

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, March 6 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER

See Page 3 for Covenant's Covid Policy Updates!

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



PW BIBLE STUDY

March 10 at 9:30am with Pastor Dana.

This meeting will be in person and online.
*What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from
the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus,*
please read lesson 7, *Mary.*

A Zoom invitation will be sent Wed. March 9

A big **Thank You** to Betsy Burmeister and Rich Reaves and Pastor Dana for leading our Youth in preparing the Ashes for the Ash Wednesday Service. We had two of our Youth to participate in this activity, *Eli Stone and Luke Shannon*. They learned not only how to prepare the ashes, but the significance of it as well. This activity is a step in the direction of allowing more folks, including Youth, to participate in Worship at Covenant! Thank you, again, Betsy, Rich and Dana for this learning experience! - *Worship*



The Fellowship Ministry Team is seeking your input! Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey and

tell us about events that you would like to see at Covenant: [FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY SURVEY](#) If a survey is not your style, please contact Valerie at 678-360-6983 or Kay at 706-206-8357 to discuss your answers input with us!



Follow the Gnome to Page 4 and see how you can help alleviate homelessness in the Athens area.

THANK YOU to all who stayed last Sunday for our Music Planning Meeting! We are beginning again with Choir! For all those who would like to help us lead hymns this Sunday, please meet at 9:40 am in the Worship Center for a brief warm-up. We welcome all to sing with us as we lead the congregation in song! Also, please consider staying after Worship on Sunday for a short practice session for next week. We will go over hymns and some special music for the coming weeks. Betsy Burmeister will lead and accompany us on piano. Thank you, Betsy, for sharing your time and talent with us!! Please come and sing! - *Worship Ministry Team*; for questions, contact Jennifer Frey at jenofrey@gmail.com

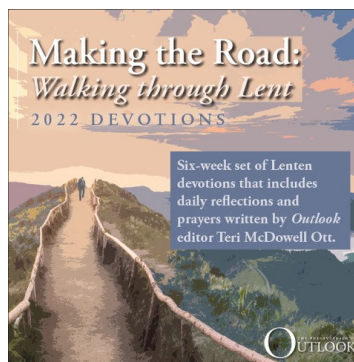


PRAYER CONCERNS: the family and friends in the passing of Kay Waters; the people of the Ukraine; Beth Nunnally at home in hospice care; Nancy Omdahl recently started chemo again; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; health care professionals at home and around the world; the food insecure and homeless; and our nation.

Please submit prayer concerns and/or celebrations to the church office 706-548-2756 or kwetherington@covpresathens.org. or before worship service fill out the Prayer Concern form and put in offering plate or give to Pastor Dana.

Daily Bible Readings March 7—13

Monday	Luke 1: 78-79
Tuesday	Luke 9: 1-3
Wednesday	Luke 9: 57-62
Thursday	John 14:5
Friday	John 14:6
Saturday	Acts 9:2
Sunday	Luke 4: 1-13



Lenten Devotionals are available in the narthex or at this link:

[Lenten Devotionals](#)



to **Eric Frey** who retired March 1st, after 32 years of service on the Athens-Clarke County Fire Department!

And to **Bert Ballard-Myer** who has 33 yrs. with the phone company this Friday, March 3, from Southern Bell to BellSouth to AT&T. She will be retiring Friday, March 10.

"I look forward to volunteering with the Food Pantry on Thursdays, and serving as an Elder on the Mission Outreach Committee. Marie and I hope to do some traveling around the country, and visit as many State and National Parks as possible."

Who Wants to Take Over TerraCycle?

As my 80th birthday is rapidly approaching, I would like to give up my TerraCycle responsibilities. What does TerraCycle require? The primary need is space to keep cardboard cartons for saving up recyclables. When the boxes are full, they must be shipped at the UPS store. Shipping labels must be printed out for some boxes. Twice a year, it is necessary to request a check, via the TerraCycle website, for the money that TerraCycle has paid for the recyclables that we have shipped during the previous 6 months. Therefore, a little bit of record-keeping is necessary. Also, the batteries and printer cartridges have to be taken to CHaRM 3 or 4 times a year. Lastly, an article should be written for the Covenant occasionally. These articles serve 2 purposes: to keep the congregation informed about changes in the items that TerraCycle accepts, and to encourage the congregation to participate in TerraCycle recycling. This is really not a lot of work and the reward—keeping a lot of plastic out of the landfill—is great. Please contact me if you are interested in taking over TerraCycle at Covenant: caren.m.snook@gmail.com or 706-543-3753.

