

THE COVENANTER

March 18, 2018



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

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON ...*ROOTED IN LOVE!*... *Ephesians 3:17*

Covenant Presbyterian Church is a community of rich soil. Over the years gifted and dedicated people have created a fertile space where God's Word is taught, wrestled with, and enacted. And much good fruit has been born: children are cherished; older adults are celebrated; leaders in education, industry, science, business, human services, and in the church itself are nurtured; neighbors in need and community organizations of all kinds find welcome here. We do not agree on everything, but a spirit of respect and a desire to glorify God while serving the common good where we have been planted fills the air. Covenant is a community rooted in the love of God and one another. **Stewardship Luncheon, TODAY – March 18th following the 10:45am worship service.** Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Pledge cards will be presented at that time as we enjoy the fruit of fellowship and dream together about where God is leading us in the days to come. Rooted together in love, let us trust that hungry people will know that God is with us, not because we say so, but because they find here the fruit that offers life.



OPPORTUNITY TO HELP!!! Covenant will be hosting homeless guests (3 families) overnight for IHN (*Interfaith Hospitality Network*) the week of **April 15-22**. Please examine your calendar and give thought and prayer of the way you can serve from the many options: set up, take down, provide a meal, spend a night, host for three hours one evening, transport guests to the day center, and more. The sign-up board is now in the Gallery across from the staff offices, so please sign-up and help us provide Christian hospitality to families seeking a home of their own. If you have never been an IHN helper, a training opportunity will be provided. *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* Hebrews 13:2

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need through supporting **One Great Hour of Sharing**. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly. **One Great Hour of Sharing** funds are divided among its three programs: *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, *Self-Development of People (SDOP)*, and *Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)*. 32% of the offering goes to SDOP, 32% goes to PDA and 36% goes to PHP. You will find an insert and envelope in your mailbox or on the table in the narthex or take a fish and fill it with coins. *Thank you!*



sharing resources. changing lives.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Remember in Prayer: Sandy Whitney, having knee replacement surgery March 19; Cliff Brock, having outpatient tonsillectomy surgery March 20; Jim McMinn, having outpatient Achilles tendon surgery March 21; Kay Swan in Atlanta, recovering from surgery for a broken leg, and her daughter Nan Wesley, as she tries to make good decisions for Kay's care; Micha Wiegel Ramsey in OR, recovering well from back surgery; Jim Verbrugge & family, in the recent death of his brother-in-law; Mary Anna Wynes, eye surgery in Lawrenceville March 15; Wesley Whitehead, with a sprained knee, from a soccer injury; Dianne Ralph, in chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer; Bill Lindstrom, recovering well at home after a hip replacement Mar.7; Grace Eubank, healing from a fractured vertebra, now living near her son Ben – Branchwater Village #26, 763 Medical Center Pkwy, Boaz, AL 35957 (#256-281-6362); Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta; Justin Dean, Dianne Ralph, Bill Willis, and Ashley Wolfe, at home.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	March 19	Psalm 31:9-16	Title: <i>A Rocky Road to New Life</i>
Tuesday	March 20	Isaiah 50:4-11	Theme: Following Jesus is hard work,
Wednesday	March 21	Mark 11:1-11	but we gain His strength of Spirit.
Thursday	March 22	John 12:9-19	
Friday	March 23	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	
Saturday	March 24	Isaiah 40:3-5	
Sunday	March 25	Hebrews 12:1-3	PALM SUNDAY



WHO'S WHO: Who at Covenant were once beekeepers?



Mark Harper, Jim Bowden, Judy Capie, Karen Wetherington, and the late Jan Okey—any others?

WHO'S WHO:

2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

WEEK #37 3/11/2018

Anticipated Pledges: \$343,508.00

Received Pledges: \$354,806.59

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Voila! Find a word, usually a noun, which when joined with each of the words proceeding or following it forms an entirely new word-idea.

1. ____ c ____ _ perfect, show, window
2. ____ steering, walk, pole
3. ____ tennis, lamp, manners



Come one! Come All!

Tuesday, March 20 at 9am
for an opportunity to get
your Church ready
for Easter.

Congregational Care Needs Your Help!

