

THE COVENANTER

August 02, 2020

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

Join us for Holy Communion with whatever elements you have available.
Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, August 2nd :

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

Prayer Concerns: Emily Ballard-Myer and family, as she will be moving to California come September; Robert & Sonja Holden in their recent move to Tucson, AZ, nearer her mother; 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; Anna Holshouser recovering well at home; Ginger Davis-Beck undergoing cancer treatments; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112 .

DAILY BIBLE READINGS— Aug. 03—9

Monday	I Kings 19: 9-18
Tuesday	Psalms 85
Wednesday	Psalms 86
Thursday	Psalms 87
Friday	Psalms 88
Saturday	Romans 10: 5-15
Sunday	Matthew 14: 22-33



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
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covenantp@covpresathens.org



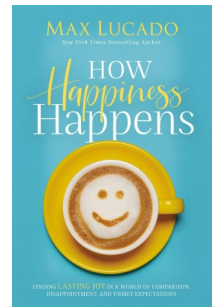
If you need a helping hand or (just someone to reach out to you) during "Sheltering in Place due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please contact Congregational Care Ministry Team and we will do our best to be of assistance. Let us know of your needs by either calling Luanne Rigsby at (706) 769-1066 (home) or (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!

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/>

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 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!

The Covenant Re-Opening Task Force had its first meeting via Zoom on Thursday, July 30. The members of the Task Force include Chris Wilson, Rich Reaves, Tamara Stam, Jennifer Frey, Pam Knox, Mark Harper, Rindy Trouteaud, and Julie Bower, chair.

During the month of July, the Task Force members shared with each other a wealth of pertinent COVID-19 articles and guidelines from a variety of sources in the scientific community, as well as from PCUSA and others from the faith community. This time of study has provided and will continue to provide significant insight into the considerations that must be made as we consider when and how to re-open our church facility. The clear acknowledgment is that the local and national COVID-19 scene is changing weekly, if not daily, and the rate of infection is at a level that steers us from projecting a safe re-entry date at this time. *The Session plans to revisit the conversation of a re-opening date at their September meeting.*

The Building and Grounds Committee is engaged in on-going considerations of the facility's air filtration system. There is yet to be concrete data enabling a decision regarding any modifications to our current HVAC system. Given that the COVID virus is highly transmittable by air circulation, B&G is carefully examining all aspects of this issue. We anticipate that schools and other entities may provide relevant information during the early Fall season, as groups of people begin to gather inside once again.

The NEGA Presbytery has established a COVID19 Task Force, on which Mark Harper and Rindy Trouteaud serve, and Mark will keep us informed of any resources or guidelines that may inform aspects of our work. At this time, we know of no Presbyterian churches in our area who are planning to re-open anytime soon.

We recognize that a large number of our congregants are in the COVID highly-vulnerable group. We are sensitive to a re-opening date that is deemed safe for our age demographics.

Our Task Force will meet monthly. We will continue to gather wisdom from as many sources as we can. As local COVID cases decline, and as our community gets a better grip on how to gather safely, the Session can begin projecting a date to resume worship in our facility. In the interim our Task Force will target how to get the building ready and how to plan for safe and meaningful worship services. We will outline these issues as we hone them. At the present, we have far more questions than we have answers. We realize that the higher the risk factor, the greater will be the number of protocols, modifications and limitations to our Covenant activities.

Again, this was our first meeting. We will provide an update monthly, following each meeting. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns, or to share resources that you think might be helpful to our work. We all look forward to getting back to Covenant!

Julie Bower, Chair. bower.julie@gmail.com



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Family Promise Volunteers,

A **Big Shout Out** and thank you to all of you who volunteered last week to help with Covenant's rotation at Athens Church of Christ. You made it possible to cover all the slots and provide wonderful meals to the families. We couldn't have done it without you!! The sign up genius link is included if you would consider helping in the coming weeks. Covenant has finished its rotation but other churches in the upcoming weeks could use some help (and some of them pitched in during our week). If you are able to sign up remember during the day it is only required that one person be on the shift and overnight hosting requires 2 individuals. Also be sure to type in Covenant Presbyterian in the comment section so the host church can be in touch with you if need be. Thank you for sharing your time and love with these families, *Susan and Randy*



Click on this link to access signup [Hospitality to neighbors](#)

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 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 #04
Anticipated Pledges \$34,615.40
Actual Pledges \$37,338.00
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Needed: A bed for a neighbor in transition Please contact Mark Harper at 706-207-5042 or mharper@covpresathens.org. Thank you!



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.





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

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.

UPDATE: Starting Tuesday, August 4th, the **Tuesday Food Pantry** hours will change to **5PM-7PM**. This is being done with the thought that there may be people who work and are also in need of assistance from the Food Pantry. There also may be volunteers who work but would like to volunteer. The Thursday Food Pantry hours will remain the same: 1PM-4PM. A hearty THANK-YOU to the many volunteers who help feed our neighbors.

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
bpless@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.