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team

COVID UPDATE

On Friday, March 4, the Session approved an update to Covenant's COVID policies (see below) using the new CDC mask guidance released late February 2022. This guidance uses a red, yellow, and green system reflecting current case rates and hospitalizations related to COVID in a county. Since these ratings are being updated weekly, it offers an easy-to-use and timely way for Covenant to respond to the changing COVID landscape based on the color rating system. Given Covenant's priorities to continue moving toward a full opening while preserving the health and well-being of its members, the following COVID policies will begin on **MONDAY, MARCH 7** for Covenant using the CDC rating system:

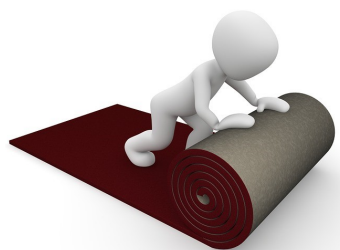
COVENANT'S COVID POLICIES (EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2022)

Please do not plan to attend in person gatherings if you are feeling ill in any way or have been diagnosed with a current case of COVID-19 or recently exposed to someone who has. We strongly encourage all those who are eligible to be fully vaccinated before entering the facility.

Guidelines for Gathering inside Covenant Presbyterian Church - based on the CDC's Community Level Rating

- **Green Rating** – Mask wearing is optional with indoor and outdoor food and drink options. Please be considerate of personal preferences to remain contact-free and social distance.
- **Yellow Rating**– Mask wearing is highly recommended with outdoor food and drink options. Please be considerate of personal preferences to remain contact-free and social distance.
- **Red Rating** – Mask wearing is required. Social distancing, in-person worship attendance caps, restricted food and drink activities, and virtual services only may be recommended.

Athens-Clarke County's current CDC rating is **yellow**. Any changes to ACC's rating will be announced in the Covenant, online, and in worship. You can check ACC's current CDC rating here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels-county-map.html>.



CARPET RE-INSTALLATION

Beginning Monday, March 14, 2022, re-installation of new carpet will occur in the Cov Presby Worship Center. Work completion is targeted for Friday, March 18.

People using the church during this week are reminded that hallways and some rooms in campus buildings will host stored pews, chairs, and other items. Please alert friends and colleagues about this inconvenience.

Worshippers on Sunday, March 13, are invited to help remove pew bibles, hymnals, song books, and other items for temporary storage in the narthex. This task will be led by the Worship Ministry Team.

Due to a mistake in production, known as "side match error", the new replacement carpet is being provided at the manufacturer's expense, per the original contractual agreement with Athens' Carpets Unlimited.

Carpet being taken-up will not be available for use elsewhere in the building, primarily due to damage arising upon its removal, caused by adhesive that binds the carpet to the concrete slab in the Worship Center.

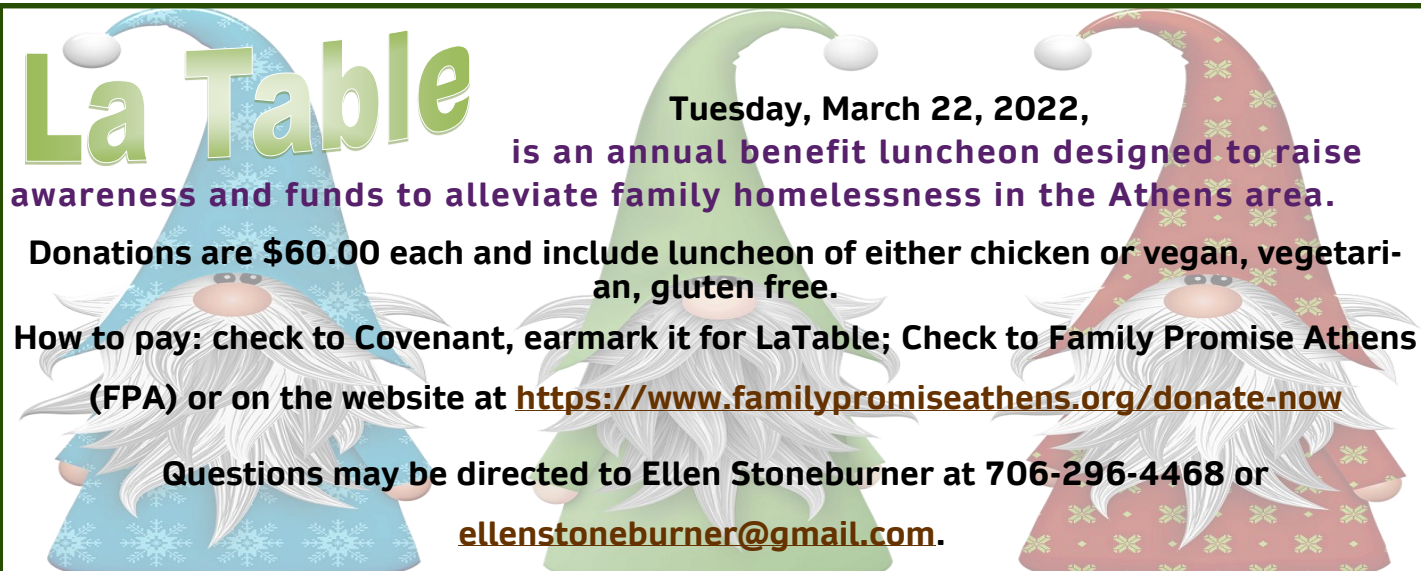
Immediately upon completing the installation, electric fans will be activated to hasten removal of odors from this process, to prepare for worship on March 20.

