

THE COVENANTER  
July 19, 2020

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

Join us for Worship. Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, July 19th :

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

**Prayer Concerns:** Jim Verbrugge's sister, Lorraine Van Nieuwenhuizen, passed away peacefully Monday, July 13, 2020. Lorraine was living at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Luverne, Minnesota. She visited Athens and Covenant Church often and made friends here. Kathryn Fowler's cousin, Tony Hodge with COVID 19 and is experiencing severe respiratory difficulty; Anna Holshouser recovering well at home from heart valve replacement; Nat Whitney and all nurses and doctors at Piedmont Athens Regional and St. Mary's Hospital as they are full; Our Nation, for protesters, police, elected officials and church leaders; John, Mary Sue, & Elizabeth Brewer with health issues; 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; Ginger Davis-Beck undergoing cancer treatments; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112 .

DAILY BIBLE READINGS— July 20—26

Monday Psalm 135  
 Tuesday Psalm 145  
 Wednesday Romans 8: 26-39  
 Thursday I Kings 3: 5-12  
 Friday Psalm 97  
 Saturday Matthew 13: 31-33  
 Sunday Matthew 13: 44-52



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road  
 Athens, Georgia 30605  
 706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344  
[www.covpresathens.org](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)

For those who requested pledge envelopes they have arrived. You can pickup your box of envelopes at the church office Tuesday, or Thursday 10am – 12noon. Or if you prefer we can mail the envelopes to you. Please contact Karen at [kwetherington@covpresathens.org](mailto:kwetherington@covpresathens.org) or 706-548-2756 to request a mailout. Thanks !



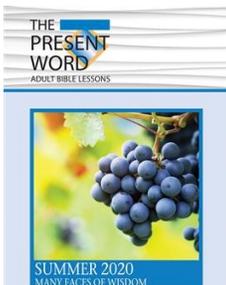


During the Covid-19 crisis we are scheduling online opportunities to grow in discipleship. Church school classes for all ages, midweek studies, and youth group programs from Montreat are available online, and the links to these opportunities which require ZOOM invitations may be viewed

weekly on our church website: [covpresathens.org](http://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!

**The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship** has a series of virtual events and learning opportunities for adults and high schoolers this summer. Every Friday, 1:15 p.m., peace activists from around the world gather for casual conversation, updates and connection. A virtual book club will begin in August and the book that will be read and discussed is *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi. Please consider joining these discussion groups which promise to be lively and engaging! <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/events/virtual-book-club-how-to-be-an-antiracist-by-ibram-x-kendi/>

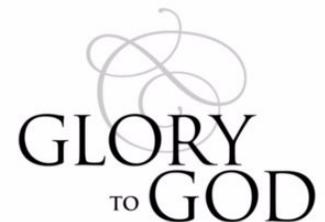
After exploring virtual VBS options, we will make available for families of preschoolers - 5th graders, weekly activities and resources created by Illustrated Ministry, *Compassion, Learning to Love Like God*. Envelopes of stories and activities will be mailed weekly to families. Questions? Please contact Rindy Trouteaud, [rindy@trouteaud.com](mailto:rindy@trouteaud.com).

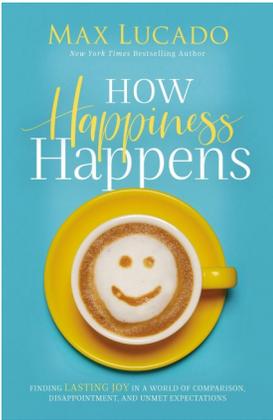


The Summer 2020 copies of *The Present Word* curriculum for adults have arrived! If you would like a copy so that you may participate in the Sunday virtual Upper Room class hosted by James Malone and facilitated by various class volunteers, please contact the church office to arrange a pick-up of your 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.





The Journey Class will begin a new ZOOM Sunday School class using Max Lucado's book, "How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations". The class begins this **Sunday, July 12, 9:45 a.m.**, and copies of the book may be purchased from Amazon or your local independent bookstore.

*These are tough times. Amid global isolation, economic downturn, and social unrest, could you use a dose of happy right about now? Learn the secret to lasting joy that will endure through any season of life. In How Happiness Happens, Max Lucado shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, one that produces reliable joy amidst any life circumstance. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this book presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out.*

*In this book, Max will help you discover:*

*Happiness is not selfish*

*People are a joy*

*There is strength in choice*

*Happiness happens when you give it away*

*What are you waiting for? Open the unexpected door to joy and walk in. There's no better day than today to start your happiest life yet.*

Various class members plan to share responsibility for leading discussion by signing up and taking turns. Steve Rathbun will continue as technical host. Check the church website next week for ZOOM instructions!

