

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, October 11:

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

THE COVENANTER October 11, 2020

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



**TODAY—October 11, 2020 at 11am to vote on the
proposed slate of elders for 2023:**

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

Please look for your Zoom meeting invite in your email. Copy and paste the zoom invite web address into your web browser and wait for the host to let you in. Please follow the instructions on how to vote online from Pastor Mark. You can also vote via phone by calling 706-548-2756 10:00am—10:50am on October 11. (Or if you wish to nominate someone from the floor with their prior approval)



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! Also, please come prepared to share a book, movie or TV show you have found interesting during the pandemic. If it is a book, you could also bring a copy of the book for a little "show and tell". If you'd

like a ZOOM invitation, please contact our Graduates Coordinator, Betsy Pless, bpless@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!

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Athens, Georgia 30605
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
www.covpresathens.org
covenantp@covpresathens.org

Daily Bible Readings Oct. 12—18

Monday	Psalm 99: 1-9	Friday	Exodus 33: 12-23
Tuesday	Psalm 123	Saturday	I Thessalonians 1: 1-10
Wednesday	Psalm 30	Sunday	Matthew 22: 15-22
Thursday	Psalm 86		

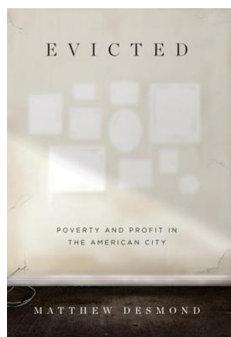
Let's celebrate Halloween AND serve our neighbors! Our Fellowship Ministry Team has come up with some fun, creative, VIRTUAL ways of connecting with each other and reaching out to our neighbors in need. During the month of October when spooky, unexpected things may happen, we are calling all bakers and 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 at kwetherington@covpresathens.org 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?

Blessing of the Pets – October 25 at 4 pm

We will hold our annual Blessing of the Pets service on **Sunday, October 25th at 4 pm** in the outdoor worship area behind the church building. Please let us know if you plan to bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friend by Wednesday, October 21st so that we can plan our best social distancing strategy. Humans will be expected to mask. If you cannot attend, but would like to participate, please post a photo of your pet and his/her name on our church Facebook page, and you will be included!



Join the Social Justice Book Club! Starting on October 27th, we will dive into the MacArthur Genius Award winner Matthew Desmond's *Eviction: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Each week we will examine the irrevocable damage caused by evictions, systemic poverty, discrimination, and exploitation. Based on years of entrenched fieldwork and meticulously assembled data, through *Evicted*, we will explore the causes of extreme poverty and fresh ideas for solving the devastating, uniquely American problem. Each week, starting at 7 PM, we will discuss the book, issues of poverty, discrimination, and justice with professors, housing experts, and community leaders. For more info email Travis at twilliams@covpresathens.org. Book are available for purchase from the church office. \$15 each or you can order your book online on Amazon for \$15.28 plus shipping.

Prayer Concerns: Jim Bowden with abdominal pain; Dan Stoneburner at home waiting for surgery options; Shirley Hunt in ICU 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.

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 #14
Anticipated Pledges \$112,500.05
Actual Pledges—\$116,540.58
Thank you for your faithful giving!

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.



Actions You Can Take for a More Humane Community!

Vote with your Dollars: Every time you enter the marketplace you vote for or against cruelty with your dollars.

Choose cosmetics and cleaning products not tested on animals. Adopt dogs or cats from rescues or shelters, don't buy animals from pet stores, and never keep a wild animal

for a pet. Avoid fur, exotic leathers, and the other cruel products of the commercial wildlife trade. *Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team.*



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> If you would rather you can call Karen at 706-548-2756 to sign up for you.

Please send in your devotionals by November 1st. 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...*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 5pm—7pm and Thursdays 1pm - 4 pm at the Food Pantry. *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.

*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 **September** Covenant Food Pantry Volunteers served 667 persons, including 256 children. Thank you volunteers and the many folks that contribute financially to this outreach.*