

Please click here to view Covenants LIVE STREAM Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, November 14 at 10am:**
<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER
November 14, 2021

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

Come
Worship
With Us

COVENANT IS NOW HAVING IN PERSON WORSHIP

November 14, 2021 at 10:00am in the Worship Center!

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

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

Guidelines for Gathering inside Covenant Presbyterian Church

We request that all adults who enter our facility be fully vaccinated.

Wear a mask at all times while on the property.

Maintain six-foot social distancing at all times.

Children are welcome but must remain in the company of their parents/guardians.

Other than household members (who may sit together), please leave 6ft or more between you and others' chairs in the Fellowship Hall.

We will encourage a contact-free experience for all. Please refrain from hugs, hand shakes, etc;

Attendance will be limited to 75.

Please sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4da5ae2ea6f8c52-covenant2>

Live Stream is still available for those who cannot attend in person worship at 10:00am at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

Calling All Singers and Musicians!

We are *Bringing Back the Music* and it's just in time for Christmas. Mark your calendars to come and join in presenting some music for the December 5th morning worship service. You may be familiar with "Looking for the Light" and want to lift your voice in song with others including instrumentalist. There will be two rehearsal opportunities: November 14 and 21 right after the 10am worship service, in the sanctuary. Please bring your mask! Last rehearsal opportunity will be in the morning of the 5th prior to worship. The music will be available and can also be emailed at your request. Please contact Kim McClain at garyandkim@bellsouth.net if you have any questions or would like a copy of the music emailed to you.

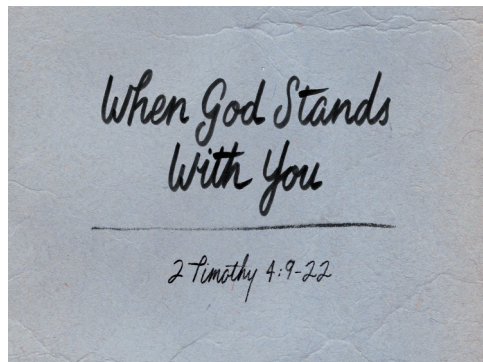


The Worship Center will be graced with beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas holidays. If you would like to purchase one in honor or memory of someone please contact Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org or office number 706-548-2756. They are \$12.00 each. You can mail a check or put it in the offering plate. Please indicate in the memo portion of the check Poinsettias and indicate who they are in honor or memory of. Thank you!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Nancy Omdahl anticipating surgery in early December for a growing cystic mass; Tamara Stam's mom recovering from a bad fall; Pat Tinga at home and having physical therapy; Jim & Jere Bowden at home (cancer drugs are working but side effects are much worse than anticipated); Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; the food insecure and homeless as the holiday season approaches; Covenant's new interim pastor, Dana Waters and wife beginning December 1; and our nation.

Daily Bible Readings November 15—21

Monday	2 Samuel 23: 1-7
Tuesday	Psalm 132: 1-12
Wednesday	Daniel 7: 9—10, 13—14
Thursday	Psalm 93
Friday	Revelation 1: 4b—8
Saturday	John 18: 33-37
Sunday	2 Timothy 4: 9-22



The Worship Ministry Team would like to encourage everyone to submit **Concerns and Celebrations, and Announcements** to Karen Wetherington at kwetherington@covpresathens.org or 706-548-2756, each week, for placement in the *Covenant*. We have listened to many people raise the issue of how much time we devote to these important additions to our service. For that reason we ask that you help us move these important additions to the *Covenant*, so that our services may end in a timely manner. Let's all give it a good try. Please submit those to Karen by Wednesday, each week. It will continue to be the pastor's discretion to highlight concerns, celebrations, and announcements that he or she feels necessary during worship. *Thank you from the WMT.*

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 or give in person. Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #20
 Anticipated Pledges — \$164,138.47
 Actual Pledges — \$164,538.32
Thank you for your faithful giving!

