

THE COVENANTER

July 15, 2018

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

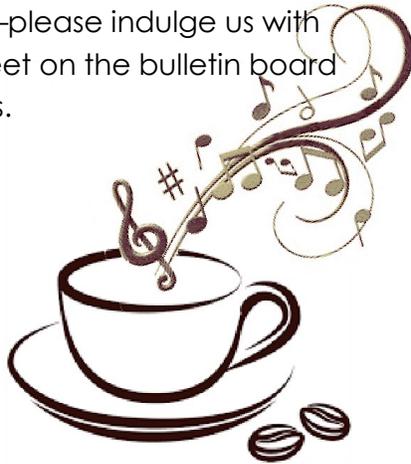


Kickin' It at Covenant is back again this year! For six Wednesdays in June and July, this is time to learn more about the Bible, share some ice cream, and play games together. On each day, we'll have a Bible lesson and activity starting at 6:30 pm, followed by ice cream at 7, and then indoor and outdoor games afterwards. Join us for kickin' it on July 18, and 25**. 6:30pm—8:00pm. The theme for this summer's lessons is DIRT: learning all about the stuff of God's creation and how God brings good fruits from it (and from us).

Covenant's Coffee House

Tuesday, July 24th at 6:30pm

Share your talents! Covenant members and friends are so gifted—please indulge us with your gifts! Sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes.



PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH FEAST ON July 21st! Covenant Presbyterian Church in conjunction with other local churches will join together to distribute food from the Food Bank of NEGA to our neighbors. If you would like to volunteer please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway next to the mailboxes. Volunteers will need to arrive as early as 7:00 am, with the distribution itself beginning at 9 a.m. for approximately 200 people. It is estimated that we will wrap things up around 10:30 a.m. If you are interested in participating in **FEAST** please visit our sign-up sheet in the hallway. For more information contact Sue Rathbun, Juanita Floyd, or Mark Harper. *Let us pray for God's continued blessing on this ecumenical effort in our community!*

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Athens, Georgia 30605
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covenantp@covpresathens.org

**FEED MY
SHEEP
YOU ME IF LOVE**

For the month of **JULY** Covenant will be collecting: saltines, savory/salty snack items for children and as always brown paper bags. *Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!*

Remember in Prayer: Good healing for the rescued children in Thailand & prayers for children on our border to be reunited with their parents; Anje Weaver's friends, in the recent death of their premature baby; Carrie Tweedell, with a sprained hamstring, 2 weeks before her national competition in twirling; DeLynda Tweedell's brother Brad, asking for prayers especially on July 18, a difficult day; Ron Cervero's mother, now in hospice care, and both Ron & Janna Dresden, as they make plans to move to Washington, DC; Mrs. Bowen's neighborhood, in a difficult time; Nathan Weaver's brother Henry, graduating from med school; Frank Allen's son Scott, now in Chicago for a 2-yr fellowship in forensic medicine; Andrew Zimdars & girlfriend Jessica Stermer, whose father Tom died of heatstroke complications in Elvira, NY; Bob & Shirley Reinert, each recovering from successful eye surgery; family of Jeremy Reaves' friend, David Hearn, upon his recent death; Bruce Carpenter, healing well after successful surgery for a benign brain tumor; Bob Placek, healing well after an appendectomy June 22; Katherine Himley & her son, having moved to Carrollton July 7; Wayne Crowell & family, in the sudden accidental death of his cousin in CO; Pat Tinga's son in Greenville, recovering well from abdominal surgery; Anna Holshouser, recovering well after a brief hospitalization for lung problems; Dick Page, recovering well from 2 recent cataract surgeries; Dell Whitehead's father, with Hospice care, in Gainesville; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Pauline Marshall, at Highland Hills; Craig Topples's sister Genia in Atlanta; Ashley Wolfe, at home.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon. July 16 2 Samuel 7:1-10

Tues. July 17 Psalm 89:1-18

Wed. July 18 Matthew 5:14-16

Thurs. July 19 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Fri. July 20 Matthew 8:5-13

Sat. July 21 Ephesians 2:11-22

Sat. July 22 Isaiah 9:2-7

Title: *Living a Life of Kindness*

Theme: Jesus compassionately showed the faithfulness of God in all he lived - and so can we.

WHO'S WHO: Who at Covenant has hugged a Star Wars Storm Trooper?

2017-18 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

WEEK #52 6/30/2018

Anticipated Pledges: \$482,768.00

Received Pledges: \$483,119.95

Thank you for your faithful giving!



LIFE'S A ZOO! Each answer contains the name of an animal.

1. Easily led person: _____

2. Highly competitive: _____

3. A must for mechanics _____



WHO'S WHO: Catharine Tyson (and Jeremy Reaves in costume at Beechwood Cinema)



Answers to Life's A Zoo!

1. pussy cat 2. dog-eat-dog

3. monkey wrench





The **10:00 Wednesday morning Bible Study** continues in July, viewing the PBS Frontline video, “From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians.” You’re welcome to join in the good discussion!