We need volunteers to drive the Dartez family to doctor appointments on Tuesday nights 6:00-7:30 in Watkinsville, Thursday nights 5:30-6:30 at the Cottage on Lexington Road and on Saturday mornings 10:30 - 12:00 in Watkinsville. May Dartez will accompany the children on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and both May & her husband, Ty, on Saturdays. You can sign up for one time or a combination of trips. To sign up, go to the website www.signupgenius.com. Under Login, enter the email address luannerigsby@gmail.com and password hunter. Click on **Drivers** and this should take you to the sign up page. Any questions, call Luanne Rigsby 706 224-3828.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

March 30, 7:00 p.m.—First Presbyterian Church of Athens will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian Community Service, which will be a Tenebrae Service led by area clergy and choirs.



Meaning "darkness" or "shadows," the service of Tenebrae was first practiced in medieval times. It later became an important part of worship during Holy Week. Please join our Presbyterian brothers and sisters from the Athens area. *There will be a choir from all congregations (rehearsal 6pm)*



CE CORNER

The purpose of Christian Education at Covenant Presbyterian Church is to nurture our discipleship, build our spirit of community and cultivate clarity of thought about our faith.

Wonderful Wednesdays

10:00am Adult Bible Study—DVD discussion of Peter Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*, on the life of Christ & his ministry

Covenant Connection

5:15pm—6:00pm k-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant time

6:00-6:30pm Family Dinner for children, youth and adults

6:30pm—7:15pm 3rd—5th grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

6:30pm Adult Bible Study- DVD discussion of Peter Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*, on the life of Christ & his ministry

6:30pm—7:15pm Wednesday Evening Devotions

7:30pm Adult Choir

Wednesday Covenant Connection for Youth

3:30pm Supervision for Middle & High School Youth in the youth rooms begins

5:15pm "Wednesday School" for Youth led by Mark & Beecher

6:00pm Family Dinner 6:30pm Faith and Film

7:15pm Depart

MENU for March 21:
baked potato & Chili,
Salad & Fruit
Ice Cream Sandwiches



Presbyterians for
Earth Care

Ministry Team, being recertified as an Earth Care Congregation for its environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education, facilities and outreach actions in the life of the church.

for Feb. 2018—Feb. 2019

Congratulations
to

**Covenant and the
Green Dream**

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF ELDERS BEGINS!

Each year Covenant elects its officers to serve a 3 year term on the Session. The involvement of the congregation is important during the entire process. Marilyn Brown is the Nominating Committee Chair with Brian Herndon as the second Elder approved by the Session. Now the congregation recommends members of the church to serve on the Nominating Committee. The 2 elders will then select one member to nominate to the congregation to be elected to serve with them on the Nominating Committee. The congregational meeting to elect the Nominating Committee will be on **Sunday, April 15** at noon, after worship. You will find a nominating form in your mailbox.



All Covenant Youth Alumni & families are invited to gather for a reunion during the Easter Sunday Breakfast at 8:30am, April 1, in Fellowship Hall. You'll have a table to yourselves and enjoy all the goodies that Covenant always provides! As our guests, you don't need to bring a thing. What a great way to spend Easter morning! Remember our outdoor worship is at 7:30am and indoor worship at 10:45am, with 9:30am Church School in between. Hope you'll come – and share this with your other Covenant Youth alums.

Contact Julie Bower at bower.julie@gmail.com for more information. Please RSVP by March 23.



- Sunday, Mar. 25** **8:30 & 10:45am, Palm Sunday Worship**
 9:30am, Church School for all ages
 5:00pm, Youth Group
- Tuesday, Mar. 27** **11:30pm, Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside**
- Wednesday, Mar. 28** **10:00am & 6:30pm, Adult Bible Studies**
 5:15-7:15pm, Covenant Connection
 6:30pm, Evening Devotions
 7:30pm, Adult Choir
- Thursday, Mar. 29** **2:00pm, Knitters & Knotters**
 6:00pm, Foot Washing Service
 7:00pm, Maundy Thursday Communion & Tenebrae Worship
- Friday, Mar. 30** **7:00pm, PCUSA Good Friday worship, at First Pres downtown**
- Saturday, Mar. 31** **10:00am-noon, Easter Egg Hunt & Games, with community invited**
- Sunday, Apr. 1** **Easter Sunday - - One Great Hour of Sharing offering**
 7:30am, Sunrise Worship outdoors
 8:30am, Covered Dish Breakfast, with Youth Alumni Reunion
 9:30am, Church School for all ages
 10:45am, Worship indoors - - no evening activities

