

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for  
**Sunday, March 20 at 10am:** <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER  
March 20, 2022

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

**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 Green.** Any changes to ACC's rating will be announced in the Covenanter, 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>.



Let's celebrate the approach of Easter with a spring fling! Come one and all to Covenant on the afternoon of Saturday, April 16. There will be an Easter egg hunt for kids grades 5 and younger beginning at 3pm

followed by an all-ages casual kickball game. Please come to watch even if you're not interested in the activities! It will be a lovely afternoon to enjoy catching up with church friends. What to bring? There is some seating in backyard area of the church, but you might wish to bring a comfy camp chair or picnic blanket and outdoor games to share. Kids can enjoy the playground and we'll have some yummy refreshments. In case of bad weather, there will still be an indoor egg hunt and gathering in the Fellowship Hall. (If you plan on bringing kids for the egg hunt, please let Karen in the church office know how many kids and their ages. This will help us get organized.)



**CE MEETING!**

Come one come all to meet on **Sunday April 3 at 2pm** to discuss CE and what that could be as we progress past COVID.

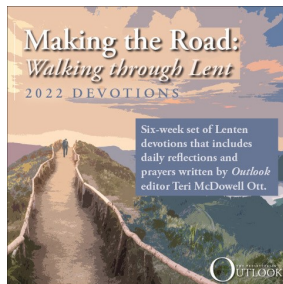
Covenant Choir: Please join us for a brief warm-up at 9:40am before the Service this Sunday. Also, please remain after Worship to practice for the upcoming Services. Thank you!

*Jennifer and Betsy*

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Katy Terry and family in the passing of Beth Nunnally, Wed. March 16; Dell Whitehead's brother, Miller Deaton, in S.C. in hospital; Abby Horvath's mother Becky has been diagnosed with cancer and had surgery Thursday, March 17; Joyce Placek as she begins radiation; the family and friends in the passing of Kay Waters; the people of Ukraine; Nancy Omdahl recently started chemo again; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; the nation.

**Daily Bible Readings March 21—27**

Monday	Luke 11: 1-4
Tuesday	Proverbs 1:7
Wednesday	Psalms 6:6
Thursday	Psalms 100: 1-2
Friday	James 5: 16
Saturday	Psalms 22: 1
Sunday	Luke 4: 14-19



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

[Lenten Devotionals](#)



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO  
UKRAINE WAR!**

As we pray for an end to this violence, we ask the U.S. Government and our European allies to make a commitment to the Ukrainian people for a peaceful solution. We don't know how long it will take, but we know that they will need help with the rebuilding of their country so that those who are fleeing now may one day return home safely.

Funds are being used for emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc.

To support our response, designate gifts to [DR000156](#) or text PDAUKR to 41444,

Or mail your check to  
Presbyterian Church (USA)

P.O. Box 643700,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700 *earmarked for DR000156*

**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.*

**Say Good-Bye to TerraCycle** Since no one has volunteered to take over the TerraCycle recycling, the program will end on Tuesday, April 5. I will pick up all recyclables that have been left at the church on that day, Tuesday, April 5. Everything will be shipped to Terracycle by Friday, April 8. If you have been saving things for TerraCycle, now is the time to bring them to church. Batteries and ink cartridges will not be collected after Tuesday, April 5. *Caren Snook*

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

**CAMP UPDATE!** As most have noticed, we've had a homeless encampment on our grounds for the last six months or so. The camp began out of inattention during COVID, as the church grounds were rarely occupied, and out of a sense of altruism, recognizing that many were facing hardships during the pandemic. The original campers were tidy and quiet, but as the camp grew, drama and friction accompanied the increased population. Eventually, police were regularly arriving on our property to resolve issues. Responding to complaints from our neighbors in Green Acres and the management of the shopping center, Clarke County Code Enforcement issued us a citation requiring us to remove the camp and clean up refuse.

Our first choice had been to relocate campers to the county's new homeless camp, but the new camp would not be open in time to accommodate the enforcement deadline. A possible moratorium on enforcement was rejected when one of the campers set another's tent on fire.

Most of the campers we helped move to a clandestine camp about a quarter mile from the church. We felt we had to call the police for one camper who wouldn't cooperate in the move (likely more out of being overwhelmed than obstinance). He unfortunately had an outstanding warrant and was arrested. We were able to gather a fair number of his valuables and move them to a storage unit belonging to a friend. We stay in touch and want to help him get on his feet when he leaves jail.