A very special thank you to Caren Snook for several of the impressive tall sunflowers and to Hilda and Al Clarke for growing and donating her beautiful Zinnia for several of the Sunday's flower arrangement in the Sanctuary. If you got some of the flowers to take home, please give a smile to Hilda. *Juergen*

<http://covpresathens.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/July-Dec-2018.pdf>

Click on the link above to access the new *Greeter, Reader, Usher* schedule for July—December 9:45am & 10:45am. *Thanks.*

Congratulations to Patrick Bates & Jeannie Burnett of Wayne, Maine, upon the birth of their first child, John Armour Bates, on July 5. Proud grandparents, Claude & Barbara Burnett, were there visiting & waiting! All are happy & healthy and wish you well.

Congratulations to Eric Zimdars & Soliz Mayer upon their wedding in Seattle on June 21, where Eric is starting his masters in environmental education at the University of Washington. Many blessings for the years to come!

COVENANT CONNECTION COMING SOON!

We need your help so please consider being a blessing during the Covenant Connection season! There are many ways to help. Check out the Sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Any questions please see Katy McGill. Thanks!



Everyone’s invited to try again for better weather and join us on our **Restaurant Roadtrip** to Gabby’s by the Lake at the Ritz-Carlton on Lake Oconee, south of Greensboro, on Tuesday, July 17, eating at 11:30am. Carpools leave from the church at 10:00am, or you can meet us there, returning by 2:00pm. Please SIGNUP to let us know your plans. Separate checks – a little higher price. Bring sunglasses for partial shade, and bring a friend!

TerraCycle Adds New Item!

For the first time in a long time, TerraCycle has added a new item to the plastic packaging that it collects. Here are the acceptable items:

- Arm & Hammer Power Paks Laundry Detergent pouches (2-in-1 and 3-1)
- Oxiclean Laundry Detergent Paks pouches
- Oxiclean 2-in-1 Stain Fighter Power Paks pouches
- Oxiclean White Revive Laundry Stain Remover Power Paks pouches
- Arm & Hammer Baking Soda pouches (large bags used for cleaning and swimming pools)

These 2 brands, *Arm & Hammer* and *Oxiclean*, are the only 2 brands that are acceptable, so **please** don’t save pouches from any other brands of laundry detergent pods. There is a box for the Arm & Hammer and Oxiclean pouches on the floor next to the TerraCycle drawers.

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team

Welcome our Olomouc friends- Roman and Sara Gabriel July 25 - August 3rd

Roman Gabriel

Born: 1964 in Olomouc, all my life I'm living in Olomouc with exception of 5 years studying at University of Pardubice (chemical engineering) and 1 year of military service.

Married, almost 24 years, 2 children (Simon, 20 and Sara 18), member of The Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren in Olomouc, participant of English camps in Olomouc.

Hobby: walking, cycling, music

Sara Gabriel

My name is Sára, I'm 18 years old and I have one older brother. Next year I'm graduating from highschool.

In my free time I play theatre, work in a student radio and do slam poetry. I'm also a big fan of literature - I love both, reading and writing.



And we are looking forward to meeting with you everyone.

Hosts: Joan Prittie and Linda Rogers

Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes if you would like to spend time with our guests.

FALL SUNDAY SCHEDULE !

Sun. Aug. 19 9:00am, Annual Congregational Meeting, with light breakfast by the Session

10:45am, Hymnsing Worship

Sun. Aug. 26 RALLY DAY

8:30am, Worship

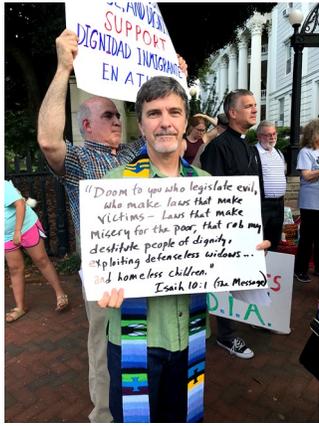
9:15am, Covered Dish Breakfast and CE Rally Day Program

10:45am, Worship

Sun. Sept. 2 8:30 & 10:45am, Worship

9:30am, Church School for all ages

Save
the
Date



Meet Our Neighbor Katia— Covenant has recently become a member congregation of the Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (ISC), a group of Athens area faith communities committed to offering friendship, hope, and compassionate support to our undocumented neighbors. Through ISC we have met Katia, a 19 year-old mother of two who has lived in Athens for 17 years. Her husband was deported to Mexico a few months ago, leaving Katia with her mother and sister to try and make ends meet. Currently Katia is working some shifts at a local flea market. In the fall she will be returning to school, seeking to complete her high school education through an on-site, on-line program at the ACC School District office. Here are some ways we can help Katia immediately and in the months to come:

*By providing Lyft gift cards or a bus pass so that she can get to work and run errands

*By offering rides to school several times a week in the fall (once we know her schedule we will set up a Sign-Up genius for volunteer drivers)

*By supplying her with plastic storage bins and age-appropriate books for her children (she has a one year-old boy and a three year-old girl)

*By sharing information about local, private cosmetology schools and helping fund her tuition

Thank you for prayerfully considering entering into this relationship with Katia and her family. In these days when many of us are rightly focused on legislative efforts to enable parents and children to stay together along our borders, this is a chance to extend gospel love to a vulnerable family that is already here.