**Members of the Covenant** congregation are invited to submit nominations for the session. Nominations must be received by July 15, and should be sent to any of the three members of the nominating committee: Helen Epps - 706-769-8938 or [eppshelen@gmail.com](mailto:eppshelen@gmail.com)

Patti Huberty - 706-549-5038 or [pattih720@gmail.com](mailto:pattih720@gmail.com)

Bill Barstow - 706-546-7495 or 706-614-9078 or



*With  
Heartfelt  
Thanks*

Dear Covenant Family,

Thank you so much for all the wonderful cards and notes. It has helped us through a lonely and difficult time to have the love, support and backing of so many wonderful members of Covenant Presbyterian. We shall overcome and one day, we will all be together again! *Paige and Colin*

Mike Swanson died peacefully this week in presence of his beloved wife, Paige Cummings, after a protracted struggle with an aggressive cancer. The two of them made plans for a celebration of his life once it is safe to gather in large groups. It was Mike's wish to have his family and friends honor his memory with gifts to the Athens Nurses Clinic, an extraordinary medical ministry to our neediest neighbors in Athens. Paige Cummings serves as its executive director, and over the years, Mike spent hundreds of hours supporting Paige in her efforts to address the medical needs of our vulnerable, medically fragile friends needing healing. When the Clinic's largest donor was unable to continue its financial support of this critical ministry due to the coronavirus, it distressed Mike greatly. He felt that the community safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors was torn, and from his hospital bed, he was brainstorming with Paige for other sources of funding. For those who would like to honor Mike's commitment to our vulnerable neighbors, donations may be made in his memory to the **Athens Nurses Clinic, 240 North Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**, or to Covenant Presbyterian Church (earmarked Athens Nurses Clinic), 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA



While we shelter in place, Jesus will continue visiting us in the most unusual of places! On no particular schedule, a plastic figurine of Jesus, *Flat Jesus*, may show up on your doorstep or in your mailbox, and you are invited to create a scene anywhere you choose, include your family, pets, anything you'd like, and *Flat Jesus*, take a photo using your cellphone or some device, and send it to the church office Karen Wetherington will post it on the church's FaceBook page, and we'll have fun guessing where, and maybe who (if you disguise yourselves!) *Flat Jesus* may be visiting. *Travels with Flat Jesus* will be a wonderfully creative, quirky, fun way to stay connected during this season of quarantine. Once *Flat Jesus* visits you, you may "send him packing" to the home of another Covenant friend.

**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](http://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!

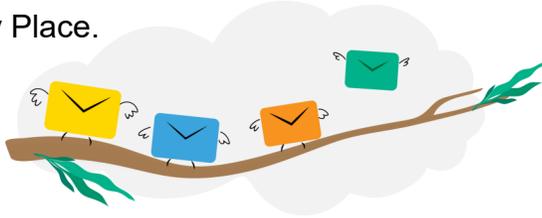
**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #52**  
Anticipated Pledges \$463,780.00  
Actual Pledges \$461,484.38  
*Thank you for your faithful giving!*

Ms. Anne has returned to Avery Place.

**Anne Page**

**124 Avery Place, Room #145**

**Winterville, GA 30683**



**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 [sandrawhitney08@gmail.com](mailto:sandrawhitney08@gmail.com).





When Sharon Edwards started working as the Covenant secretary in August of 1981, she shared a tiny office area with the Rev. Jim Bowden in the corner of the fellowship hall that is closest to what is now the building's main entrance. In those days, there was no Christian education wing or designated sanctuary space. Everything happened in the fellowship hall: worship, Sunday School, covered dish suppers, along with all the weekly administrative work. There were no cables connecting computers, or wifi modems blinking off and on. Sharon typed the worship bulletin on a typewriter and copied it on a mimeograph machine set up in a nearby closet. Later she and Jim moved their work area to

the other side of the fellowship hall and the roomier area that these days houses tables, chairs, and a hot water heater. From there, she had a front-row seat as the ministries of the Covenant congregation expanded along with its campus. For the next 26 years, Sharon would faithfully serve our church family as a wonderfully adaptable and compassionate colleague and administrator.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, Sharon retired from her second job as the church receipts bookkeeper, a position she has held and carried out with remarkable care and attention to detail since 2007 and the arrival of Karen Wetherington as Covenant's new office administrator. I'm not nearly as good with numbers as Sharon, but by my count, that adds up to over 39 years of friendship and exquisite service at this little outpost of God's kingdom in Athens. And let me be very clear: regardless of job titles, Sharon has fundamentally been a partner in ministry, diligently reflecting Christ's love through the daily work of answering phones and greeting members and neighbors, reminding the pastors of all the things that we forget, and stewarding not only our financial resources but the institutional memory of this blessed place.

Thank you, Sharon Edwards for all the years of offering your gifts so freely to Covenant and on behalf of God's Beloved Community. You have made us better than we would be if the Holy Spirit had not led you our way. And we look forward to celebrating with you properly – meaning, with good food! – once we are able to gather again.

Grace and peace and much love,

*Mark*

If you would like to offer Sharon a word of personal thanks, please send her at note at :

*193 Arthur Circle, Athens, 30605!*





## 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.*

*Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry will be starting up again on Tuesday, June 16th after taking a week off to reassess our safety procedures. New procedures will be in place in order to keep our volunteers and neighbors safe. All current Food Pantry volunteers have received specific information about these new procedures. Please see below information if you are interested in volunteering with the Emergency Food Pantry.*

*Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.”*

### 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](mailto:bppless@gmail.com)

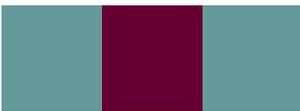
You can just sign up for 1 day, or for multiple days. You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!

**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 June Covenant served **312** food insecure households. This number includes 140 children and 48 senior citizens. Total number of individual people served was 808. *Thank you Covenant Volunteers and all those who have contributed so generously to this ministry!*