

Please click here to view Covenants LIVE STREAM Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, November 21 at 10am:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

## THE COVENANTER November 21, 2021

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



### COVENANT IS NOW HAVING IN PERSON WORSHIP - November 21, 2021 at 10:00am in the Worship Center!

The Worship Ministry Team continues to carefully watch the local Covid status and, most particularly, safe practices at Covenant. At our 11.18.21 meeting, we decided to ease two or three of our current practices. Effective this Sunday, we will increase the attendance number to 100, and remove the pew ropes. Each week the attendance number has been rising just a little. Last week we had 66 in-person worshipers. We believe that a good pattern of social distancing is in place, and will continue. Removing pew ropes will make it a little easier for a few more people to be seated in a "distanced" pattern. At least for the present time, we will discontinue the online signup for worship.

Additionally, those who lead our music during worship, both vocals and instrumentals, will have the option of removing their masks while singing or playing. The congregation will still be required to wear masks. We will continue to monitor our practices and keep you informed with updates. In any group of people, there will be a range of comfort levels. We respect them all, and hope that you will find a way to safely worship with Covenant. These changes do not reflect a return to the old normal...they reflect a progression of practices in the new normal.

If the new normal, over time, includes another surge in cases, we will modify our practices. We think that is the new normal. If you are looking for the safest seat in the worship center, perhaps the back pews are your most comfortable choices. We are trying to manage risk for the big picture. We encourage you to continue to manage your risk on a very personal level. As in the past, Covid vaccinations are the most important guideline we can hold onto.

Respectfully submitted, *Julie Bower*, Worship Ministry Team Co-Chair

### *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 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](mailto:garyandkim@bellsouth.net) if you have any questions or would like a copy of the music emailed to you.



## 'tis the SEASON

The Fellowship Ministry Team ask for your help in decorating the outside of the church for the Christmas season, on **Saturday, December 4** at 10am. See Kay Brooks if you have any questions

*Many hands make light work.*



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](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) or office number 706-548-2756. They are **\$15.00** each. (due to price increase) 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 22—28**

Monday	Jeremiah 33: 14-16
Tuesday	Psalm 25: 1-10
Wednesday	I Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Thursday	Psalm 24
Friday	Psalm 76
Saturday	Psalm 98
Sunday	Luke 21: 25-36



The Worship Ministry Team would like to encourage everyone to submit **Concerns and Celebrations**, and **Announcements** to Karen Wetherington at [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) or 706-548-2756, each week, for placement in the **Covenanter**. 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 **Covenanter**, 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](http://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 #21  
Anticipated Pledges — \$172,345.53  
Actual Pledges — \$171,273.32  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

## Library Corner: Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007)



In my first Library Corner piece, I mentioned author Madeleine L'Engle. She was most famous for her Newbery Medal young adult science fiction book, *A Wrinkle in Time*. As wonderful and affirming as that book is, however, is just the tip of the iceberg. L'Engle wrote over 60 published novels, poetry compilations, and non-fiction books. In our church library, we are lucky to have three of her "Crosswicks Quartet" books. *A Circle of Quiet* is the first of these published autobiographical journals and it explores how she felt faith interwove with daily life. The second book in the series is *The Summer of the Great Grandmother* and focuses on the summer when L'Engle brought her elderly mother to live with her. Although it explores aging, dementia, and even suffering in an honest way, it never loses sight of hope. *The Irrational Season*, third in the series, ventures chronologically through the liturgical year, finding personal meaning in Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, and beyond. Although it isn't part of L'Engle's journal series, we also have a copy of her non-fiction book *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art*. If you're looking to check one of these out from the church library, you'll find them in Bay F, Shelf 4 and Bay C, Shelf 3. -

Valerie Stone

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

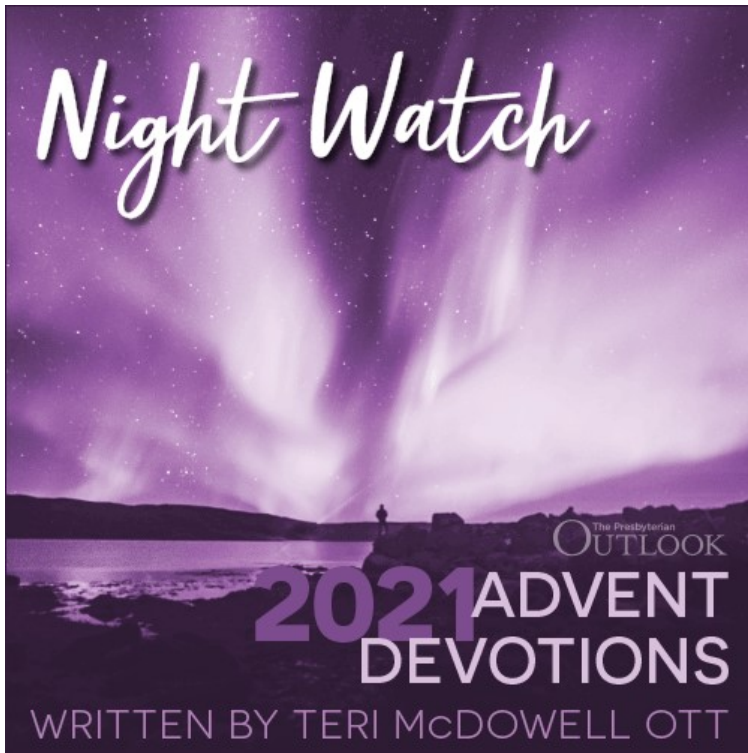
First Monday week = Katy Terry & Chris Wilson;      Second Monday week = Don Bower & Alex Clark  
Third Monday week = Phil Hale & Phil Koehler;      Fourth Monday week = Susan & Randy Parish  
Fifth Monday week = Ellen & Dan Stoneburner



## 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.



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](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) if you would like a hard copy of this years Advent Devotional. [Click on this link](#) to access the devotional online.

### 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.

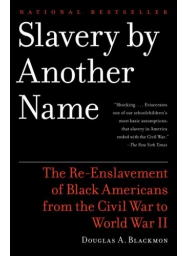
Thank you *Covenant* and may we all have enough!



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](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org).

## 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 21 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](mailto:gillbillvolume1@yahoo.com), to receive your ZOOM invitation.



**Journey Class**—Sunday, November 21 **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](mailto:rathbun@uga.edu), to receive your ZOOM invitation.

### 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

### Knitter and Knotters – Thursdays at 2pm

*No meeting next Thursday, we resume on Thursday, December 2*

(Please be sure and wear your mask)

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**

## "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 . . .

*Nandina seedlings should be uprooted from the lirioppe and iris beds along the exit driveway*

*Nandina and boxwood hedges around the campus buildings should be cut to heights of 24"-30"*

*The Memorial Garden slope should be cleared of all volunteer seedlings except for gardenias, azaleas, and crepe myrtles; and the Memorial Garden's circular sitting area should feature the present roses and annual flowers*

*The front patio floral pots should be maintained with seasonal plantings*

*The enter driveway flower bed as well as frontyard main sign floral areas should be maintained with seasonal plantings*

*Debris surrounding the Brian Koehler shed should be removed to the landfill*

*Periodically left-off shopping carts should be returned to pertinent retailers*

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 Ministry Team: Alex Clark, Brian Striggow, Hank Tweedell, Rich Reaves 706-248-2819, Carolyn Hatfield, Chris Wilson

*The church office will be closed, Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving Holidays. If you have anything you want to put in the Covenanter please send it to me no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, November 24 to [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org).*

*Have a beautiful Thanksgiving!*



## 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
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!*