

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service **LIVE STREAM** on You Tube for **Sunday, October 03 at 10am**: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>
If you miss the live stream you can watch it on You Tube later in the day.

THE COVENANTER October 03, 2021

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

Covenant is pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Glenn Doak

Rev. Doak will be our “Bridge” pastor, beginning Oct. 1, until we have our interim pastor in place. He is most recently retired from First Presbyterian Church in Athens and has served as a bridge pastor on other occasions within the NEGA Presbytery.

Rev. Doak’s duties, while at Covenant, will be to preach, serve as Moderator for the Session, and to be available for pastoral care when needed. He will keep in contact with the church staff and be available on site upon request.

Welcome, Rev. Doak!

Live stream will be available at 10am, Sunday, October 3rd at <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY—October 3, 2021

Peace & Global Witness

Equipping Peacemakers in Congregations and Around the World.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. *Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering.*

Ways to Give: *through Covenant— earmark your contribution P&G W or donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/peace-global](https://www.pcusa.org/peace-global) or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give to Peace & Global Witness or visit [pcusa.org/peace-global](https://www.pcusa.org/peace-global) for more information.*

Please click on this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/documents/session-minutes/> for the session minutes. When you scroll down you will see links to earlier minutes. If you would like minutes from 2020 please let me know at kwetherington@covpresathens.

The Re-Opening Task Force/Worship Ministry Team- UPDATE!

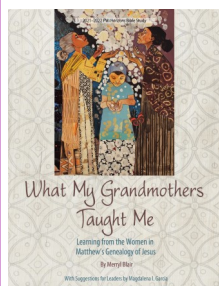
The Re-Opening Task Force/Worship Ministry Team is continuing to closely watch the local COVID positivity rate, with the hope of returning to in-person worship soon. While we have never used just one metric to make our recommendations for in-person worship, the case positivity rate remains above our comfort level at this moment. That said, it is beginning to drop in a meaningful way. The Clarke County two-week case count per 100K stands today at 434 cases. That is down from over 900 cases about two weeks ago. We are headed in the right direction. Other indicators of importance include the number of local area folks who are vaccinated, the use of masks in group situations, the number of available hospital beds in our two local hospitals, and a general show of respect for each other during these challenging restrictions.

As the case numbers continue to drop, we will be hoping and planning for a return to in-person worship. A generally-accepted "safe" benchmark is 100 cases per 100K. Obviously, not every church chooses to be this cautious for the surge to decline. Our hope is that our newly renovated worship center will be close to completion when we feel it is safe to return to in-person worship. What a joyful intersection of circumstances this will hopefully be! We will continue to keep you updated.

A second bit of news to share from the Worship Ministry Team is that we voted to remove the remaining choir pews and short barrier wall that sits in front of the choir. This request was entertained in order that our music folks would have a greater, more flexible space to have tables and music stands for bells and chimes, vocal choirs, and other creative gifts that make worship at Covenant very beautiful and special. When the fresh paint and new carpet are completed, hopefully during the month of October, you will also see this new open space ready for fresh new opportunities.

A third bit of news is in regards to the time we set for worship. As you know, the current time is 10 AM each Sunday morning. That of course, has been our traditional summer schedule. The Worship Ministry Team will be meeting soon to specifically address this question. If you have thoughts about what time our worship service should be going forward, please feel free to contact Jennifer Frey or me. Our Fall/Winter schedule has usually meant a shift to 11 AM. This has been a different kind of season! We know there will be different perspectives, but we aim to choose the time that will satisfy the majority of those who plan to attend in person or live stream in real time. We will continue to upload the recording for those who choose to tune in on a different day or time.

Thank you for your support, your patience, and your continued dedication to the worship ministry at Covenant. For many, many months we have felt like the bearers of bad news. Perhaps the next bit of news will be a true and steady return to the place we know and love, and feel the strongest connection to the Lord that we all aim to serve. Respectfully submitted,
Julie Bower, Chair of the re-Opening Task Force



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY—We are so excited to resume fellowship and Bible study and want to encourage all of you who missed the first lesson to join us October 14! We also hope those who were present will be able to continue! Next meeting will be October 14, at 9:00am via Zoom. Please note the change of our start time from 9:30 to 9:00am. We would like to allow plenty of time for fellowship, as well as Bible study, so we agreed to this change. Ellen and June will be leading our study of Lesson Two. Thank you, Ellen and June!! Look for your Zoom invite a day or so before the meeting.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Beth Nunnally diagnosed with breast cancer: our healthcare workers at the local hospitals amid the Covid 19 pandemic; Nancy Omdahl undergoing new treatment; Carol Huber at home; Pat Tinga at home and having physical therapy; Jim & Jere Bowden at home; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; our nation.

