

## THE COVENANTER August 09, 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, August 9th :

<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. 10—16

Monday	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8
Tuesday	Psalms 67
Wednesday	Psalms 68
Thursday	Psalms 69
Friday	Psalms 70
Saturday	Romans 11: 1-2, 29-32
Sunday	Matthew 15: 21-28



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)



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](mailto:luannerigsby@gmail.com) or Don Bower at [dbower@uga.edu](mailto: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

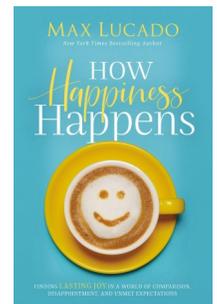
weekly on our church website: [covpresathens.org](http://covpresathens.org). Please make it a habit to check the website often for links to our weekly newsletter and other communications, online giving, and our Sunday morning virtual worship services!

**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/>

**EMMAUS ROAD CLASS**—Beginning this Sunday the Emmaus Road Class embarks on a seven-week study of the Book of Acts. We will look at Acts not just as a story of the church's growth or the spread of the gospel, but also as a way of discerning how God, the Holy Spirit was at work during the apostles' journeys of faith. As we travel with them on their journeys we may find instead that "this journey more closely resembles *"A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"*.

(Acts of the Apostles Commentary, Beverly Gaventa. Our first lesson will cover chapters 1 and 2 and you are invited to read them using whatever version of the Bible you own. Please join our worthy conversation on Sunday mornings at 10am. For a ZOOM invitation please contact Bob Trouteaud email [bob@trouteaud.com](mailto:bob@trouteaud.com)

**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. 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!



## **Financial Summary for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year**

### **Pam Knox, Treasurer, for the Finance Ministry Team**

I am pleased to provide this brief overview of the fiscal year which ran from July 2019 through June 2020. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

For the year, Covenant received \$461,484.38 in pledges, \$22,839.83 in non-pledged income, and \$24,724.99 in other income, which included rent and a gift of \$20,000 from Central to Covenant. The total income for the year was \$509,049.20. The amount that was originally pledged was \$463,780.00, which means that we received 99.5% of what was originally promised. The Finance Ministry Team is deeply grateful for the faithful financial support of the congregation during these unprecedented times and appreciate the congregation's willingness to adjust to new ways of giving as we quickly moved online.

The total expenses for the 2019-2020 fiscal year were \$440,662.15, which is considerably lower than our budget for the year. This is due in large part to the end of all weekly in-person activities due to the pandemic, which resulted in savings in printing, food, and utilities. All regular personnel were fully funded to continue to provide worship via YouTube and to keep the office running remotely. The net surplus for the year was \$68,387.05.

I will provide a separate article on the 2020-2021 budget which was approved by Session in next week's newsletter. However, I did want to mention that because of a shortfall of income between the pledged amounts for 2020-2021 and the budget requested by the ministry teams, Session approved the use of some of our surplus for this year to be applied to some activities in 2020-2021. It will be designated as special temporary restricted accounts to cover up to \$10,000 for the purchase of a digital piano, \$4,000 for a mission trip, \$4,500 for two interns for the music program, \$6,000 for the Pastor's Contingency Fund to meet ongoing needs of our community neighbors, \$8,500 for Montreat, and \$12,000 for the Capital Reserve/Long Term Maintenance account, for a total of \$45,000. Anything not spent from these temporary accounts in 2020-2021 will be moved to the general fund at the end of the year. The remainder of 2019-2020's surplus will also remain in the general fund as we usually do.

Thank you again for all of the service you provide to Covenant as well as your faithful giving!

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](#)



The Athens Nurses Clinic would like to thank Covenant Presbyterian Church for graciously hosting our Diabetic Prevention Program. For seven months, individuals from the east side of Athens who were at known risk for diabetes met weekly, discussed disease symptoms, nutritional needs, exercise, stress reduction. Collectively, the group lost almost 10% of their body weight, and self-reported improvements in diet and exercise. Non-group members occasionally dropped by and participated, planning to join the next class. Unfortunately, COVID ended our meetings, and many of those involved were not able to participate in ZOOM meetings. We pray they are still working their program and will stay healthy. But thank you to Covenant for providing an east side location, so we can spread our health education programs here. *Paige Cummings*, Director



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 #05  
Anticipated Pledges \$43,269.23  
Actual Pledges \$40,619.93  
*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](mailto: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 zip lock 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).





## 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?

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

**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!

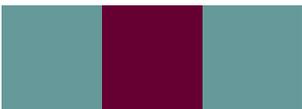
**Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:**

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 July Covenant Volunteers served 380 families, including 197 children and 65 senior adults. Thank Covenant Volunteers and those who so generously support this ministry with your finances and prayers.*