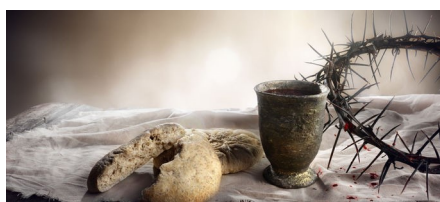


THE COVENANTER
April 05, 2020



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

This Sunday is **Palm Sunday**, and we'll be celebrating communion. So how do we do that in the new, virtual world we're living in? There's a wonderful, creative suggestion going around on social media these days that encourages each household in a congregation to simply cut the leafiest branch you can find and display it on your front door or in a window. So what if we did that, and posted the pictures to Covenant's Facebook page -- a kind of Palm Sunday Parade of Photos? Hosanna! Photosanna!



For communion, we simply invite all who wish to participate to gather together whatever "elements" you have handy: bread, crackers, juice, even wine (I hear a little wine is being consumed during Lockdown Lent! Well, for those of you who have said you would prefer wine for communion anyway, here's the perfect opportunity ...). Rindy and I will be recording a simple Lord's Supper liturgy from the table, so please just follow along.

Truly the table has been extended beyond the walls of the sanctuary!

Prayer Concerns: Clayton Adams mother, Cathy Adams quarantined in ICU at the hospital at Blairsville, GA with pneumonia; Zeb Hendricks with a fever; for those who are affected by the COVID-19 illness, as well as their caregivers, our healthcare professionals, government leaders and those who are working around the clock to minimize the impact of this virus; Heide Wiegel at home recovering well from back surgery; Shirley Reinert slowly recovering from a car accident; Mike Swanson preparing for cancer treatment; Paula Zimdars ongoing merkel cell carcinoma treatment; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Ruth Brewster at Arbor Terrace #222; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; John & Elizabeth Brewer, Dot Handley recovering well at home & Anna Holshouser at home.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Thursday, April 9 at 9:30am via ZOOM

Please look for a Zoom invite in your email.

Read Lesson 8.

Class facilitated by Betsy Burmeister.

Our Upcoming Host Week for Family Promise, 4/19-4/26: Interfaith Hospitality Network (Family Promise) had homeless families in the network when the local call to 'shelter in place' was made. Now, although no new families are being accepted during this crisis, Family Promise of Athens is committed to continue housing and caring for our currently enrolled families. At present these guests are in a motel and are receiving meals and any necessary transportation subsidies. The housing situation may change before our host week, but regardless of specifics, Covenant volunteers will be needed in some form. The needs may be financial contributions, or meal preparation, hosting, etc. as is more typical. We just don't know yet.

Thank you for your faithful participation in this ministry in the past. Please keep these vulnerable families in your prayers and watch the Covenanter for updates soon on how we can help Family Promise care for them during our upcoming host week.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS—April 6—12

M - John 12: 1-11

T - John 12: 20-36

W - Isaiah 52: 13-53 :12

Th - John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

F - John 18: 1-19: 42

Sat - John 19: 38-42

Sun - Matt. 28: 1-10

If you think you have the
coronavirus you
can
contact Piedmont Hospital
at 1-800-460-1119.



Piedmont Athens Regional is accepting donations of handmade, cloth masks from the community! If you'd like to donate, this is the preferred pattern:

www.statethelabel.com/pages/masks<<http://www.statethelabel.com/pages/masks>>.

We're using these masks for both patients and staff and will take as many as we can get! If you're ready to donate or have questions, reach out to the Piedmont Athens Regional cloth mask team: Elaine Cook (Elaine.Cook@piedmont.org<<mailto:Elaine.Cook@piedmont.org>>) or Dee Dee Risher (DeeDee.Risher@piedmont.org<<mailto:DeeDee.Risher@piedmont.org>>).

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Services: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

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. On one day last week- food was provided to 56 families (120 people).

Needless to say, our cupboards then were bare and Karen immediately placed an order. Thanks to Mark, Rindy, and a whole host of others, we continue to adapt and make changes in order to keep our volunteers safe and adhere to standards like social distancing.

For example, this week we will be trying the following process one of our volunteers dubbed the "Chick Fi La" approach:

Food will be bagged ahead of time and placed on tables in the fellowship hall. More square footage there allows for ease of social distancing.

Meat and cheese will be added at the time of distribution.

Neighbors in need of food will be instructed by our "parking lot attendant" to drive up to the side door of the fellowship hall.

Food bags will then be handed off to the neighbor.

We have masks, gloves and sanitizer for volunteers

Currently, Covenant's Food Pantry is still available on Tuesdays, 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:

Click the link below for an easy sign up or call or email Betsy Pless 540-1719 bppless@gmail.com

You can just sign up for 1 day, or for multiple days. 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: <https://signup.com/login/entry/611848298042>
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!

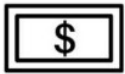
Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.



Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

HOW TO GIVE—We have a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation on the website. Click on this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/>. You will be directed to our donations button. Or on the website click on Online Giving. Our deepest thanks for your ongoing support and pledges towards our new year of ministry during our current stewardship campaign.

NEED SOME HELP?



Worried about bills, rent, or loans?

Need groceries or supplies?



Need delivery to you?

**Call: (844)423-6886
and press "1"**

or visit online: tiny.cc/reliefathens

We can't do this alone!
Can you help out a neighbor in need?

**Sign up to volunteer at
tiny.cc/athensmutualaid**

ATHENS MUTUAL AID NETWORK
#WeGotOurBlock

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #39

Anticipated Pledges \$347,835.00

Actual Pledges \$332,970.59

Thank you for your faithful giving!

As the Coronavirus continues to spread, so do fear and misinformation. Here are some simple actions that will help reduce your risk, and also reduce the risk of others.

1. **Wash your hands.** It may seem boring and "old news," but it works. Wash with clean running water and lather with soap; don't forget the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and also your nails. Scrub for at least 20 seconds – this is about the amount of time it takes to sing the Doxology. (How good it is to remember to praise God, even in the midst of this crisis!) If you use alcohol-based hand sanitizers, the gel must contain at least 60% alcohol, and this should also be done for about 20 seconds.
2. **Stock up.** Make sure you have at least a 30-day supply of prescriptions, as well as over-the-counter medicines for flu, food staples, and laundry detergent. For families with young children, buy sufficient diapers. You may also want to purchase bottled water.
3. **Develop a plan.** Planning prevents panic. Create an emergency checklist and action plan, and share with all family members. Be in contact with schools regarding their contingency plans, and think ahead about dealing with early dismissals or closures. Prepare for caring for elderly family members or those with special health concerns.
4. **Use common sense.** Get a flu shot; avoid people who are coughing and sneezing; don't make hospital visits unless absolutely necessary. Please note that health experts say face masks are fairly useless in preventing infection. If, however, someone has contracted the virus, then they should wear one to prevent spreading the illness. Get plenty of rest, eat healthily, and maintain a good exercise regimen.
5. **Keep calm and trust God.** Stress and anxiety can compromise your immune system. Don't fixate on the news; instead, feed your soul with God's word. In Psalm 46 we read: "God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...Be still, and know that I am God." Remember, too, that we are always called to serve others who are hurting and fearful; be open to situations where God can use you to be a calm and helpful presence in the lives of others. Let the love of Jesus be shared through us wherever it is most needed.

For more information, please visit the website of the Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/

Blessings,

Rev. Ed Rees
Chair, Disaster Preparedness Team PC (USA)