

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service on You Tube for
Sunday, August 07 at 10am: <https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>

THE COVENANTER August 7, 2022

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

COVID 19 Community Level:



**Yellow Rating –
Mask wearing is
highly recommended.**
Outdoor food and drink
options are allowed.

We Welcome Our Friend from the Czech Republic

On Sunday, August 7 we will welcome a visitor from our sister church in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Jan "Honza" Dostal is a doctoral student in International Relations and will give an update on his church including their efforts to help refugees from Ukraine. *Following the church service, there will be an outdoor reception with cookies using recipes from both countries.* Please plan to join us! During the rest of his week in Athens, Jan will learn more about our church ministries such as the food pantry and tour some of our allied community organizations including Family Promise and Jubilee Partners.



Family Promise hosting week for Covenant starts with the Evening Host on **Sunday, August 7 through the morning of Sunday, August 14.** It can be especially tricky to cover the slots during summer while many are traveling, so please consider giving your time for this important work.

Covenant will host homeless families in the Family Promise program, but not in our facility. Milledge Avenue Baptist Church (1690 South Milledge Avenue) will continue to serve as the temporary home for our guests. At MABC, Covenant will provide hosts in 3-hour evening shifts (1 or 2 individuals per shift) and overnight hosts (1-2 individuals per shift). We also need volunteers to prepare evening meals for the families (and evening hosts). Volunteers will be advised on up-to-date Covid-19 measures closer to their time of service.

Sign up using the online link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-2022>

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Stone (678-360-6983, valeriefreystone@gmail.com) or Brian Stone (478-954-1801, vmi91h@aol.com), Covenant's Family Promise Coordinators for this rotation.

Holy Cow! CAT Surveys. Would you like to know the outcome and recommendations from our responses?

**Join Us SUNDAY, August 14 -
4-6pm in the Fellowship Hall**

There will be a panel from the session to share the responses and take-aways for moving forward. And there will be an update on next steps for our church.

Childcare will be provided!

*Coming
Soon*

Sunday, August 21

First Grade
Breakfast

Sunday, August 28

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE!

Adult Church School
at 9:30am
Worship at 11:00am

Recently a few folks have inquired about Covenant's guidelines for overnight guest. Listed below is what was approved by the session in **July/Aug 2020**

DEAR OVERNIGHT GUESTS & FRIENDS

Covenant is a community of Christ Jesus.

You are welcome to rest here overnight.

Please keep this place free from alcohol, drugs, and weapons.

Also, please respect our cherished faith home, by:

- No "camping" in front of doorways
- No smoking in or near the building
- No panhandling workers or guests
- No peeing or pooping on this place
- No violence, fighting, nudity, sex, or coarse language
 - No littering-use the trash cans
- Use COVID-19 masks and spacing

**By 8:30am each morning after spending a night,
overnight sleepers must depart, taking all their personal belongings.**

Ephesians 2: 19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are also built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

We can offer short relief for your need of shelter to rest.

May God's grace lead the steps you take in finding home.

Blessings, Hope, and Peace

ABOUT OUR HOMELESS GUESTS-

Recognizing that homelessness is a current societal crisis, the session in 2020 adopted a policy of limited tolerance of overnight stays of homeless individuals, with certain expectations for the behavior of the guests. Over time, the signage stating those expectations has been lost and will soon be replaced after some modifications.

But we probably gain most from our personal relations with our guests in which I simply stress-

- ◆ Pick up after yourself (and others if necessary).
- ◆ You can not move in like this is your apartment.
- ◆ Carts go behind the sheds.
- ◆ We would like to use the church during the day.

We know nearly all our guests personally at some level and they are generally cooperative with our wishes. Several belligerent individuals have been banned from the property for consistent non-compliance.

I do not find our guests threatening, but I also understand that I have the benefit of six-foot-two white male privilege. If you feel threatened or uncomfortable in their presence, please contact me or church staff.

On Sundays, I try to arrive early to assure that everyone is awake and have removed possessions from our common spaces, but I often fail in this. Ushers and greeters can wake them and remind them of our expectations if they feel comfortable in this. The guests are always appreciative of being treated respectfully and kindly.

Finally, I'd like to note that the bulk of our guests have expressed their thankfulness for the limited hospitality that we are able to offer.

Thank you in advance for your understanding as we all deal with this difficult problem,

Brian Striggow, B&G chair



It looks lonely out there. Hank and Alex repaired the automatic watering system to the planting around our entrance sign, but thus far we only have 3 sad Vincas out there. There are healthy annuals in the raised bed in back if your gardening skills are up to moving them (mine weren't). Or BYOP (Bring Your Own Plant).

