

THE COVENANTER May 10, 2020



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

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, May 10th :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

Prayer Concerns: Bob Brewster and family in the passing of his mother, Ruth on Friday, May 1; Steve Follin/Linda Rogers neighbor, Mike Malcom as he battles a malignant brain tumor; 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; Mike Swanson recovering at home from chemotherapy; Paula Zimdars recovering at home and awaiting radiation treatment ; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Ruth Brewster at Arbor Terrace #222; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; John & Elizabeth Brewer, & Anna Holshouser at home.



Presbyterian Women will meet on ZOOM on Thursday, May 14th at 9:30. Please read Lesson 9 and discover the difference between the Hebrew words chemdah (in Exodus) and ta'avah (in Exodus) as we study the tenth Love Word (Commandment).

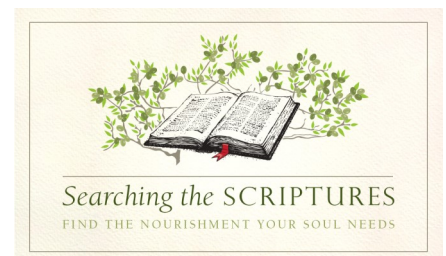
We will not have our Salad and Dessert Luncheon but we will have a short Birthday Offering Worship at the end of our lesson. Since 1922 P.W. have been funding mission projects through the Birthday Offering and one of this year's recipients is GAP Ministries in Augusta, GA. Please send a check to Covenant for a dollar for your age, or a quarter or any amount and designate it for the P.W. Birthday Offering. All women may participate! Thank you very much! *Marcia*

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS—May 11—17

Monday	Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16
Tuesday	Psalm 66: 8-20
Wednesday	I Peter 2: 2-10
Thursday	I Peter 3: 13-22
Friday	Acts 7: 55-60
Saturday	Acts 17: 22-31
Sunday	John 14



A Covid-19 Update...

As we move into the summer of the pandemic, we continue to hear stories from you about the impact of the coronavirus in your families, friendship circles, neighborhoods, and workplaces. We know that many of you would like to share your concerns and joys with your sisters and brothers in Christ at Covenant because you long for the strength and comfort that comes where "two or more are gathered (even virtually!) in my name, I am there." (Mt. 18:20) The disciples hiding in Jerusalem and meeting in fear behind closed doors experienced firsthand the reality of prayer that shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half sorrow.

Prayer, especially intercessory prayer - the Prayers of the People - has been such an important part of our worship service. Those prayers, the whispered, sometimes shouted, deepest longings of our hearts, have fashioned us into a caring congregation in unique and faithful ways over the years. Mark and I believe that those prayers have grabbed God's attention in unimaginable ways, and we want to continue prodding God to do the "God-thing" among us and our world.

To that end, we invite you to send via e-mail or snailmail, your prayer requests. We will do our best to incorporate these requests in our virtual worship services and most certainly in our weekly newsletter. Because we are restrained by privacy concerns which may have unforeseen legal ramifications, we will offer prayers for comfort and healing for named individuals who have consented to such requests. In other words, please secure permission from the person you wish us to lift up in prayer in our virtual worship services and let us know *in writing* of your request. Please send those requests electronically, kwetherington@covpresathens.org or through the mail, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605.

The ways we have chosen to strengthen "the ties that bind us" during this pandemic have encouraged Mark and me to think deeply about the whole new world of social media. The public nature of social media continues to raise questions for us about privacy and security, and we are doing what we can to protect the integrity of you and your loved ones as we fulfill what we believe to be our pastoral vows to "pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." (*Directory for Worship, W-4.04h*) We dearly hope that you will continue to call us to share what is on your hearts, but please know that we will urge you to submit your prayer requests in writing when you ask to have the names of loved ones lifted up in prayer during our virtual worship services. It is not our intention to create an additional burden for you in this extraordinary time. We share your laments about the subtle and overt ways this pandemic appears to be challenging our understanding of the nature of the community gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. With the ground constantly shifting beneath our feet, Mark and I continue to grow in gratitude for who you are and what you do as God's beloved ones.

May you be filled with the peace and joy of the Easter season today and always... *Rindy*



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.

Thank you for your faithful giving!

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #44

Anticipated Pledges \$392,429.23

Actual Pledges \$386,759.52

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Little Food Pantry

We continue to seek out new and faithful ways to respond to the needs of the food insecure and homeless friends in our community. UGA students built a Little Food Pantry on our church campus. It is located outside the doors of our fellowship hall. Little Food Pantries are scattered throughout Athens, and their purpose is to respond to the emergency food needs of hungry folks. We encourage you to help us keep our Little Food Pantry stocked with pop-top single serve canned goods that do not require cooking, peanut butter and jelly, packaged crackers, healthy snack items, and small, individual personal hygiene items. Please remember everything must be sealed to prevent ants.



The Covenant coffee closet still has lots of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate ! Although the regular office hours and services are suspended, the church is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Food Pantry from 1 - 4 PM. The neighbors usually come to the Food Pantry one at a time, with lots of time between visitors so you can come in and get some coffee without worrying about contact with a crowd of people. In this time of uncertainty, let's not forget the hard working farmers and their families who depend on the Equal Exchange folks to buy their coffee at a Fair Price !!!



During the Covid-19 crisis we are scheduling online opportunities to grow in discipleship. Church school classes for all ages, midweek studies, and youth group programs from Montreat are available online, and the links to these opportunities which require ZOOM invitations may be viewed weekly on our church website: covpresathens.org. Please make it a habit to check the website often for links to our weekly newsletter and other communications, online giving, and our Sunday morning virtual worship services!



If you need a helping hand or (just someone to reach out to you) during "Sheltering in Place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please contact Congregational Care Ministry Team and we will do our best to be of assistance. Let us know of your needs by either calling Luanne Rigsby at (706) 769-1066 (home) or (706) 224-3828 (cell) or emailing her at luannerigsby@gmail.com or Don Bower at dbower@uga.edu.

The Congregational Care Ministry Team will be meeting by ZOOM on **Tuesday, May 12, 2020**, at 7:30 p.m. Invitations will be sent to all ministry team members, but if you would like to join us, please let Luanne Rigsby know.



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. For the month of March 331 families were served by the wonderful volunteers of Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry.

we will be following the 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. (if available)

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.

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

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.*

For the month of April Covenant distributed food to over 480 families. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time and those who contributed financially to help Covenant keep feeding the food insecure .