Daily Bible Readings October 4—10

Monday	Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Tuesday	Palm 22: 1-8
Wednesday	Psalm 22: 9-15
Thursday	Hebrew 4: 12-16
Friday	Mark 10: 13-16
Saturday	Mark 10: 17-27
Sunday	Mark 10: 28-31

Pat Tinga took a bad fall recently and is recuperating at home for the next few weeks. She is not able to host visitors but would love to receive notes from friends. Her address is pmtinga@att.net or 190 Springtree Rd, Athens 30605.



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 #13
Anticipated Pledges — \$106,690.09
Actual Pledges — \$106,887.79
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 live stream 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!

If you have a fall arrangement of faux flowers that you'd be willing to share with the Worship Ministry Team, please let Julie Bower know. Fresh flowers are not always feasible, and we would welcome the addition of a nice fall arrangement to use on the Sundays when we are not able to provide fresh flowers for worship. We appreciate your support.

The Faithful of every generation

An excerpt from the [*Companion to the Book of Common Worship*](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151)

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the "glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs" (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

*Please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org for your loved ones and/or friends to be included in the necrology for **All Saints Sunday, November 7, 2021** by November 4.*



The Worship Ministry Team requests the assistance of our fellow Covenanters for hosting our new Bridge Pastor, Reverend Glenn Doak, during Worship on Sundays. This person would also serve as Liturgist during the Service. The Liturgist would read the first Scripture and perhaps one or two other items. Volunteers are needed for the Sundays of Oct 17, and Oct

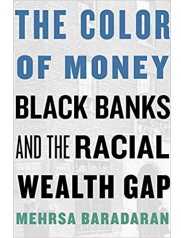
24, as well as the weeks of November and December. We are excited to welcome Rev Doak to Covenant and we need your support! If you are able to assist us, please notify Jennifer Frey, Co-Chair of WMT, at jenofrey@gmail.com.

The Worship Ministry Team is also looking for volunteers for our Communion Ministry Team. This team purchases and prepares the Communion Elements, helps with set-up and clean-up on Communion Sundays. When we have sufficient volunteers for this team, we divide the group into three sub-groups (Prep, Set-up, and Clean-up). This way the time required of each volunteer is minimal per Sunday and only 3 or 4 Sundays per year. We need to reorganize this team as soon as possible, since we are hoping for a return to in-person worship in the near future. Please consider volunteering for this vital ministry! If you would like to support Covenant in this way, contact Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com.



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. **Thursday, October 7 @ 7 PM** (Zoom) to explore these important ideas.



Church School Classes via ZOOM!

Upper Room Class

Sunday, Oct. 03 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, Oct. 03, 9am – 10am, Steve Rathbun hosts and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste – the Origins of Our Discontent*. If you would like to participate, please contact Steve at rathbun@uga.edu, to receive your ZOOM invitation.

Church Library -- The church library is currently being re-organized with the goal of creating a dynamic educational collection helpful to church members. We are looking for donations of recent, well-written books relevant for current member needs—spiritual growth, spiritual memoirs, social justice, Bible study aids, the current American political landscape, care of the planet, ministry aids, etc. Please think quality over quantity, donating books you would recommend to others. There are boxes in the church library where you can drop off your donations. If you have more than 20 books to donate or you need help transporting books, please contact Kathy Boardman (boardman.kathy@gmail.com) or Valerie Stone (valeriefreystone@gmail.com, 678-360-6983). In particular, we hope to have multiple copies of books recently used by Covenant's Sunday school classes and book clubs so that church members can check out and read the books they've been hearing about. Please note that all books given to Covenant will be donated to other places once they are no longer needed.

Upper Room Book Swap – All educational books available to church members have been moved to the library. The bookcase in the Upper Room is now a pleasure reading swap area for uplifting books. You are welcome to take a book (or two) and leave a book (or two) in its place. Unlike the church library, these books do not need to be checked in or out. This collection will be thinned out and donated elsewhere as needed.





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
FAMILY PROMISE HOST WEEK: OCTOBER 10-17

Covenant is the host congregation for Family Promise during the week of October 10-17. Three families are currently in the program, four parents and ten children, all working to get back on their feet in their own living space. While in the program, they are at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. The families are very comfortable at this site. Volunteering is so, so easy there, and you stay safely apart from everyone. We will have three families during our week.

Please click on the following link to find a good spot to help these families as they get back on their feet. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3->



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

6 Joiners so far

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.

TAKE THEM A MEAL – As you know, Anna Holshouser died this summer. Her husband Gene is 93 years old and still lives alone at the house in Oglethorpe County. His son in Texas has requested that we take a meal to him occasionally and keep tabs on him. Don Bower and I have set up a *Take Them a Meal* website so people can sign up for meal slots. We have set it up for Wednesdays and Saturdays through October, but if you sign up for a slot and wish to change the day, just call Gene and let him know. The phone number is on the website. You can call me if you have questions. Call Linda at 706-549-6464. Thank you!

Linda Koehler and Don Bower, Congregational Care Co-Chairs

The link: <https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=HAHP2506&welcome=1>

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.*