

THE COVENANTER
May 31, 2020

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

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, May 31st :

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

Prayer Concerns: Anne Page recovering from hip surgery Monday, 5/25; Cardee & Jeremy Kilpatrick as Cardee transitions to hospice care at home; 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 ; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; & Anna Holshouser at home.

**Thursday, June 4th at 5:30 pm: Texting Scavenger Hunt**

The Stone family is sharing one of their favorite physical-distancing family games!!! Sign-up by e-mailing Kay Brooks (kbrooks1471@charter.net) your team name (teams of 1-3) and texting phone number (or e-mail if you don't have a texting option). Please register no later than Thursday, June 4th by

3:00 pm, so you can review the complete directions. In brief, you will receive a text (or e-mail) listing 15-20 items to find. Your team will race to find the items, organize them, take a picture, and send the picture back for judging. The first team to submit all items correctly in the picture wins!

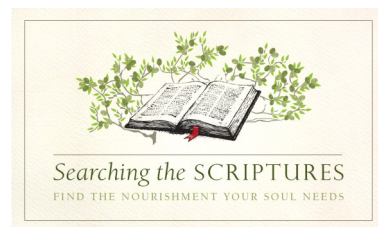
Be Looking for other fun virtual activities throughout the summer.

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—June 1—7

Monday	Psalm 13
Tuesday	Psalm 42
Wednesday	Psalm 43
Thursday	Psalm 12
Friday	Psalm 90
Saturday	Psalm 116: 1-15
Sunday	1 Corinthians 12: 21-26



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!

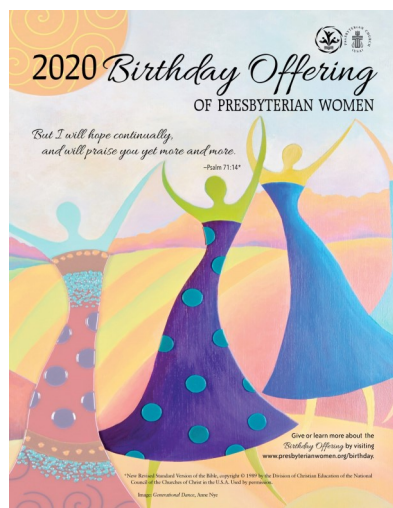
FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #47

Anticipated Pledges \$419,185.77

Actual Pledges \$415,397.52

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.

Dear Covenant Family and Friends,

The story of Pentecost begins with the all the believers being “together in on place.” Oh, don’t we wish! Instead we find ourselves sheltering-in-place physically apart from the people and this place that we love. Our hearts ache even as we hope and trust that God is at work, opening a new day and way forward.

As we pray, as we gather in many places virtually, please know that your session is longing for reunion and re-gathering as much as you are. But more than that, they are actively studying, discussing, listening, and praying over a wide array of resources regarding COVID-19 on your behalf so that we can make responsible decisions about re-opening when that time comes.

At our most recent meeting this past Tuesday, we decided that the time for re-opening is still something we cannot clearly see. We have discerned that Covenant will not be open for any face-to-face gatherings *through this summer*. The session will take up the question of re-opening again in September, while continuing to meet and carefully consider news and updates regarding the pandemic and best practices throughout the summer months. We will also be posting links to useful information in the newsletter and on the Covenant website, so please stay tuned, stay informed, and stay safe.

While I know many of you – many of us – would rather be hearing something about the “not too distant future,” I hope we will continue to hear the good news that God is with us and guiding our life together through this wilderness of uncertainty. You are beloved! And you are not alone!

Grace and peace, *Mark*



Piedmont Urgent Care is now offering both Covid-19 tests, and antibody tests for everyone, with test results available in 6 hours. Please contact Piedmont Urgent Care for further information.

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.

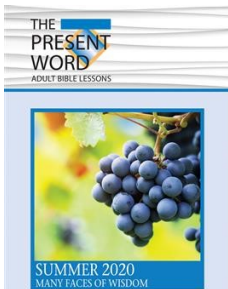




During the Covid-19 crisis we are scheduling online opportunities to grow in discipleship. Church school classes for all ages, midweek studies, and youth group programs from Montreat are available online, and the links to these opportunities which require ZOOM invitations may be viewed weekly on our 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!

An Update About Our Virtual Ministries for Children and Adults

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 YouTube. 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.





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.*

Wear Orange

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

FRIDAY | JUNE 5 | 7 - 8 PM
VIRTUAL ZOOM GATHERING
RSVP: tinyurl.com/wearorangeathens

Join us as we honor victims and survivors of gun violence, hear from local leaders, and share projects to spread the Wear Orange message.

Athens-Clarke County Mayor Kelly Girtz will join us to speak about the proclamation he signed for National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Bring your crafts, wear something orange, and get ready to kick off a weekend of sharing the Wear Orange message.

Please RSVP via QR
code for the Zoom
call-in info



tinyurl.com/wearorangeathens

Join Us!
Resources on
reverse

we can
end gun violence

Sponsored by Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Learn more at wearorange.org