner Sign ups**, beginning Tuesday Aug. 24th. Please click on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CA4AF2CA1FB6-weekly>

PRAYER CONCERNS: Beecher Mathes and her mother, Jacquelyn as they get ready to move into Presbyterian Village; Nancy Omdahl at home; Jim & Jere Bowden at home, Anne Page in hospice care at Avery Place; and Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings—July 19-25

Monday	Psalm 89: 20-37
Tuesday	Psalm 90
Wednesday	Psalm 23
Thursday	Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Friday	Ephesians 2: 11-22
Saturday	Mark 6: 30-34
Sunday	Mark 6: 35-36



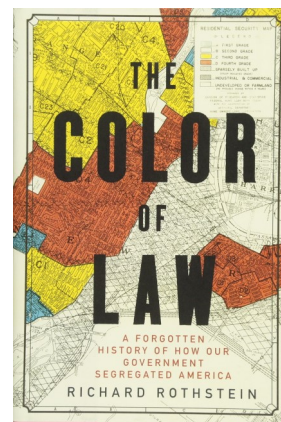
HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/> . Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the church office. Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #52
Anticipated Pledges \$ 450,000.00
Actual Pledges— \$ 449, 997.97
Thank you for your faithful giving!

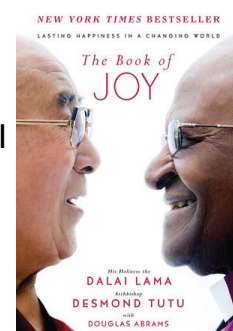
Thank you to all who have provided floral arrangements in the past. We especially appreciate the amazing talent of Juergen Wiegel, who has contributed his time and skill to provide beautiful arrangements and to coordinating the floral schedule for many years. If you would be willing to provide a flower arrangement for weekly virtual worship services, please check the dates. 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!*



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 July 19 @ 7 PM. [Please read Chapters 5-8 or pages 77-138.](#)



BOOK STUDY—We will meet in person on Tuesday, July 20 at 10am in the Upper Room! 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.



Church School Classes via ZOOM!



Upper Room Class

Sunday, July 18, 10:00am – 11:00am, 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, to receive your ZOOM invitation.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Journey Class

Sunday, July 18, 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, to receive your ZOOM invitation.



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

Bottles of Water or Gator Aide for our staff and volunteers during food pantry distributions.

Gently used:

COATS for ADULTS & KIDS, WARM SOCKS, WARM HATS and SCARFS. (for next winter)

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,

Earth Day, Week, Month, Year....



1. SUPPORT OUR POLLINATORS!

Bring native bees and other pollinating creatures to your garden. One way to do this is by selecting the right plants. Need ideas?

Find a beauty or two from our list of [plants that attract butterflies](#) and [plants that attract hummingbirds](#).

Learn more about [native bees](#) (the super-pollinators!) and [make a native bee house](#) (much like a bird house!). Or, see [how to make a bee-friendly garden](#) habitat including bee-friendly plants.

[Here are more ways you can help pollinators in your backyard.](#)

Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team

EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank are in need of egg cartons.

74 egg cartons were delivered to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank last week. They were glad to receive them. Kim, the Director, said they were out of cartons and had to use buckets to hold eggs. Thank you so much members and friends of Covenant for the good response we continue to have with the 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

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.*