

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Nov. 22:

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

THE COVENANTER

November 22, 2020

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



Before you know it, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will be upon us, and our ministry teams are busy planning creative ways to deepen our understanding of the significance and transformational possibilities of these seasons. In the season of the pandemic, we are hoping to build on our connections as a family of God, so in the next few weeks we will include articles in the newsletter and on our website about worship, learning, mission, and fellowship opportunities for your participation.

Our immediate need, however, is for help enhancing our Christmas Eve virtual worship service. To that end, we are asking that you take a photo of you and your family members/friends holding lighted candles while standing in front of a "Christmasy scene", such as a Christmas tree, wreath, etc. Use a cellphone or other device, and make sure that you hold the cellphone or device **HORIZONTALLY** so that your images fit our YouTube screen.

We will include your photo in a montage set to music ("Silent Night", "Joy to the World") concluding the Christmas Eve virtual worship service. We ask that you send these **DIGITAL** photos to our "tech guy", Bob Trouteaud, either by e-mail, bob@trouteaud.com, or by texting, 404.405.6085. If you need assistance taking these photos, please contact Karen Wetherington and she will either answer your questions, refer you to someone who can answer your questions, or arrange a time for a volunteer to take your photograph.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
www.covpresathens.org
covenantp@covpresathens.org

Keeping babies dry and healthy takes work, and with 10 days left to donate, we have collected over 600 diapers for Athens families in need!

Yay! Let's keep this energy growing.

Bring diapers of any size this
Tuesday, November 24th between 3 PM and 7 PM. .

Dear Fellow Covenanter –

The Cov Presby Session hopes to implement a fundraising effort to create a financial base for installing a renewable, site-producing, electrical energy system using solar panels.

Ideally, the committee to lead this effort would feature interested members from the Building and Grounds MT, the Climate Change Awareness Task Force, the Finance MT, and the Green Dream Team. Members of these groups have been invited to take part, so now may be the moment to expand this opportunity to other interested parties.



Would you be willing to serve? If so, please alert me at your earliest convenience via e-mail at: richreav@uga.edu.

Participants will become equipped to explain about as well as answer questions for members and friends of Covenant relating to the:

- ♦ Project costs and component parts associated with the system
- ♦ Benefits of such a facility, in terms of long term carbon footprint reduction as well as financial savings from on-site electricity production
- ♦ Size and location options for this solar panel array;
- ♦ Completion time frames for necessary elements of the undertaking, and how these phases relate to payment of needed pledged
- ♦ Ongoing relationship with the church's current electricity supplier, Georgia Power

In this current era when energy consumers are being asked to examine their utilization choices, the Covenant Session believes the opportunities presented by employing a solar panel installation option should no pass by unexamined.

Kind regards, *Rich Reaves*, Co-Chair, B&G MT



The Congregational Care Ministry Team invites all bakers and would-be bakers to help us share the love of God with our hungry neighbors this holiday season.

We would like to give containers of home-baked cookies to our friends visiting our Food Pantry on

Thursday, December 17 and Tuesday, December 22. If you would like to share your "flour-y, sugar-y" gifts and talents with our most vulnerable neighbors, please bring your packaged cookies to the fellowship hall the days before our distribution dates so that our wonderful Food Pantry volunteers can hand them out. You may want to call the church office to make sure that someone is on hand to receive your cookies.

Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers Advent is around the corner and here are
our youth group activities for November:

Middle schoolers - during the month of November you are invited to be a part of upcoming Advent worship services by taking and submitting photos to the church technology team. Think about where you might see Jesus today - in your neighborhood, outdoors in nature, maybe your school, on the soccer field, at your grandparents' home, in the Chick fil-A drive-thru, sitting in a Zaxby's booth, in the Walmart parking lot, anywhere you think Jesus might hang out - and using your cellphone **HORIZONTALLY**, snap photos of scenes. Then, send those photos in a text or e-mail to: **bob@trouteaud.com** or **404-405-6085**. We will use your photos in a montage at the end of our Advent worship services beginning Sunday, November 29 and continuing through Sunday, December 20. You will be listed under the photography credits on the YouTube videos that include your photos. Questions? Contact Rindy by phone or text, 678-231-7556.

