

THE COVENANTER
September 27, 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, September 27:

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

TODAY—Sunday, Sept. 27. we welcome Christin Johnson Norman as guest speaker. Christin is a minister member of the NEGA Presbytery. Before returning to Athens she served as a pastor in Sacramento, CA. Currently she is the director of Children's ministry at Oconee Presbyterian. Christin is married to Will Norman the pastor of Presbyterian Student Center at UGA.

Prayer Concerns: Julie Bower and family in the passing of her mother; Dan Stoneburner recovering from heart catherization and a possible stent at Piedmont; Deb Agostini as she begins a new job; Luanne Rigsby recovering from rotator cuff surgery; Shirley Hunt in hospital at Piedmont; Bill Lindstrom struggling with health issues; Murphy Davis (Open Door Community) in hospice care; Our Nation, for protesters, police, elected officials and church leaders; 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.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
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covenantp@covpresathens.org

Daily Bible Readings Sept 27—Oct. 4

M - Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 T - Psalm 19: 1-14
W - Psalm 20 Th—Psalm 24
F - Psalm 25 Sat - Philipians 3: 4b-14
Sun - Matthew 21: 33-46



"A Song in Our Heart!"

Advent Devotional 2020

One of the common refrains that we've been hearing a lot during the pandemic is, "I have no idea what day it is anymore!" Our sense of time and our daily rhythms have gone up in smoke, even if the virus has not.

All of which means that we might as well be talking about Advent, right? Believe it or not, it really is time to start thinking about that beautiful season of anticipation and waiting, a period of weeks when we really can reclaim each day and look for hints of God's presence.

For many years, Covenant has marked Advent by listening for God's Word through your voices and your words, all compiled into an Advent Devotional booklet. This year's Advent Devotional is entitled "A Song in Our Hearts," which somehow seems fitting since the necessity of social distancing this year has made it impossible to sing our songs of faith in person, and in the sanctuary.

Once again we are asking all who wish to contribute a reflection to sign up for one day during the Advent season. This year the text for some days will feature a passage from scripture while others will be a hymn or spiritual. If you would like to write in response to one of these song options, Karen will email you the lyrics to the song listed. Most come from our Glory to God hymnal, so if you have a copy at home you can access the verses directly.

Thank you in advance for contributing to our journey of hope, a journey propelled by God's Spirit and the songs of our hearts.

Click on this link to signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-asongin>

Calling all High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers!

Our youth group year is gearing up, and during this time of sheltering in place we are planning events that enable us to connect with one another in safe, responsible ways. This year we are focusing on the theme of racism and we're planning monthly events that bring us together...such as viewing a movie or ZOOMing a guest speaker and then talking about what's been happening in our lives, communities, country, and world afterwards. We're also scheduling another monthly event...maybe something fun, possibly a service project. E-mails will be sent to parents of high schoolers and middle schoolers this week explaining how we hope to enrich the spiritual lives of our young people in this season of sheltering in place. In the meantime, our first event will be Sunday, Oct. 4 when we will view and talk about the movie, *The Hate U Give*. <http://covpresathens.org/wp/virtual-ministries/youths-virtual-ministries/>

The acoustic grand is replaces needs a new home. It is a Baldwin grand piano built in 1942, a stellar era of American piano production. The cabinet is in excellent shape as is the frame, metal plate, and sound board. About 10-14 hours of maintenance and some new parts are required to achieve ship shape condition. Once in good shape, it current market value is in the neighborhood of \$4500.00. A consistent climate environment will go a long way to maintain the upgraded condition of the instrument. The piano's dimensions: length 7 feet; width—5 feet The worship ministry team is directing this initial announcement about the piano to Covenant members only. Inquiries may be directed to Dick Zimdars at 706-354-8381 or zpear@bellsouth.net.



The session has scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 11 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a report from the nominating committee and vote on it's proposed slate of candidates for our 2021 class of elders. According to our polity other names may be submitted for nomination if the person being nominated agrees to stand for office. The following members make up the proposed slate of candidates:

- Jennifer Frey (serving a second term)**
- Clayton Adams**
- Kathy Boardman**
- Linda Koehler**

The meeting will be conducted virtually through the ZOOM format. Further instructions about how to participate, along with an email invitation, will be sent out soon. In the meantime, please mark October 11 at 11 a.m. on your calendar.

We are extremely grateful for the hard, persistent work of this year's nominating committee: Helen Epps, Patti Huberty, and Bill Barstow.



The Journey Class (Church School) is gearing up to choose new topics and explore possible books to read. If you would like to be added to the email discussion list and receive Zoom video links to join in on Sunday mornings at 9:45am please email Valerie Stone (informal group secretary) at [valeriefreystone @ gmail.com](mailto:valeriefreystone@gmail.com).



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|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jere Bowden | 11 Jimmy Shealy | 25 Sue Goodyear |
| Diane Davies | 12 Ellen Stoneburner | 26 Juanita Gilbert |
| 2 Charles Cantrell | Timothy Simpson | 29 Valerie Douylliez |
| Isaac Ritzler | 14 Rose Kisaalita | |
| 3 Mike Hale | 18 Linda Rogers | |
| 5 Joseph Page | 19 Charles Martin | |
| 6 Bill Barstow | 20 Jason Braswell | |
| 8 Kathryn Fowler | 21 Marcia Page | |
| Shirley Reinert | 24 Tamara Stam | |
| 9 Heidi Wolfe | Kathy Boardman | |



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Graduates Luncheon

Tuesday, October 13, 12 noon

What have you been up to lately?

Join us for a ZOOM lunch and conversation
about your newest pandemic project/endeavor!

If you'd like a ZOOM invitation, please contact our Graduates Coordinator, Betsy Pless, bppless@gmail.com. She will forward the link to you the week of our event so that the link doesn't get lost in your e-mail!



Let's celebrate Halloween AND serve our neighbors! Our Fellowship Ministry Team has come up with some fun, creative, VIRTUAL ways of connecting with each other and reaching out to our neighbors in need. During the month of October when spooky, unexpected things may happen, we are calling all bakers and would-be bakers to bake and decorate Halloween-themed cookies to bring to the Fellowship Hall by Wednesday, Oct. 21 so that our Food Pantry volunteers may hand them out to our neighbors in our weekly food distribution. But before you package those cookies, take a "selfie" of you and your creations and send them to Karen Wetherington so that she may post them on our church Face Book page. An unbiased (meaning hungry) team of judges will determine the most creative entry and deliver a one-of-a-kind prize to the baker!



Are you all thumbs in the kitchen? Then how about decorating a pumpkin and taking a "selfie" of you and your creation? You may carve, paint, dress up your pumpkin or pumpkins...unleash those creative juices! Multiple entries are invited. Simply send those selfies to Karen Wetherington by Wednesday, Oct. 28 so that she may post them on our church Face Book page. Who knows what unique, possibly strange prize will be awarded to the winning entry and delivered to the home of the pumpkin artist or artists?

Questions? Contact Kay Brooks, kaybrooks1471@charter.net.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

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

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.

the **Tuesday Food Pantry hours are 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.

Some of our Volunteers!



Sandy Whitney, Chris Wilson & Sue Loegel

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 August 467 people were served from the Covenant Food Pantry. (163 were children and 56 were Older Adults.) Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and financial support that makes this ministry possible.

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 #11
Anticipated Pledges \$95,192.31
Actual Pledges \$105,274.65
Thank you for your faithful giving!



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...*Please no raisins.*



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.



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.