This Maundy Thursday, March 29th, Covenant will be celebrating the Lord's Supper and a reading of the passion narrative as we have done for quite a few years now. This Communion/Tenebrae service will begin at 7 pm. Just prior to that service however we will be trying something new – which is actually quite old. Beginning at 6 pm, the sanctuary will be open for all who wish to come and participate in a footwashing service, modelled after the story found in John 13 of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. While this ritual has never become a sacrament of the church, it has long been used to illustrate Jesus' call to love one another in a spirit of compassion and servant-hood and radical love. In fact, the name Maundy Thursday is derived from *mandatum novum*, or "new commandment," the Latin translation of Jesus' teaching in John: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). We hope you will join us for both of these services. To be clear, you do not have to participate in the 6 pm footwashing service to attend the 7 pm communion service. But try not to be deterred from coming at 6 by the prospect of other people seeing your feet; after all, God created them, not for beauty, but so we could follow in the hard yet joyful way of Jesus. So in the words of Dr. Seuss, "Feet, feet, feet! See how many feet you meet!"

Join us for the next **Restaurant Roadtrip**, Tuesday, March 20, at 11:30am, at Longhorn Steakhouse, 2170 West Broad Street, near Walgreens & KFC, near Hawthorne Road. Signup on the bulletin board to let us know you're coming. Separate checks. The church carpool leaves the parking lot at 11:15am.

Covenant's worship services are now available in audio on the church website. Click on or enter this address to access <http://covpresathens.org/wp/sermons/>

Join us for Lunch Bunch, every final Tuesday of the month, at DePalma's Eastside at 11:30am. Next one is Tuesday, March 27th. Always good food & fellowship to share. Separate checks – meet you there.

Adult Choir needs singers of all types and abilities for upcoming Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Please come to choir practice on Wed's at 7:30. It is a great way to meet others and to enhance our lives with the spiritual power of making music. Even if you can't read music, singing in the choir will provide you the fundamentals of music theory and you will be reading in no time. Please consider joining this important ministry.

Contact Cliff at cbrock@covpresathens.org or (706) 206-7099



Come join us at choir rehearsal and have some fun and chocolate!

Transformed!

CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 28th, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Join the Athens College of Ministry for the annual **Transformed! Conference** where we will delve into the truth about **"Transforming the Kingdom from the Courts of Heaven!"** Conference participants will explore practical, biblical truths about their role in ushering the Kingdom of Heaven into the earth by taking an in-depth look at:

- Who Christ is in us;
- The power and authority within us as co-heirs with Christ;
- How to effectively exercise that authority in the heavenly courts; and
- The resulting transformational power of God!

It's the power of Christ in you to transform!

If you will walk in my ways and if you will keep my commands, then you shall also judge my house and likewise have charge of my courts. (Zechariah 3:3)

Presenter: Dr. Marcia Wilbur, ACPMin President

Conference Site: Grace Fellowship Church
1120 Malcom Bridge Rd, Bogart, GA 30622

Visit the website below for more information and to register.

\$35 registration – Lunch Included

ACMin.org/Transformed-Conference

Women's Prayer Breakfast

March 17, 2018 at 9am

at East Friendship Baptist Church

400 Arch Street

For more info see

Bert Ballard-Myer, Sue Rathbun,
or Jere Bowden

ANSWERS TO Voila!:

1. Picture
2. Power
3. table

5th Sunday Worship Experience - It's that time again. April 29 is the next fifth Sunday, where children and youth and the congregations collective creativity inspire worship. Share your ideas with anyone on staff. Musical ideas with Cliff; Liturgy/sermon ideas with Mark; and prayer ideas with Beecher.

