

Please click here to view Covenants Live Stream Worship Service, Sunday,
August 08: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A)

THE COVENANTER

August 08 2021

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

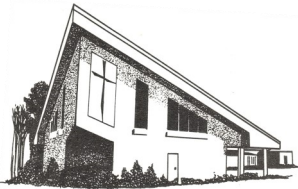
The overwhelming feeling last Sunday morning at 10 AM was one of joy in being back together. For all who chose to participate in person, thank you for your presence, and thank you for your grace as we aimed to meet each regathering challenge with a balance of caution and good sense. **Beginning this week, we will have every other pew roped off to more successfully create a safe distance between us.** We will continue to space out within each pew, welcoming households to be the exception who sit together. Thank you for using the signup link. That was so helpful to us. Please continue to sign up each week so that all who wish to engage in person can do so with relative peace of mind. And thank you to Asher Hill and Arin Lozefski, who made the live streaming happen without a hitch. This truly was appreciated by all for whom in-person gatherings are not a good option.

Come
Worship
With Us

The Re-opening Task Force continues to keep a daily eye on the Delta variant and the case positivity rate for our local area. The return of UGA students and public school students is front and center on our minds. With hospital beds becoming scarce, it will not be responsible to push our in-person option too far. With luck on our side, the vaccination rate will continue to rise and we will stay ahead of the surge. I trust that you will join us in keeping a close eye on safety. We are fortunate in so many ways. Thank you for your patience and your faithfulness. Respectfully, *Julie Bower*

- Scroll down on Covenant's webpage and click on sign up to access sign up genius: www.covpresathens.org
- go to Covenant's Facebook page and follow the link to signup genius;
- call the church office (706-548-2756) or email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org.

For those who cannot attend in person live steaming is available on You Tube at [https://www.youtube.com/
channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A)



Congregational Meeting

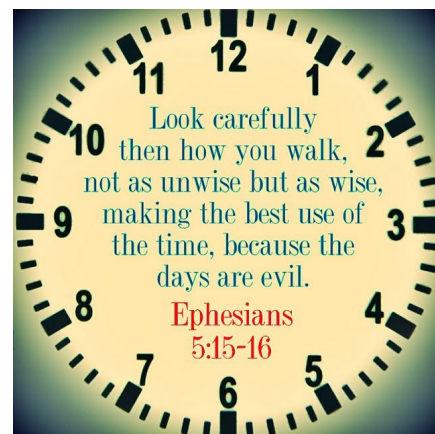
Sunday, August 15 following the 10am worship service.

Join us either in person or via ZOOM after the 10am worship service for a presentation of the new budget and approval of the terms of call of Mark Harper beginning July 1, 2021. We will elect new officers for the class of Elders for 2024. Nominees are: Katy McGill Arora, Bert Ballard-Myer, Abby Horvath and Valerie Stone. And to dissolve the call of Mark Harper as of September 30, 2021 at his request.

PRAYER CONCERNS: the rising number of covid cases; the lack of shelter options for our homeless neighbors; 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 9—15

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|-----------|--------------------|
| Monday | Proverbs 9: 1-6 |
| Tuesday | Proverbs 9: 7-12 |
| Wednesday | Psalms 34: 9-14 |
| Thursday | Psalms 36 |
| Friday | Psalms 40 |
| Saturday | Ephesians 5: 11-20 |
| Sunday | John 7 |



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 #05
Anticipated Pledges \$ 41,034.62
Actual Pledges— \$ 38,578.86
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) 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!



Reception Honoring Mark Harper & Rindy Trouteaud

Sunday, September 12

Following the 10am worship service

More information to follow.

Bite-sized budget overview by Pam Knox—

Here is a quick look at the Session-approved 2021-2022 budget you can use to get an overview without wading through all the numbers. Note that the budget was developed before Mark sent out his note about dissolving his call here to go to Maryland, but the Presbytery told us that when we hire an interim minister, they will be paid the same amount as Mark as their standard practice. We felt it was important to have an approved budget in hand even though we acknowledge that with the uncertainty in staffing and due to COVID it is likely we will have to revisit it halfway through the year.

Link to the detailed budget on our website: <https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Session-Approved-Budget-2021-2022.pdf>

Expected income: Pledges \$426,760 (last year \$450,000), non-pledged income (including rent) of \$22,787 = **\$449,547** total

Expenses (changes from last year):

All current personnel will receive 1.5% cost of living raise.

Rindy requested no raise for July to simplify paperwork. Position to remain vacant as we go through our staff transition.