The Worship Ministry Team is working feverishly (for real!) to put together a Greeter/Usher rotation schedule for our return to in-person worship in our newly renovated worship center. *Thank you to those who have already signed up.* If you would be willing to serve Covenant in this way, please let one of the following people know today:



Chris Wilson, Katy Terry, or Julie Bower. *We appreciate you!*

Library Corner:

The Church Library as a Ministry The church library is now reopened! That's the set of bookshelves on the northeast side of the Conference Room and there's something there for everyone. We hope you'll pop in soon to see what's there and to borrow an item or two. A bulletin board near the door will give you the details.



When Kathy Boardman got the ball rolling on cleaning out the church library, I wanted to help. Looking at the books crowded on the shelves, it was easy to see that it had been carefully organized and cared for in the past. Time, however, had marched on. Many of the books were now outdated or in poor shape. And when the Climate Change Committee needed room to share books, there was no room. Members of different Sunday School classes wanted to swap class books, but the shelves were packed too tight. As someone with a library degree, I knew the collection needed weeding, repairing, and reorganizing. I soon realized these humble tasks are a ministry.

In my own faith journey, some harsh experiences in my teenaged years made me deeply question my beliefs, and it was the works of authors Madeleine L'Engle and C. S. Lewis that kept me tethered long enough to reconnect. In times of spiritual hunger or doubt, many of us haunt libraries or bookstores, hoping to find something to grasp. The beauty of a donation-based church library is that instead of simply finding the latest bestsellers, we hopefully find titles our fellow members found useful before us. In that spirit, although we do want the revamped library to grow, we don't wish to fill up the shelves willy nilly. We want donations, but hope for the books you'd recommend to others, the ones that made you think and grow. —Valerie Stone

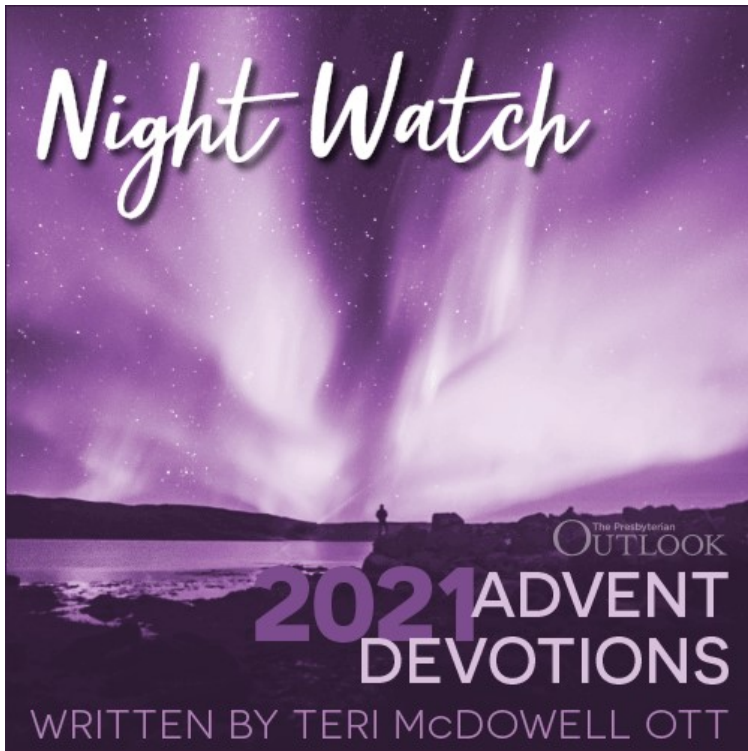
On behalf of the Worship Ministry Team, a hearty "welcome back" to all who have joined us in person for worship. We realize that for some, the timing isn't yet right to come back in person, but for those who have, we appreciate the energy that you have brought to that very sacred space. We have tried to respond to your preferences for a one-hour service and ask that you help us begin on time, by being seated by 9:55. The good conversations can continue after worship and we hope you will take those opportunities to reconnect with folks that you may not have seen for quite some time. There have been many joyous reunions.

Speaking in Celebration, the B&G MT commends the following volunteers as weekly Grounds Stewards each month.