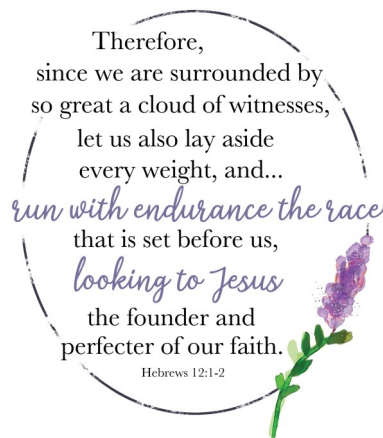
Be sure to drop by the Journey Room where Ellen S. has jumpstarted progress on its rehab.

Brian Striggow, B&G chair

PRAYER CONCERNS: Dell Whitehead and family in the passing of her brother, Miller Deaton 8/03; Bert Ballard-Myer's mom, Agnes Myer recovering from major surgery 8/5; prayers for our partnership church in Olomouc, Czech Republic as they work with the other ECCB churches to help the Ukrainian Refugees during this time of war and resettlement; Jim Verbrugge continuing to heal from his ablation and other health issues; Abby Horvath's mom, Becky Horvath undergoing chemo; Nancy Omdahl working with her oncologist with new treatment plan.

Daily Bible Readings for August 8—14

Monday	Isaiah 5: 1—7
Tuesday	Psalm 80: 1—2, 8—19
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23: 23—29
Thursday	Psalm 82
Friday	Hebrews 11: 29—39
Saturday	Hebrews 12: 1—2
Sunday	Luke 12: 49—56



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.

COVENANT'S COVID POLICIES- Yellow Rating – Mask wearing is highly recommended. Outdoor food and drink options are allowed. Please be considerate of personal preferences to remain contact-free and social distance. 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: [ACC's current CDC rating](#)



Please sign up on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes to provide a floral arrangement for worship. Thank you!



Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in desperate need of brown paper bags. You can bring them to the church and place on the table in the gathering room where the egg cartons go. And they still need egg cartons. *Thank you!*





Covenant's Food Pantry

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.

**Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry Thursdays,
1pm—3pm.**

Next food distribution is on Thursday, August 11

Feeding over a 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.

Please consider volunteering at [SIGNUP GENIUS](#). You can also share the 2-hour time slot with 2 friends! *(the UGA Student Volunteers are gone for the summer) And all those who have been volunteering from the start...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!*

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN 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. *(did you know that about \$500 will purchase 2,883 lbs of food from the Food Bank of NEGA which feeds approximately 111 families each week)*
- We can use paper grocery bags and some plastic bags to pack the food. If you call the church, someone could even come out to your car and get it.

PSA FROM YOUR TECHNICAL DIRECTOR! Recently there has been an uptick in phishing scam emails targeting our congregation. We would like to share some tips in order to better spot these scams as well as advice for how to respond if you think you have received one.

1. A major indicator that an email is fraudulent is when the sender's name is in all caps., such as “JOHN DOE”. This is a tactic to get your attention but it is not how we normally format our titles.
2. Another indicator is if the sender says they are not available to take calls, but the email is urgent. If there is a pressing matter at hand, we will make ourselves available by phone or in person.
3. Check the sender's email address. All of our official contact will come from an @covpresathens address. If you see that the email is from a nondescript address, for example “revmail33@gmail.com”, this is not from a church staff member.
4. If the sender is asking for money or contact information, you should be wary. We will never ask for money outside of the normal giving process.

If you suspect you are being contacted by a phisher, there are a few things you can do.

1. Forward the email to Asher adhill@covpresathens.org to verify its legitimacy.
2. Contact the church member or staff in question directly via phone or in person to see if they have sent you an email.
3. If you are certain that an email address is fraudulent, you can report it to google (assuming it is a gmail account) here <https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse?hl=en>. If the account is not a gmail account, you may need to check with their host about reporting procedures. If you have any further questions or concerns on the subject, feel free to email Asher at adhill@covpresathens.org.

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 <https://www.covpresathens.org/online-giving/>

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 #5
 Anticipated Pledges — \$41,034.62
 Actual Pledges — \$34,160.13
 Non-Pledged offerings \$2,740.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!



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, to receive your ZOOM invitation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

JOURNEY CLASS—Sunday mornings, **8:15am—9:45am** , Phil and Sallie Hale host and different class volunteers facilitate discussion using the book, **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil at phale50@hotmail.com



Knitter and Knotters —

Thursday, August 11 at 2pm

Join us for a good time of fellowship and fun!

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 *Katy Terry, Gloria Pylant, Betsy Burmeister, Laura Foskey, Jerry Shannon or Abby Horvath.*



SHORT TALK. *Supply the initials for the following: ex. Sandwich favorite. Ans. BLT*

1. Ends of Proof
2. Doctors United
3. Kid's Lunch Favorite

By Marilyn Brown

Answers to **SHORT TALK:**
 1. QED 2. AMA 3. PB&J

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open:
 Tuesdays 10 am - 12 pm
 Wednesdays 10 am - 4 pm
 (phone/email)
 Thursdays 10 am - 4 pm
 Fridays 10 am - 4 pm