Questions about these plans may be directed to the B & G Ministry Team.

Kind regards, *Rich*

Library Corner—*How the Irish Saved Civilization* by Thomas Cahill

March calls to mind St. Patrick's Day (March 17), so this month we'll explore a bit of his legacy. In the 5th century, St. Patrick and others helped spread Christianity across the British Isles. Although the resulting churches were diverse, many believe Celtic Christians developed a unique way of faith that encouraged vibrant monasteries long ago and that still embraces nature and simplicity. Cahill's book explores the early Christian history of Ireland including how monasteries served as a light during the Dark Ages by preserving the tradition of scriptoriums and scholarship. Bay C, Shelf 4 in the library offers Cahill's book and other materials about Celtic Christianity. Church Librarian *Valerie Stone*. (If you would like to write a few sentences highlighting a book or DVD in our library, please contact me!)



La Table

Tuesday, March 22, 2022,
is an annual benefit luncheon designed to raise awareness and funds to alleviate family homelessness in the Athens area.

Donations are \$60.00 each and include luncheon of either chicken or vegan, vegetarian, gluten free.

How to pay: check to Covenant, earmark it for LaTable; Check to Family Promise Athens (FPA) or on the website at <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/donate-now>

Questions may be directed to Ellen Stoneburner at 706-296-4468 or ellenstoneburner@gmail.com.



Opps! James Malone was accidentally left off the birthday list. Please add him for March 16



Source: JAMA Pediatrics

From the *JAMA Pediatrics*: in a first-ever national study of more than 1 million U.S. children under

six, half had detectable levels of lead in their blood. No level is considered safe.



THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE

Is actively seeking applicants for music director & piano accompanist. If anyone in the congregation knows someone who is interested, please give their contact information to *Gloria Pylant, Betsy Burmeister, Laura Foskey, Jerry Shannon or Abby Horvath.*

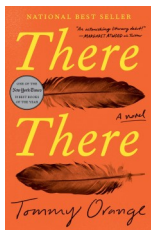


Even after Valentines Day you have a chance to say "I Love You" to your Covenant family by donating flowers for worship. Flowers arrangements can also be given in honor or memory of someone. To sign up just call the church office or sign up on the board next to the mailboxes. There are plenty of Sundays to choose from. Thanks!

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 previous years please let me know at 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 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 #36
Anticipated Pledges — \$287,242.31
Actual Pledges — \$285,340.49
Thank you for your faithful giving!
BCVF—\$2098.00



There, There by Tommy Orange

Join the **Covenant Social Justice Book Club** starting on March 17, 2022 at 7 PM as we discuss Tommy Orange's *There There*. Tommy Orange's "groundbreaking, extraordinary" (The New York Times) *There There* is the "brilliant, propulsive" (People Magazine) story of twelve unforgettable characters, Urban Indians living in Oakland, California, who converge and collide on one fateful day. It's "the year's most galvanizing debut novel" (Entertainment Weekly). *There There* is a wondrous and shattering portrait of an America few of us have ever seen. Tommy Orange has written a stunning novel that grapples with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and profound spirituality, and with a plague of addiction, abuse, and suicide. Join us starting **March 17th @ 7 PM via Zoom** to explore this amazing read. Our first session will cover the first 150 or so (about half) of the book.



Church School Classes via ZOOM! Upper Room Class

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, 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 the book, *Speaking of Faith*, by Krista Tippett. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com to receive your Zoom invitation.

Covenant Church Office Hours

Monday — closed

Tuesday — 10am — 12 noon

Wednesday — closed (*working from home*)

Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, March 10 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.

Next food distribution is on Thursday, March 10!

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!

Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!

Feeding 100 families every week is hard work and we need your help! Our drive-thru pantry is awesome and you should join us and impact your community.

<https://givepul.se/6xemwu>

1. Have you been exposed to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19? [See the CDC's risk assessment guidance.](#)
2. Do you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19? Symptoms can include a cough or shortness of breath or at least two of the following: Fever, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell. [See the CDC's symptom information.](#)

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we ask you **not** to register. We are doing all we can to align with best practices and keep our community healthy.

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.

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