

Please click here to view Covenants Live Stream Worship Service, Sunday, September 05: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

THE COVENANTER
September 05, 2021

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



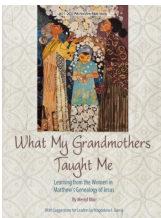
We have updated our plans for the celebration to honor Mark Harper and Rindy Trouteaud. We continue to try to keep everyone's safety as a top priority, in this Covid Delta environment.

Here are the details.

- Since worship on Sept. 12 will be live streamed, there will be a special segment at the end of the 10:00 AM worship service to honor and celebrate both of these very special pastors via Zoom. We hope that you will tune in to this presentation at the close of worship. *(The link will be forthcoming)*
- We invite all to participate in a love offering, which will be presented to the pastors following worship on Sept. 12. Please send your check to Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens 30605, or drop it by the church office. The Office is open Tuesday, 10am-12noon, Thursday & Friday, 10am—4pm. Designate on the check memo line the amount you wish for Mark and the amount for Rindy. Checks must be received by Friday, Sept. 10, at noon.
- At 4:00 PM the same day, Sept. 12, there will be a more personalized opportunity to thank Mark and Rindy outdoors, on the grounds at Covenant. All who wish to come can take a minute to thank them for their many contributions to Covenant and the larger Eastside community. *Participants must be vaccinated and masked.* Please RSVP for this reception by calling the church at 706-548-2756.
- The in-person 4:00 PM reception receiving line will replace the earlier suggestion to send your good wishes via video recording. There will not be a video. The receiving line will be designed for safe distancing outside.

You may also mail to the church or drop off a card or other correspondence with your good wishes and good memories. Cards must be received by Friday, Sept 10 at noon, unless you wish to bring your card in person on Sept 12 for the 4:00 PM reception.

We hope that you will find the ways that suit you best to help us honor our pastors as they look ahead to new beginnings. *To God be the glory, Let the people rejoice! Amen!*



Presbyterian Women Book Study—via Zoom, Thursday, September 9 at 9:30am. Join us as we learn from *What My Grandmothers Taught me, Women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus*, by Merryl Blair. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt, as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place? And what can Jesus's grandmothers-of-the-faith teach us? By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is. *The zoom link will be sent on Wednesday before the meeting. Books are available in the office—\$10 each. Read the Introduction and chapter 1 and GTG hymn 324, For All the Faithful Women.*

PRAYER CONCERNS: James Malone with very low blood pressure; all whose lives have been turned upside down by Hurricane Ida and flooding in the northeast; all struggling to breathe and live amidst wildfires in the west; our healthcare workers at the local hospitals amid the Covid 19 pandemic; Anne Page at Avery Place; Nancy Omdahl at home; Jim & Jere Bowden at home; and Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings—September 5—12

Monday Psalm 116: 1-9
Tuesday Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Wednesday Mark 8: 1-10
Thursday Mark 8: 11-21
Friday Mark 8: 22-26
Saturday Mark 8: 27-30
Sunday Mark 8: 31-38




Dear fellow members of the Body of Christ, at Covenant,
It is with a heavy heart that I say farewell, my friends, to my sojourn among you these past fifteen years. Dianne and I celebrated your embrace as sisters and brothers -- through sadness and joy-filled thanksgivings -- from the day we arrived. Having contracted for the sale of our home in Athens, I am in the process of moving to Jacksonville - Mandarin, Florida (place of our first ministry) to wed by year's end, a dear friend of fifty-five years, Pam.
Thank you for your love and support, in Christ, Ed (706) 540-5569 ralphsathens@att.net

I would like to thank the Covenant congregation for its support following Anna's death. -
Gene Houlshouser

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!

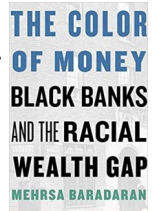
FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #09
Anticipated Pledges — \$73,862.37
Actual Pledges — \$75,758.86
Thank you for your faithful giving!



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!

