

THE COVENANTER May 24, 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 24th :

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

Prayer Concerns: Shari Cobb's nephew Alex France upon the death of his wife, Rebekkah Parker France. They have a ten year-old son, James; family and friends in the recent passing of Mike Malcom, neighbor of Steve Follin/Linda Rogers; Mike Swanson hospitalized for infection treatment; John, Mary Sue, & Elizabeth Brewer with health issues; the Sardis Presbyterian Church in Jefferson; 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; Paula Zimdars undergoing radiation treatment ; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; & Anna Holshouser at home.



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.

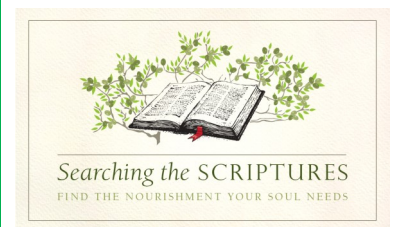
Let us know of your needs by either calling Luanne Riggsby at (706) 769-1066 (home) or (706) 224-3828 (cell) or emailing her at luanneriggsby@gmail.com or Don Bower at dbower@uga.edu.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
www.covpresathens.org
covenantp@covpresathens.org

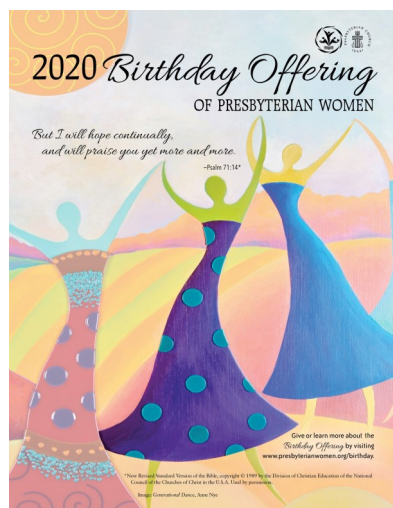
DAILY BIBLE READINGS—May 25—31

Monday	Psalms 104: 24-34, 35b
Tuesday	Numbers 11: 24-30
Wednesday	Genesis 11: 1-9
Thursday	I Corinthians 12: 3b-13
Friday	John 7: 37-39
Saturday	John 20: 19-23
Sunday	Acts 2: 1-21



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 #45
Anticipated Pledges \$410,266.93
Actual Pledges \$406,220.52
Thank you for your faithful giving!



Ladies of the Congregation - the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women was born in 1922 when a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church challenged each member to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" for Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Japan. Since then, Presbyterian Women have contributed more than \$36 million to help improve lives at home and around the world. This year \$135,000 will go to GAP Ministries of Augusta, GA where Steve and Lola Bell now live. Please send any amount to Covenant Presbyterian Church and designate it for P.W. Birthday Offering before June 1. Thank you! Blessings, Marcia

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. Small individual personal hygiene items (ie: soap, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, and shampoos) in a ziplock bag with a granola bar of some kind is also needed. Please remember everything must be sealed to prevent ant infestations...



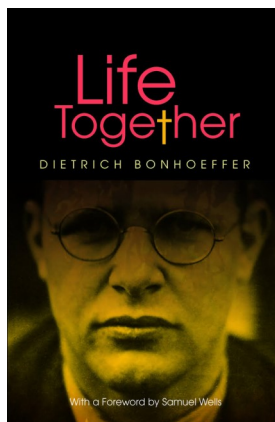
The Covenant coffee closet still has lots of coffee, tea, and hot chocolate ! Although the regular office hours and services are suspended, the church is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Food Pantry from 1 - 4 PM. *Please call the church office at 706-548-2756 and place your order and when you would like to pick it up. A food pantry volunteer will hand your order as you drive through the parking lot.* 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 !!!

Any questions please contact Sandy Whitney at sandrawhitneyo8@gmail.com.



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!

Engaging with Bonhoeffer: A Zoom Book Study of Life Together



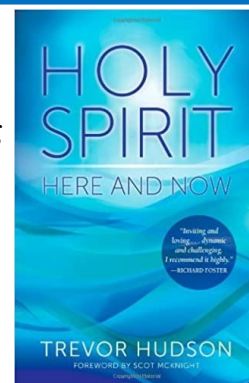
Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor and theologian whose radical commitment to the gospel of Jesus placed him squarely in conflict with the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler. Before his execution by the Nazis in 1945, Bonhoeffer helped to organize a small underground seminary that sought to offer a vision of the Christian life that was a clear alternative to the hyper-nationalism blessed and practiced by the majority of German Christians. First published in 1939, *Life Together* is a slender but potent volume that captures the fruit of that experiment in Christian living at a time when the church was under tremendous pressure to compromise its faith for the sake of survival in a fascist climate. Perhaps it is an appropriate time for us to listen again to Bonhoeffer's witness and wisdom.

I hope you will consider joining me for this **five week** book study via Zoom on **Wednesday evenings at 7 pm**, starting **May 27th** and concluding on **June 24th**. We will keep our discussions to a one hour time limit. I will send out a pdf file of the readings as close to one week in advance as possible. Alternatively, you can order your own copy of the book at relatively low cost. While I know Amazon is cheaper and faster, please consider supporting our local, independent bookstores! If you would like to be a part of this discussion, please send me your email address asap so I can include you in the Zoom invitation. I look forward to reflecting with you on our life together in Christ.

Facilitated by Mark Harper.

The Emmaus Road class facilitated by Bob Trouteaud will begin a study of the work of the Holy Spirit using South African pastor and pastoral therapist's book, *Holy Spirit Here and Now*. The Holy Spirit dwells in us, according to Hudson, and invites us to move beyond "religion as usual" into an adventure of restoration, renewal, and transformation. The Spirit brings about a renovation of our lives: emotions, body, soul, relationships, vocation. Hudson shares his personal journey and offers practical advice to help discerners experience the Holy Spirit's movement in their lives. Join us on ZOOM,

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. for a lively discussion about how you can invite the Holy Spirit into every area of your life...here and now!

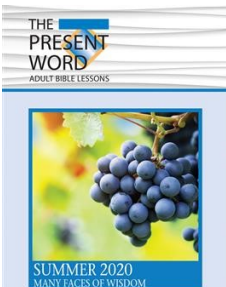


An Update About Our Virtual Ministries for Children and Adults



This week, our young people, preschoolers - 5th graders, will receive in the mail a Pentecost envelope filled with activities to help them learn more about the biblical story of the early church in Acts. We invite you to help your little ones with these crafts and watch with them the YouTube story of the celebration of the birth of the church!

In two weeks families of preschoolers-5th graders will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual VBS experience. Boxes of materials and a list of supplies that may be found in your home for this 5-day camp, will be available for pick-up during our drive-thru Food Pantry hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. You will receive an e-mail letting you know when your family box will be ready. Questions? Call or text Rindy Trouteaud, 678.231.7556.



The Summer 2020 copies of *The Present Word* curriculum for adults have arrived! If you would like a copy so that you may participate in the Sunday virtual Upper Room class hosted by James Malone and facilitated by various class volunteers, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your book during our drive-thru Food Pantry hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.

Let's Lift Our Voices Together!

As the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions to shelter-in-place continue, we would like to make available copies of our hymnal, *Glory to God*, for those who would like to join in the singing of hymns during our virtual worship services on You Tube. If you would like a copy to keep in your home, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your book during our drive-thru Food Pantry hours, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m.



There will be a ZOOM Stated Session Meeting, Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30pm. If you would like to join this meeting please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org for an invitation.



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 .