First Monday week = Katy Terry & Chris Wilson; Second Monday week = Don Bower & Alex Clark

Third Monday week = Phil Hale & Phil Koehler; Fourth Monday week = Susan & Randy Parish

Fifth Monday week = Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



Hope is hard to find during a long pandemic. Dark feelings of grief, loss, anger, betrayal and despair plague our souls and our communities. As the light fades and the evenings grow long this December, the season of Advent reminds us that God is with us in the night.

We can see and observe God at work in the dark, marvel at the beauty of creation lit by moon and stars, and rest from the day's labor. Darkness is often associated with evil and suffering, but a devotional exploration of "night" bears witness to Christ's Good News. Exploring biblical happenings that occur at night – visions, angel visits, prisoners set free – we will move through this Advent season as watchful disciples, keeping vigil for the One who is promised to arrive like a thief in the night.

Please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org if you would like a hard copy of this years Advent Devotional. It will also be sent via email beginning November 21st, as Advent begins on November 28th.

TerraCycle + Kroger Packaging = \$\$

A few weeks ago, I mailed our first box of Kroger packaging to TerraCycle and it earned \$13.65. This is important because TerraCycle does not pay the shipping costs for packaging such as candy bags and wrappers, so the \$13.65 will go toward that.

If you shop at Kroger, saving plastic bags and wrappers for TerraCycle is easy because there are so many items that qualify. A few examples: bread bags, frozen vegetable and fruit bags, chip and salty snack bags, bags from cookies, nuts, coffee and fresh produce such as carrots, apples, potatoes, etc. Also, wrappers from packages of paper products and bottled water.

Remember, only Kroger brands count. This includes Simple Truth, Private Selection, Luvsome pet products, as well as the ordinary Kroger brand. *Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team*

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* and may we all have enough!



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.org.

"Fix-It Persons" Being Sought



The B&G MT is faced with a variety of tasks that merit being addressed, but not all can be accomplished by B&G members themselves. Other folks are invited to contribute their talents and time. For example . . .

Drop-down doorstops should be replaced on at least three building doors

Missing edge-molding needs repair on a preschool hallway bulletin board

Weather stripping on enter-exit doorways merits assessment and if needed replacement

The container of collected engine oil should be removed from the trash disposal area to disposal by a local engine oil retail business

Peeling paint on the exterior narthex surfaces needs removal, and then restoring with a proper outdoor finish that will not peel off

Handrails on the steps to the outdoor worship area should be refinished with safety-blue paint

Lines and symbols for handicapped parking spaces in the entry driveway should be finished with safety-blue paint

Similar work may be needed for handicapped parking spaces in the exit driveway

Wooden benches on the front patio (4) and in the Memorial Garden (2) need to be oiled for protection from winter precipitation and temperatures

Insulation along with a ceiling tile needs restoration in the Fellowship Hall ceiling

Metal posts as well as bases in the Fellowship Hall warrant paint refreshening

Blinking lightbulbs in the Fellowship Hall portico ceiling need replacement

Stucco patching compound and suitable paint should be applied in various locations on the enter driveway, as well as around the building

Pressure washing of stains from sidewalks and entry doors to the Worship Center is needed

These, along with other tasks, will be posted for reference on the B&G MT bulletin board, near the Memorial Garden stairway entrance. Feel free to pose questions for guidance, as well as to sign-up to address, and to sign-off when completing a task.

B&G MT: Alex Clark, Brian Striggow, Hank Tweedell, Rich Reaves, Carolyn Hatfield, Chris Wilson

Speaking in celebration, the B&G MT commends the following work.

Of course, the refurbished sanctuary's color selection team of volunteers, Hilda Clark, Arnelle Combs, Susan Parish (Ch), Georgiana Sumner, and Valerie Stone, began seeing its coordinative work come together during the past few weeks on walls, doors, window and door frames, and carpet colors.