Child Liturgist (10:45 Service) 3rd - 5th graders lead the *Call to Worship* each Sunday. Next three Sundays: **March 18 - Thomas Bowden**; **March 25 - George McMaster**; **April 1 - Delaney Braswell** *Instructions:* The bulletin will be emailed by the end of the week on your week. Practice with your child. During the "Voluntary" of the worship service, the liturgist may join the pastors in the chancel. To begin, your child can invite the congregation, "Please join me in the Call to Worship." *Need to switch weeks? Please do so with someone who is leading in weeks after your child and let the office know.*

Going underground with WoRM! 9:30 - 10:35 Sunday Mornings

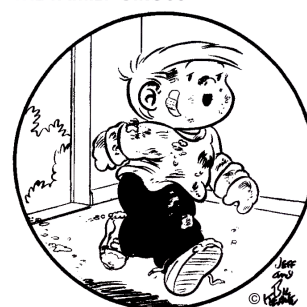
Parents/Caregiver learning note: The time of Passover is drawing near. I encourage you to read these stories from Exodus chapters 12-13 and from Luke 22: 1-23 with your children as we approach Holy Week, March 25-31. Also, pay attention to the Moon, whose patterns is what determines the date upon which Easter is celebrated each year. Notice as the Moon becomes more full with each passing night, Easter is drawing closer. **Memory Verse(s):** *Luke 22:19-20: "Then he took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me.' In the same way, he gave them the cup after the supper, saying, 'This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you.'*

March Rotation - Please help prepare your children for Sunday School by telling them who their teacher and shepherd will be, and how awesome they are :)

K - 2nd Mar 4th - Kay Brooks and Adam Brooks, Temple Courtyard
Mar 11th - Christine Carpenter and Jere Bowden, Oasis Theatre (combined classes)
Mar 18th - Nancy Omdahl and Jennifer Frey, Potter's Workshop
Mar 25th - Luanne Rigsby and Susan Parish, Loaves and Fishes

3rd - 5th Mar 4th- Patrick McMaster and Jere Bowden, Loaves and Fishes
Mar 11th - Christine Carpenter and Jere Bowden, Oasis Theatre (combined)
Mar 18th - Craig Topple and Jere Bowden, Temple Courtyard
Mar 25th - Craig Topple and Jere Bowden, Potter's Workshop

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"My Guardian Angel had a busy day today, but we had FUN!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

YOUTH NEWS! - During the school year, when school is in session, youth have three weekly opportunities to get together with your friends, learn about your faith, and serve God and one another. Covenant Connection on Wednesdays, after school until 7:15 pm; Sunday Mornings at 9:30am with Abby and BASIC; and Sunday evenings from 5-7pm at church unless otherwise indicated.

Next Three Sunday Evening programs

March 18 - Stuffing Easter Eggs for the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Easter Egg Hunt at Covenant

March 25 - Topic, students as peacemakers

April 1 - No Youth - Easter Sunday

Sign up/ questions/ feedback - ctopple@covpresathens.org

Help Prevent Hangry moments! Can you provide a meal for Sunday Night Youth group? If so, please contact DeLynda Tweedell, and thank you! Sign up sheet is outside the church office. **Dates Available: March 18, April 15, 22, & 29, May 6!**

The Cave - the Covenant Sponsored *free* after school program for middle and high school students from 3:45-5:30 every Friday there is a regular school day. *Thank you volunteers who make this valuable program happen!* Contact Christina Cotsakis Cordon, Cave Manager, for more information or to volunteer: cotsakiscordon@gmail.com

Sunday morning's at 9:30

B.A.S.I.C. Sunday school with Abby Horvath happens every Sunday at 9:30am in youth room.

Sunday Evenings: 5-7pm at church unless otherwise specified.

We are exploring the Beatitudes, specifically, experiencing the blessing of being peacemakers



"Pastor, about this new idea to reach teens..."



The Piedmont Gardeners present

25th ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR OF ATHENS

Saturday, April 21, 2018

10am—4pm Rain or Shine

\$15 advance, \$20 at the gardens on tour day,
\$10 students with ID

Tickets available at: *Always, Always Flowers, Appointments at Five, Avid Books, Cofer's Home & Garden Showplace, Frontier, Goodness Grows Nursery, The State Botanical Gardens of Georgia Gift shop, Thomas Orchards & Nursery.*

For more information, including photos of the beautiful gardens please visit www.piedmontgardens.org



Dear Congregation,

By now you should have received an envelope with the proposed budget for July 2018-June 2019 along with a pledge card in your mailbox at home. If you have children and/or youth, they may also receive pledge cards. If you have not received the letter yet, please check with the church office to make sure that one was mailed to you.

The proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is very similar to the one for our present fiscal year, with an increase of just over 2% overall. The biggest change to the budget is a 2% increase in staff salaries for all staff members to cover cost of living increases. The increase in salaries for Mark and Beecher also requires increases in their health care and pension benefits, and those are included on the table. Karen Wetherington also received a 2% increase in compensation but it was included as an increase to her IRA per her request. The other significant change is a restoration of the 5% cuts we made to the ministry teams last year to make our budget balance. Since each ministry team worked on this year's budget request separately, we did our best to honor their current requests while restoring what they lost in the present year's budget. Individual ministry teams also made some changes to reflect their best estimate of their needs for the next fiscal year.

I am happy to say that we are financially in good shape for the July 2017-June 2018 fiscal year, with income higher than expenses paid so far, so I have no worries at this time that our budget for this year will not be met. But keep those pledge checks coming! Since next year's budget has only minor changes from last year, Stewardship & Finance has determined that a special meeting to discuss the budget will not be necessary for this year. However, if you have any questions about the budget, please feel free to catch me before or after church, email me at pnknox@yahoo.com or call me at home in the evenings at 706-543-9560.

Thank you all for the many ways that you support Covenant!

Sincerely,

Pam Knox, Treasurer

WEEK OF March 18, 2018**SUNDAY-**

8:30am Worship
 9:30am Church School for All Ages
 10:45am Worship
 12:15pm Stewardship Luncheon
 NO Youth Groups

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

8:30am Covenant's Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge
 6pm- Scouts

TUESDAY-

9am-2pm B&G Workday to get ready for Easter
 9:30am Athens Mother's Center
 11:30am Restaurant Road Trip to Longhorn Steak House
 1:30pm Grief Recovery—Upper Room (Pattie Priester)
 6:30pm Session Meeting
 8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-

10am Adult Bible Study
 5:15pm-7:15pm CovConn
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
 6:30pm WED
 7:25pm NO Adult Choir

THURSDAY-

2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
 6:30pm-8:00pm YOGA
 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)
 8pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center
 3:30pm The Cave
 8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY-

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—March 18, 2018**8:30am**

Reader: Dianne Simpson

Ushers: Elsie Bothwell, Jim Smith Coffee Maker: Lola Bell

10:45am

Liturgist: Thomas Bowden

Reader: Sandy Whitney

Ushers: Phil & Sallie Hale, Shirley Reinert, Stephanie Cahill, +

Greeters: Dell Whitehead, Sue & Steve Rathbun

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Randy Parish, Ellen Stoneburner

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden

Close the Building: Rich Reaves

Grounds Stewards: Jim Bowden (March 19-25)

Nursery/Super: Lola Bell

Birth—Walking: Lola Bell

Walking—5 years old: Anje Kidd, Nathan Weaver, Steve Bell

WEEK OF March 25, 2018**SUNDAY- PALM SUNDAY**

8:30am Worship
 9:30am Church School for All Ages
 10:45am Worship
 5pm Youth Groups

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

6pm- Scouts

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center
 11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's eastside
 1:30pm Grief Recovery—Upper Room (Pattie Priester)
 8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-

10am Adult Bible Study
 5:15pm-7:15pm CovConn
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
 6:30pm WED
 7:25pm Adult Choir

THURSDAY-

2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
 6:30pm-8:00pm YOGA
 7:00pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)
 6pm Foot Washing Worship Service
 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mother's Center
 3:30pm The Cave
 7pm Good Friday Worship at First Presbyterian
 8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY-

10am-12pm Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition Easter Egg Hunt
 Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—March 25, 2018**8:30am**

Reader: Sonja Holden

Ushers: Judy Capie, Arnelle Combs Coffee Maker: Alan Edwards

10:45am

Liturgist: George McMaster

Reader: Luanne Rigsby

Ushers: Phil & Linda Koehler, Jim & Dorothy Newland, Dianne Simpson

Greeters: Robyn Malone, Don & Julie Bower

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Paige Campbell, Caren Snook

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (March 26-April 1)

Nursery/Super: Annemarie Braswell

Birth—Walking: Annemarie Braswell

Walking—5 years old: Susan Parish, Sydney & Delaney Braswell