

Please click here to view Covenants Live Stream Worship Service, Sunday, August 22: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

THE COVENANTER  
August 22, 2021

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



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

RECEPTION TO HONOR MARK HARPER and RINDY TROUTEAUD

*(following the 10am worship service)*

An accurate count is needed for the reception, please RSVP either by signing up on the posted sign up sheet next to the mailboxes OR by calling Karen Wetherington at 706-548-2756. In addition, please make a video recording sharing your fond memories and well wishes for Mark and Rindy (MP4 or MOV format) and e-mail it to Asher Hill at [adhill@covpresathens.org](mailto:adhill@covpresathens.org) by September 4th. If you prefer a written format, please bring a card to the event or mail to CPC. Please designate the video or card with "Mark or Rindy celebration."

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION!** On Wednesday we were advised by the NE Georgia Presbytery leadership to closely consider opting for the safest model of worship that we can offer for the next few weeks, as the Delta variant continues to surge. The Presbytery's Covid Advisory Team met to update the current statistics/metrics and to garner the best wisdom from the team's doctors and epidemiologists. The wisdom they shared with us was, just as you've heard on the news, that the Delta variant is taking a much more serious toll on the unvaccinated and the vaccinated than anticipated. The breakthrough cases with the vaccinated folks are relatively few in number, but are of concern. Hospital beds are in critical shortage in Athens.

We feel very fortunate that we have live streaming capabilities now that allow us to offer worship to all who wish to engage. With this format, as opposed to recorded services, there is a real-time connection to the words and the music.

If, for example, we were to offer outdoor services, we would need to limit the number of participants for the sake of distancing ourselves in the space that we have. There are no live streaming or recording capabilities in that scenario. Many folks would be left out. Heat and rain could threaten the situation, as well.

There is nothing joyful about my update to you this week. We are all growing weary of this situation. Some will agree that stepping back from in-person worship is necessary for a few weeks. Others will believe it is excessively cautious. It is difficult to get it right for all.

It is our hope that you will hang in with us to see this pandemic to the other side. This version of it will end. And we will adapt. It is what we do. We are appreciative of your understanding for this decision.

Respectfully, *Julie Bower, Re-Opening Task Force Chair*



Anna Jane (Hudson) Holshouser, age 82, passed away peacefully at home in Lexington, Georgia on July 3, 2021.

A private memorial service for family *only* will be held *Saturday, August 28*, at Covenant at 2:00 p.m. The service will be livestreamed at: [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>] In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mission Programs at Covenant Presbyterian in her name.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Claire Bowen with acute bronchitis; students, educators, school and campus workers amidst the Delta variant upsurge; Willene O'Neal with pneumonia; Covenant preparing for transition in leadership; 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—August 23-29

Monday	Deuteronomy 4: 1 –2, 6-9
Tuesday	Psalms 15
Wednesday	Psalms 16
Thursday	James 1: 1-15
Friday	James 1: 16-27
Saturday	Mark 7: 1-8
Sunday	Mark 7: 14-23



**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 #07**  
Anticipated Pledges \$57,448.47  
Actual Pledges— \$62,630.86  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*



We so appreciate those who have provided flowers for virtual worship over the last many months. Your contributions have been generous, creative and simply beautiful. If you would be willing to provide a flower arrangement for in-person worship in the upcoming weeks, please use this link to sign up on the Sunday of your choice. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-provide>

Flowers should be placed in the Worship Center by 5 PM on Saturday, and can be removed following the service on Sunday morning. For more information please contact Julie Bower ([bower.julie@gmail.com](mailto:bower.julie@gmail.com)) or Karen Wetherington ([kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org)).

*The Worship Ministry Team appreciates each one who contributes to the beauty of our worship services in this way. Thank you!*

Kathy Boardman is beginning the process of cleaning out and updating the church library. Beginning Sunday the 22nd stop by and see if there is something you would like to take home.





## PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

### Reach out to help neighbors in Haiti

The scale of the disaster facing Haiti after the Aug. 14 earthquake is becoming clearer. The quake and its aftershocks have left almost 1,300 people dead, thousands more injured and an unknown number of people are still missing. At least 13,000 homes were destroyed and roads, bridges and communication systems have been severely damaged. This catastrophe comes on top of Haiti's ongoing struggles with endemic hunger and poverty, COVID-19 and continuing civil unrest, and as Tropical Storm Grace bears down on the region.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted areas through our established local partners and in collaboration with ACT Alliance and its members. You may donate via [this link](#).

### EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

66 egg cartons were taken to the Athens Emergency Food Bank last week.

They also need brown paper grocery bags and heavy duty plastic bags. Thank you Covenant for your support.



*"On Another Note...."* How Small Actions can add up to big progress for animals. How we can help animals in our day to day life.

**ANIMALS USED IN RESEARCH AND TESTING!** - Choose cosmetics, personal care items and household products that aren't tested on animals. (visit [leapingbunny.org](http://leapingbunny.org) to get started) If your favorite brands haven't made a cruelty-free commitment, write a polite letter asking them to do so and to use non-animal testing methods. Ask your state lawmakers to introduce legislation that bans cosmetics testing on animals and the sale of animal-tested cosmetics. Then ask your members of Congress to support the Humane Cosmetics Act, federal legislation that would prohibit cosmetics animal testing—and the import of cosmetics that have been tested on animals in other countries— in the United States.



*Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team*



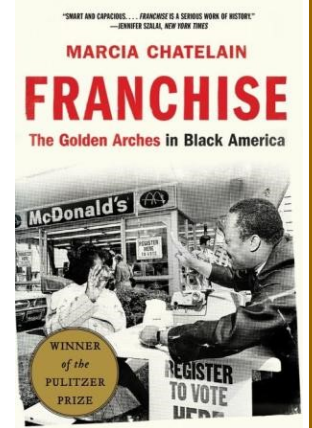
The Presbyterian Student Center will return to in person worship beginning August 24th. And the return of in person worship means the return of **PSC Dinner Sign ups**, beginning Tuesday Aug. 24th. Please click on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CA4AF2CA1FB6-weekly>

## SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB –

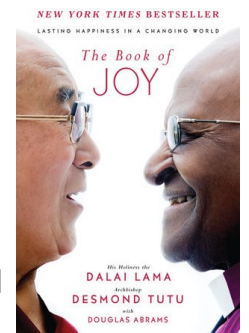
You should really think about joining our next book club. This month we will tackle “Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America” by Marcia Chatelain. In *Franchise*, historian Marcia Chatelain uncovers a surprising history of cooperation among fast food companies, black capitalists, and civil rights leaders, who—in the troubled years after King's assassination—believed they found an economic answer to the problem of racial inequality.

With the discourse of social welfare all but evaporated, federal programs under presidents Johnson and Nixon promoted a new vision for racial justice: that the franchising of fast food restaurants, by black citizens in their own neighborhoods, could finally improve the quality of black life. Synthesizing years of research, *Franchise* tells a troubling success story of an industry that blossomed the very moment a freedom movement began to wither. *Franchise* is the 2021 Pulitzer Prize Winner in History.

Our first session is set for **August 23, 2021 @ 7 PM** via Zoom. During our first session we will cover up to page 121. Our sessions usually run from 7 PM to 8:15-30 PM.



**BOOK STUDY—Tuesday, August 24 at 10am via ZOOM!** 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, August 22 at **1pm**, 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.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Journey Class

Sunday, August 22, 8:30am – 9:30am, 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.

## 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 July Covenant served 353 food insecure families for a total of 1,481 people that includes 506 children and 146 senior adults. Thank you Covenant!