Restoration of the Cov Presby Worship Center was enabled, not only by the work of that team and respective outside contractors, but by the inside refreshing and cleaning efforts of volunteers such as Kay and Paul Brooks, Alex Clark, Asher Hill, Karen Foutz, Linda Koehler, Phil Koehler, Betsy Burmeister, Rich Reaves, and Hank Tweedell. Carpeted and hard floors as well as light soffits and window frames were vacuumed of sheetrock and carpet dust; pendant lightbulbs were changed; windows and doors were washed; pew bibles and hymnals were dusted off and returned to place; surface gouges, scars and dings were treated or removed from pews; live-streaming electronic components were installed; functional order was restored to the narthex and chancel; and areas of the campus that temporarily housed pews and worship supplies were tidied and returned to former usages.

During this same time, a robust volunteer team of cleanout artists, Arnelle Combs, Carolyn Hatfield, and Ellen Stoneburner, renewed the appearance and functionality of the Fellowship Hall chair closet, as well as sanitized and removed marks from the white vinyl tables used for fellowship events as well as the Thursday food pantry. More improvements are promised by this crew.

Virtually all of the persons listed above, with the addition of Jennifer Frye, Larry Hatfield, Steve Rathbun, Linda Rogers, Chris Wilson, and Dick Zimdars, had been previously involved lending hands to convert the Fellowship Hall into a temporary worship space. It has now been returned to fulfilling previous tasks. Thanks to one and all!



Thornwell
Building Tomorrow's Families Today

THORNWELL HOME FOR CHILDREN

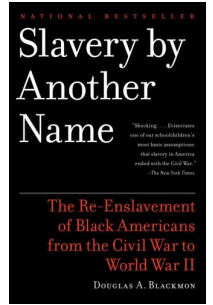
Serving JESUS, by serving others!

Today we highlight the mission of Thornwell to raise awareness and funds for children and families in need. Thornwell began in 1875 in Clinton, SC by a Presbyterian minister, Reverend Jacobs, who felt a call from God to care for the orphans of the Civil War. The ministry of Thornwell has grown and evolved over its nearly 150-year history to be a leader in the call to care for children and families throughout South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. What was once a dream in the heart of a young man, God anointed and blessed to become a transformative ministry that has impacted the lives of thousands. We celebrate Thornwell Emphasis Month with a single focus: Serving Jesus, by Serving Others! You get to be part of this. You can make a difference. You are giving hope and joy to families through the overflow of your giving. Please mark your checks for Thornwell or pick up an giving envelope on the table in the narthex. Thank you Covenant for your generous giving.

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, December 9 at 7pm we will begin our new book study on the book *Slavery by Another Name* by Douglas Blackmon. There will probably be one session.

Prof. Blackmon will be joining our group to discuss his influential work. It will be awesome! December 9 at 7pm. Look for your Zoom invitation the day before.



Church School Classes via ZOOM!

Upper Room Class

Sunday, November 14 at **11:30am**, 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, November 14, **8:30am—9:30am**, 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.

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Groups Meeting at Covenant:

(these small groups may or may not be meeting at Covenant at this time)

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday—Campus Kitchen (UGA),

Monday—Scouts at 6:30pm; Bells of Northeast Georgia Choir 7pm,

Tuesday- More Than Four Quartet 9:30am—11:00am; (2nd Tues of each month) Stamp Club 7pm

Wednesday—Covenant Handbell Choir 6pm—7:15pm; 12 step group 7pm (downstairs)

Thursday—Knitters & Knotters 2pm (conf. room); 12 Step Group 7pm(conf. room)

Saturday—(upper room) 12 Step Group 10:30am; 11/20 UGA Campus Kitchen at 12 noon

Sunday (upper room) 12 Step Group 12:30pm; 11/21 UGA Campus Kitchen at 12 noon



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

in 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.



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.

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 Thursdays, 1pm—4pm.

Thanksgiving week the food pantry will be on Tuesday, November 23, 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 October, Covenant served 898 food insecure persons that included 316 children and 97 senior adults. Thank you Covenant staff and volunteers and all those who contribute financially to this Covenant ministry. May we all have enough!