

Please click here to view Covenants LIVE STREAM Worship Service on YouTube for **Sunday, January 2 at 10am:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER  
 January 2, 2021



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



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

**WAYS TO GIVE:**

- Through Covenant (mark for Joy Offering)
- Donate by credit card online at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)
- Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)

**Covid Updates**

The session is monitoring the COVID situation in our community. We will announce any changes to our COVID guidelines if and when they are made. Thank you for wearing a mask and social distancing as we care for one another. Worship services will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel for those who are traveling or unable to gather in-person this Christmas season.



**FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK...January 2- 9, 2022**

Covenant will be the Family Promise host congregation for the first week of January. Two of our guest families recently graduated and moved into their new homes, leaving one large family. We will host one mother and father and their six children. Hosting will remain at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, the same location that we used for our last several hostings. We will need volunteers for meals, overnights, and day shifts. Please go to the sign up genius and pick times and activities that work for you:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith> *Together we will help this family get back on its feet.*

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Willene O'Neal with severe nerve pain; Patti Huberty's sister in law, Shelly Coe, in ICU at Emory; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; the food insecure and homeless; and our nation.

**Daily Bible Readings January 3 - January 9**

Monday	I Kings 19: 9-18
Tuesday	Joshua 3: 14-47
Wednesday	Jonah 2: 2-9
Thursday	Revelation 21: 22-27
Friday	Colossians 1: 1—14
Saturday	Colossians 1: 15-23
Sunday	John 1: 29-34



*Baptism of the Lord!*



*There will be a memorial service for  
Wayne Crowell on Thursday, January 20 at 3pm.  
Livestreaming will be available for those who cannot  
attend in person.*

**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 **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.*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**—In the early hours of December 11th, several tornadoes ripped through multiple U.S. states, resulting in extensive damage and significant loss of life. PDA is in touch with affected presbyteries to coordinate resources and assistance. To register interest in volunteering for rebuilding efforts when they are ready, email [PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org](mailto:PDA.CallCenter@pcusa.org). To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000015](#) If you wish to give thru Covenant please designate on your check or envelope *PDA Tornado*.

## Library Corner *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

Barbara Brown Taylor was an Episcopalian minister in Clarksville, Georgia before becoming a religion professor and celebrated author. On her website, [barbarabrowntaylor.com](http://barbarabrowntaylor.com), she describes herself as a “writer, speaker, and spiritual contrarian.” (I personally find her refreshing and honest.) She’s written or co-written almost a dozen titles, all exploring various aspects of faith. *Leaving Church* is about her time in Clarksville as a minister including her eventual need to step away. If you’ve never thought about the life of a minister, this provides an eye-opening view into one person’s experience. It can be found in our library’s “General” section, Bay H and I. –Valerie Stone



**Folks** - Volunteers to open and close the building for Sunday morning worship now are being sought. This is a function of the Worship as well as Building & Grounds ministry teams.

Primarily this involves unlocking the doors to worship space, turning on lights, setting HVAC controls an hour before the service; and closing down these facilities about 30 minutes after worship.

Contact the church office or Rich Reaves, 706-248-2819, to sign-up and for further details.

### **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

### **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 in Fellowship Hall

**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

## “Three Amigos” Spark Facility Improvements at Cov Presby

A triumvirate of revitalizing visionaries, who also are exceptionally diligent workers, has undertaken refurbishment of tired and languishing facilities at Cov Presby.

After completing during mid-October a thorough clean-up of the outdoor trash disposal enclosure, Arnelle Combs, Carolyn Hatfield, and Ellen Stoneburner have proceeded undeterred to improve (a) the chair closet for the Fellowship Hall, (b) the Mothers’ Center storage corner as well as generic facilities in the Journey Classroom; and they (c) will next implement plans to attack the outdated clutter and forgotten amenities of the storage closet in the preschool classroom. From these efforts, children’s clothing and other materials targeting new mothers were donated to the Project Safe Thrift Store, in this aftermath of the Mothers’ Center departing from Cov Presby as its host facility.



**Feel free to join-up with these vitality ensuring volunteers during Wednesday mornings, beginning around 9:00 a.m. Help is not only needed but welcomed.**

This team also has completed a survey of all the rooms in the campus buildings, in order to formulate an extensive list of clean-up, yet also repair, renewal, and repurposing projects. When acted upon each task will enable Cov Presby to be ready, once a full array of reopening activities / opportunities becomes feasible. This chore list is being prepared for posting on the B&G MT bulletin board, to enable folks to contribute labor or funds toward completion of the needed improvements.

For just a few examples: (a) The various wall and floor cabinets in the childrens’ Sunday School rooms, as well as those in the Middle and High School youth meeting rooms, are jammed full of outdated materials, not to mention dried-up and forgotten activity supplies. Only those items current and usable need to be retained. (b) The secretary in the Upper Room is graced, inexplicably, with one drawer that has been filled with used and broken crayons; so, along with other drawers as well as furniture in this room and the Gathering Room, a thoughtful but relentlessly thorough cleaning out is warranted. (c) Hygiene supplies in the Nursery room need to be assessed for usability. (d) Costumes and pillows in the WORM theater, together with the cooking supplies in the WORM kitchen, need similar screening for retention. (e) Recreational equipment in the youth rooms should be evaluated for usefulness or discarding. (f) The Christian Education closet presents more challenges of close facsimile to “Fibber McGee’s”.

Inventory efforts targeting repairs to the exterior of the campus buildings are also underway. These three committed Covenanters operate as anything but a team of comedic actors, while bringing good cheer, fun, and success to achieving their goals.

*Rich Reaves, B&G Chair*



### EGG CARTONS! EGG CARTONS!

The Athens Emergency Food Bank are still in need of egg cartons and brown paper grocery bags. PLEASE NO 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](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens).

**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 #25**  
Anticipated Pledges – \$205,173.25  
Actual Pledges – \$215,293.38  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*  
*Meals on Wheels: \$7,050.00*

Join the **Covenant Social Justice Book Club** in January 2022 as we discuss Chinua Achebe’s “Things Fall Apart.” Told through the fictional experiences of Okonkwo, a wealthy and fearless Igbo warrior of Umuofia in the late 1800s, Things Fall Apart explores one man's futile resistance to the devaluing of his Igbo traditions by British political and religious forces and his despair as his community capitulates to the powerful new order. With more than 20 million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, Things Fall Apart provides one of the most illuminating and permanent monuments to African experience. Achebe does not only capture life in a pre-colonial African village, but he also conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our contemporary realities. **Join us** starting **January @ 20th @ 7 PM** via Zoom to explore this essential read. Our first session will cover Chapters 1-14 ( pages 1-135). TW



### Church School Classes via ZOOM!



#### Upper Room Class

Sunday mornings 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 mornings, 8:30am—9:45am , Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste—the Origins of Our Discontent*. Soon we will complete this book and early next year we'll begin a study of the book, *Speaking of Faith* by Krista Tippett. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at [phale50@hotmail.com](mailto:phale50@hotmail.com) to receive your Zoom invitation.

#### Covenant Church Office Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 10am – 12 noon

Wednesday – closed (*working from home*)

Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm

#### Knitter and Knotters –

*Thursday, January 6 at 2pm*

(Please be sure and wear your mask)

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!

## 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.**

### 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.*

Isaiah 58:10—Feed the hungry and help those in trouble, then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

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For the month of December Covenant volunteers and staff served 1,111 food insecure neighbors

This includes 626 adults, 336 children, and 149 Senior Adults!

Thank you Covenant and *May We All Have Enough!*

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