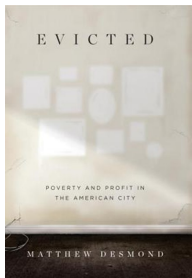
High schoolers - this month we begin designing and assembling our Christmas float that will "visit" our friends and neighbors who are homebound and wanting to see and hear the Good News of Christmas in a way that lets them know how much they are loved and missed. Youth group leaders will set up outdoor work sessions in consultation with you. These work sessions will require masking and social distancing and will be arranged to meet your busy schedules. Bert Ballard-Myer will contact you via the app, GroupMe. If you need to install this app on your cellphone or other device, please call, text, or e-mail Bert, mysammie1@yahoo.com and 706-207-2665.

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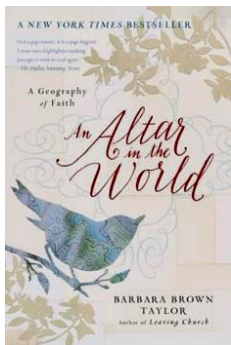
WEEK BIBLE STUDIES!



Join the Social Justice Book Club! Next Zoom Meeting December 1 at 7pm.

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. We will cover part 3, pages 204-293. To receive your Zoom invite please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org

-Tuesday Mornings, 10-11 a.m. Beginning December 1—In her critically acclaimed *Leaving Church*, "a beautiful,



absorbing memoir" according to *The Dallas Morning News*, Barbara Brown Taylor wrote about her experience leaving full-time ministry to become a professor, a decision that stretched the boundaries of her faith. Now, in her stunning follow-up, *An Altar in the World*, she shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church. Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in

nearly everything we do. Mark Harper will facilitate this ZOOM gathering. The starting date will be announced, and if you'd like to purchase a book, you may call the church office to place your order or you may buy your book from Amazon.com. A number of price and format options are available. Please email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org to order the book and receive your zoom invitation. (Books are \$10 each)

Wednesday afternoons, 4-5 p.m. "Radical Spirit" Feeling burnt-out from life, strung-out from social media, and put out by a society that always wants more from you? Beloved nun and social activist Joan Chittister, who appeared on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday, offers a practical, character-building, and inspirational guide to help you take control of your emotional life and redirect your spiritual destiny.

Joan Chittister, whom Publishers Weekly calls "one of the most well-known and trusted contemporary spiritual authors," is a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice, and a passionate proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment. Drawing on little known, ancient teachings of the saints, Sister Joan offers a practical program to help transform our thinking and rebel against our fears, judgments and insecurities.

"Freedom from anxiety, worry, and tensions at home and work, comes when we give ourselves to something greater," she argues. "We need to seek wisdom rather than simply facts, to think before speaking, and in turn create respectful communities." With a series of twelve simple rules for healthy spiritual living, Chittister not only reminds us, but pleads with us, to develop enduring values by shifting our attention to how God wants us to live. This book will teach you how to accomplish this.

Rindy Trouteaud will facilitate this ZOOM gathering after the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m. The starting date will be announced, and if you'd like to purchase the book "Radical Spirit", you may call the church office to place your order or you may buy your book from Amazon.com. A number of price and format options are available. (Books are \$10 each)

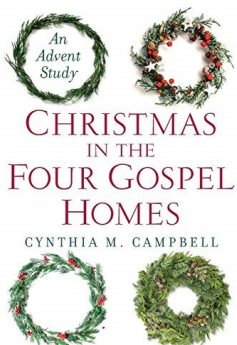
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

JOURNEY CLASS—It is 2003, and Muslim-American Mohammed 'Mo' Khan is living the high life in San Francisco. Born and raised in America, he has ridden the dotcom boom to material wealth at a young age, but post 9/11, his success begins to feel hollow as the conflict between Islam and the West deepens.