A final camper was a larger challenge. We had loaded up her gear and were prepared to move her when she refused to leave. The police were called and we agreed to give her 24 hours to find a place to go and we would move her gear. On the following morning she was interfering in the cleanup and the police were called to remove her from the property. Ultimately we were able to provide very little help for her, although she has since relocated on her own with the other campers

We maintain contact with most of the campers and are helping move them to the county camp if they choose and as space is available. Our Homeless Taskforce committee of Chris Wilson, Bert Ballard-Myer, and I have realized that we cannot solve the problem of homelessness, even on a small scale. But at the same time, we realize that we can provide comfort to a few, and we have forged alliances in the homeless services community. The camps are removed from our property and we are in code compliance, but this is not a closed issue at Covenant. And as a policy voted on by the Session, we continue to provide a place for an overnight stop for those needing it. Please know that we are working to improve communication with the congregation on this issue.

*Brian Striggow, Bert Ballard-Myer, Chris Wilson, Homeless Taskforce*



Dear Covenant Friends,

I have been attending this church for almost my entire life. Many of you have known me since I was young and have been very supportive of me in my youth and in my adult life. I am grateful to be able to work as the technical director in a place that feels like a second home to me. Up until this point my responsibilities have been fairly straightforward, consisting of technical projects such as installation and maintenance of systems, overseeing the tech needs of various meetings and events, and operating the streaming equipment and live sound for Sunday Services.

I have been speaking to members of the session and I would like to expand my responsibilities to include more community aspects. As a member of Covenant, I feel strongly that it is our responsibility to have a positive impact on the community that surrounds us. As technical director, I would like to share my gifts in this pursuit by offering classes and training to both congregants and youth in the community.

The church has been putting together a content creation lab, which I would like to use to offer these classes in audio and video production, in order to teach these skills to members of the church as well as to provide an opportunity for high school age youths to delve into these professions in a way that I never could have. These are technical skills that are highly valued in the industry, but are difficult to break into due to equipment, training and school costs. My goal is to give people a chance to dip their feet in and learn about this industry, and perhaps pursue it if they find a passion, without having to jump through the same hoops I did.

Once again, I am grateful for my opportunities here at Covenant, and I would like to use my position to open the door for others as I walk my own path. With gratitude, *Asher Hill*



# PRESBYTERIAN STUDENT CENTER

at The University of Georgia

## Tuesday Dinners

Calling all friends of the PSC: We miss you at Tuesday Dinners!

Our ministry was blessed with a generous donation to cover the cost of weekly student dinners for the first two months of this semester. At the mid-point of February, we are sending out a reminder that Tuesday Dinners are indeed happening each week, and that we would love to have your group cook or cater a meal and enjoy it with us. We are also still more than happy to accept donations, which help to offset the costs of ordering out on weeks when we do not have a prepared meal. You can always sign up and/or donate at <http://www.pscuga.org/dinner>.

As we have returned to gathering in person for WORD+TABLE, our attendance numbers are back up to around 30 most weeks. At the moment, we have no sign ups or donations for March through the end of the semester, so we need your help!

For those making donations, a meal for the whole group costs between \$200–\$300. You can also donate single portions (\$10 per student, etc). Anything and everything helps.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your ongoing support of these students and their Church Home Away From Home!

*Rev. Will Norman, Executive Campus Minister*

Presbyterian Student Center @ the University of Georgia [www.pscuga.org/dinner](http://www.pscuga.org/dinner)



### **CARPET RE-INSTALLATION**

Carpets Unlimited workers beginning Worship Center carpet re-installation at Cov Presby. Bravo for Nestor, Rene, and Fernando!

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](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens).

**HOW TO GIVE.** There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

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

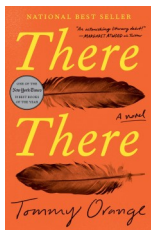
**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #37**

Anticipated Pledges — \$303,656.15

Actual Pledges — \$295,202.49

*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

*BCVF—\$4,089.00*



*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 31th @ 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](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 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, March 24 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 17!**

### 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.*

For the month of February 1,152 food insecure folks were served by Covenant's food pantry.

That includes 309 children, 215 senior adults and 628 adults.

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