Asher's position changed to full-time plus \$6,500 health care. Non-FICA technical assistant added at \$5,580 per year.

Added transition funds of \$7,500 to pay for related expenses like interview trips as we go through interim period.

Personnel expected to search for a Coordinator of Music soon.

Cut Professional Expenses and Continuing Ed for Rindy, Music Coordinator positions in half.

Removed original \$25,000 request for HVAC from Building and Grounds to be funded outside of budget; details of that funding are in discussion.

No contribution to Capital Reserve for one year since extra money has been put into the facilities through Session spending from bank account.

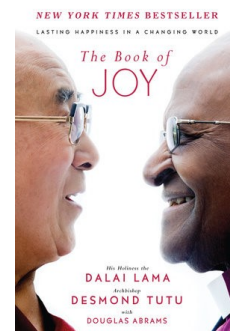
Childcare budget cut in half since no nursery expected until January.

All other ministry team budgets to be cut by 10% from what they requested for 2021-2022 except for a few fixed costs like CCL license. On the budget it is shown as a reduction in each line item, but Ministry Teams can choose how to make their cut out of their total budget.

These items were removed from the budget and will be funded by the money left over from 2020-2021 in special restricted accounts: Montreat, Community Missions/Benevolence, Mission Trip, external financial audit, one music intern (reduced from 3 interns). This amounts to \$18,450 compared to surplus of about \$18,600. This is similar to what we did on the 2020-2021 budget. Note that this adjustment is probably not something we can do in future years unless we continue to run large surpluses.

Net budget \$449,547 plus \$18,450 special restricted funds for a total expenditure of \$467,997. This compares to last year's budget of \$466,177 plus \$45,000 special restricted funds for a total of \$511,177.

BOOK STUDY—We will meet in person on Tuesday, August 10 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!



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Upper Room Class

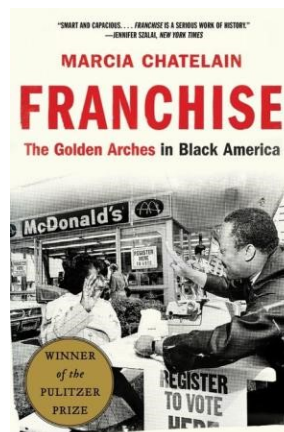
Sunday, August 8 at **1pm**, James Malone hosts and different class members facilitate the discussion of the weekly chapter in *The Present Word*. If you would like to participate, please contact James at gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com, to receive your ZOOM invitation.

Journey Class

Sunday, August 8, 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 Mohamed 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.

COMING SOON !

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB—the next book club will begin **August 23 & 30 at 7pm**. The next book will be *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America* by Marcia Chatelain. Marcia Chatelain's *Franchise* investigates the complex interrelationship between black communities and America's largest, most popular fast food chain. Taking us from the first McDonald's drive-in in San Bernardino to the franchise on Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Missouri, in the summer of 2014, Chatelain shows how fast food is a source of both power—economic and political—and despair for African Americans. As she contends, fast food is, more than ever before, a key battlefield in the fight for racial justice.





TerraCycle Now Accepts All Brands of Kroger Plastic Packaging!

TerraCycle now accepts all brands of Kroger plastic packaging. This includes Kroger, Simple Truth and Simple Truth Organic, Private Selection and Luvsome plastic bags, pouches and wrapping. Examples include bread bags, frozen food bags, pet treat pouches, produce bags, etc. Click on this link to see amore complete list: <https://www.kroger.com/b/terracycle>

EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

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

80 egg cartons were delivered to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank this past week. They were glad to receive them. 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 is collecting school supplies for our neighbors. Please click on this link to see what is needed: clarke.k12.ga.us/domain/2555 You can bring supplies to the church office on Tuesdays, 10am – noon or Thursdays & Fridays 10am – 4pm. Thank you!

As we learned in last week's worship service during celebrations and concerns, the two primary shelter facilities in Athens for our homeless neighbors are temporarily closed. Both Bigger Vision and the Salvation Army shelter have recently experienced COVID outbreaks and have suspended services for the time being. Several people who had been housed at Bigger Vision have relocated to Covenant's basketball pavilion until this emergency situation can be resolved. Three of these houseless neighbors have significant medical conditions, and one person is scheduled for knee surgery next week – provided that she can secure a temporary place to stay following her operation. Travis Williams and I are in daily contact with these neighbors and are trying to make more secure housing arrangements for them. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns regarding their presence on church property, please reach out to Travis or me instead of approaching our neighbors directly.

Grace and peace, *Mark*

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.*