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB –

Join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club as we discuss Mehrsa Baradaran's *The Color of Money*. Examining the fruits of past policies and the operation of banking in a segregated economy, Baradaran makes clear that only bolder, more realistic views of banking's relation to black communities will end the cycle of poverty and promote black wealth. Join us starting **Wednesday, September 22nd @ 7 PM** (Zoom) to explore these important ideas.



Church School Classes via ZOOM!

Upper Room Class

Sunday, Sept. 05 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.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Journey Class

Sunday, Sept. 05, 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, to receive your ZOOM invitation.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Contribute to:

Disaster Relief-US Hurricane Response (DR000169)

This designated account supplements the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering to enable a significant, ongoing response to hurricanes that affect the United States. Your faithful giving is deeply appreciated.

To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700*

EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

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

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.

STATE WINS

Virginia in March banned new tests of cosmetics on animals and sales of newly animal-tested cosmetics. Maryland and Hawaii were expected to approve similar laws. California, Illinois and Nevada have already passed bans and Maine, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island are considering them.

Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team



VOLUNTEER

LET'S RESUME THE MINISTRY OF "GROUNDS STEWARDS" !!!!!

8-10 volunteers are needed. Regular policing of the Cov Presby grounds by two person teams, one team per week, now merits resuming. Our grounds stewards remove litter from across the campus as well as empty the trash and recycle containers into bags for deposit in the trash bins outside the kitchen. A disposal service empties these bins once a week.

If interested in taking part, please contact Rich Reaves, 706-248-2819, or Karen Wetherington at the church office.



Calling all Day-trippers and Bibliophiles! Sara Covin-Juengst, some may recognize from Columbia Seminary, retired to the tiny community of Willington, SC, and established a cultural center. A handful of hardy volunteers maintain 2 book stores there, one of which has been called “the largest religious bookstore in South Carolina.” This bookstore at Willington on the Way receives donations from individual as well as church libraries, and is a source for seminarians, scholars and the inquisitive alike. The second shop caters to readers of general fiction and non-fiction.

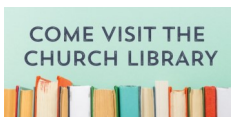
Covenant is making a large donation to Willington and we need help transporting the books! A BODACIOUS BOOK DROP DAY TRIP could include browsing the book stores, a talk and tour of the history center, exploring the Savannah Valley Railroad Trail, experiences through McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK), a meal and stroll at Hickory Knob State Park or Maddy’s Pub in Washington, or wherever your curiosity leads you. There are even lots of camping opportunities in the area. Explore the informative links below. Even if you change your mind later, go ahead and express interest ASAP to your tour director, Kathy, at boardman.kathy@gmail.com. Tell her what you are most interested in doing and include your prioritized choice of the 5 Saturdays in October. An indication of vehicle space available for books and energy level for moving them will be helpful, as well as the best time to call to follow up. The goal is to have books arrive at Willington on no more than 2 Saturdays to keep the event simpler at each end, and also to provide an opportunity for folks in multiple vehicles to experience the trip together. Reality is, muscle and enthusiasm may have very different schedules. Cheers!

<https://www.augustachronicle.com/story/special/2020/12/03/day-trip-wilmington-boasts-Isquoparadisersquo-for-lovers-of-old-used-books/115092604/>

<https://mccormickscchamber.org/what-to-do/>

<https://www.washingtonwilkes.org/>

<https://www.gafreshwatercamping.com/>



Work is underway to revitalize the church book collection, creating a more dynamic shared library. Now through Labor Day, you are welcome to stop by and look at the books to be removed and take any you would like. Please note that there are many shelves of books we will be keeping and that these have been clearly marked, so do not take any from these sections. Also, if you come across give-away books you feel Covenant should keep for the library, you can set them aside with a note on them and your name. After Labor Day, the outdated books will be donated to several different sites. *Valerie Stone*

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:

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 August Covenant served (over 4 days) 340 food insecure families for a total of 998 people that includes 424 children and 98 senior adults. *Thank you Covenant!*