Al-Khizr is a Muslim saint from the time of Alexander the Great who appears in Mo's dreams and challenges him to embark on a quest to discover truth within the Islamic world. The trip takes Mo on adventures through Morocco, Spain, Turkey, Pakistan, India, Malaysia, and finally Thailand, all the while challenging Mo's misconceptions about Islam and exposing him to the rich mosaic of modern Islamic culture. Through it all, Mo and Al-Khizr keep a running dialogue that examines the intent of Islam, the diversity within the religion, and Mo's own relationship between his warring cultures.

This class meets on Sunday mornings, 10 a.m., and is facilitated by various class members. It is already underway, but you are invited to jump right into our study! Books may be purchased from Amazon.com, and they come in a variety of prices and formats. Check the church website to access the ZOOM invitation.

EMMAUS ROAD CLASS-



Experience how Christmas is observed in each of the four Gospels in this study, *Christmas Accounts in the Gospels*, written by Cynthia M. Campbell. This creative, four-session adult study will compare each of the Gospels to homes that Christians visit. Illustrations of each Gospel house are provided by artist Kevin Burns based on his interpretation of the shape and character of each Gospel. Together we will be challenged to see Christmas from the different perspectives offered in each house as we further reflect on the mystery of Jesus.

This class meets on Sunday mornings, 10 a.m., and is facilitated by Bob Trouteaud. It will get underway, Nov. 29, the first Sunday of Advent, and you are invited to jump right into our study! No need to purchase books, and be sure to check the church website to access the ZOOM invitation.

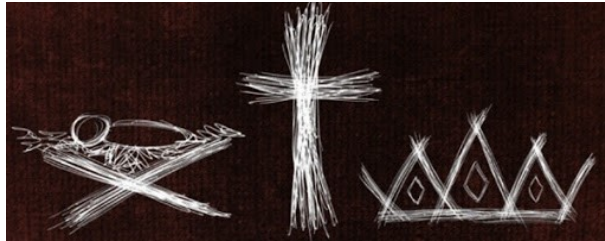
Prayer Concerns: Ton & Tamara Stam in the passing of Ton's mother, Greet, and as they travel to the Netherlands; Jim Bowden recovering from surgery; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Shirley Hunt now in rehab at Landmark Hospital in Athens; Ginger Davis-Beck doing some better after cancer treatments; June Meyer's niece diagnosed with cancer; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; and for our Nation.

Shirley Hunt would love to hear from her church family while she is in rehab. Cards can be mailed to: Landmark Hospital,

Attention: Shirley Hunt Room #206, 775 Sunset Drive, Athens, GA 30606.

Daily Bible Readings November 23 - 29

Monday Psalm 62
Tuesday Psalm 145
Wednesday Zechariah 10: 1-12
Thursday Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Friday Isaiah 64: 1-9
Saturday I Corinthians 1: 3-9
Sunday Mark 13: 24-37



Little Food Pantry –

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, 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 (air tight) to prevent ant infestations...*Please no raisins.*

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 #21
Anticipated Pledges \$181,730.77
Actual Pledges—\$185,487.30
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Actions You Can Take for a More Humane Community!



Share Information About Animal Protection—the greatest antidote to cruelty is an informed citizenry. There's so much good information on the web about animal issues-find it, access it, and share it with friends and family members on social media. When you give a gift consider a book, film, or some other item that encourages them to learn more about animal protection.

Jere Bowden and the Green Dream Team.



Upcycling Flat Magnets

You know the kind:

The UGA football schedule on the frig, the back of your realtor's business card or the tiny paper tear off calendar from the mechanic, the removable ad from the phone book. Easy to glue onto the back of a card, piece of art, or other sign of encouragement, keeping it in sight of the recipient. Kathy Boardman will happily receive your extras, to extend this gentle ministry.



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! 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.