As one of my teachers likes to say, "Justice is good, but supper is essential!"



Covenant Breakfast Club

Tuesday, July 16 at 8am

Join us at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Road for a good time of conversation and food!

Join us for Lunch Bunch, every final Tuesday of the month, at DePalma's Eastside at 11:30am. Next one is Tuesday, July 31st. Always good food & fellowship to share. Separate checks - meet you there.



Make an American Dream Come True!

Aspect Foundation is currently seeing volunteer host families for international exchange students from nearly 30 countries. Our families are loving families who can give a student a place to sleep/study, daily meals and a loving home. These students are aged 15 to 18, speak English, and have their own spending money and insurance. For more information, please call

Mackenzie Battista at (770) 757-4656 or visit www.aspectfoundation.org

Hello everyone! I will be putting together a 15 minute short to kick off Rally Day at the end of August and would love participants from all the younger groups at Covenant. *This means:* High schoolers, Middlers, Grade schoolers and Pre Schoolers! There will be parts available to everyone. Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings in August. If you are interested email me at ces0008@yahoo.com. *Christine Carpenter*



5th Sunday Worship Experience - *The NEXT 5th SUNDAY is July 29!* We will combine a mixture of the summer experiences of our young people as they participate in VBS, and the Middle and High School Summer

Conferences. If you're interested in helping out, please let Craig T. know.

Going underground with WoRMI "let the little children come unto me." - Jesus

The teachers and shepherds of this joy-filled time of providing for the Christian education of our children are such a blessing. *Do you have a sense of call to participate in this ministry?* The leaders for the next school year will meet for a planning session over the summer (date: TBD, late July/early August) in preparation for the school year. If you are interested in learning more about how you can offer your gifts and fulfill your sense of call in this way, please contact Craig: ctopple@covpresathens.org

Child Liturgist (10:45 Service) 3rd - 5th graders lead the *Call to Worship* each Sunday. Summer NOTE: As we move into the summer months, child liturgists will come on a volunteer basis. If you would like your child to lead the call to worship over the summer, contact Karen in the office and let her know which Sundays work for your family. *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.*

YOUTH NEWS! *Massanetta springs with faith formation, by Craig Topple.*

The energy and enthusiasm of young people is contagious--especially when there are over 200 mostly middle schoolers who gather together in one place. At 6am on Thursday, June 21, Kim Ness, youth director at First Pres, and I, loaded 11 middle school youth from both churches onto a 15 passenger bus that drives as smoothly as my minivan. From Covenant were Syndey Braswell, McKenzie Redish, Emma Rentz, and Owen Barnett. Less than 9 hours later we were in the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley--a place Presbyterians were drawn to in large numbers as early as the 17th century. And for good reason with its rolling hills covered in a lush green, deeper in some ways than what we have here in Georgia. The forecast called for rain for much of our 4 days, but we weren't going to let that put a damper on things. How could we when some 20 enthusiastic high school juniors and seniors were responsible for energizing everyone, leading workshops, and assisting with worship and keynotes? A very impressive group of students! Half of those high schoolers were group leaders, called enablers, and were assigned and responsible for some 10 youth along with two adults. Each group consisted for the most part of youth and adults from churches other than their own--so we made lots of new friends. The enablers jobs were to help us process experiences of our day, primarily the keynote portion, and guide us through our time together. Our enabler was a recent high school graduate named Emma, who is headed off to UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. She made a lasting impact on all of us. The middle schoolers in my group--engaged and enthusiastic--came from Presbyterian churches in North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Florida. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Allysen Schaaf, is on staff at the church where I was baptized and grew up, Decatur Presbyterian. It was great to have her leadership, as she effectively emphasized the theme of the week which was inspired by Isaiah 43:1-3: "*But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.*" *NRSV* Within these verses emerged essential aspects of our identity--we are created, claimed and called by God. As young people navigate the challenges of adolescence, these are foundational aspects of their (and all of our) self understanding. These themes were emphasized in the workshops we participated in. There were some 15 workshops of which groups participated in 4. The emphases of those I participated in included: music as prayer, created as creative beings, and consideration of the role of social media in our lives. Of course, no camp and conference is complete without essentials such as:

lots of camp food (which I thought was just fine, but I'm not picky and I could avoid eating meat which is a goal of mine in 2018);

Lots of recreation, including a giant slip and slide (yes, I slipped and "slided"), silly games involving shaving cream and sprays, water games, jump ropes, a gaga pit, canoeing, and swimming; and, *Barracks* which can withstand the countless number of young people who stay in them year after year.

A neat service project was incorporated into one night called, "Rise Against Hunger." Any process engineer would have been impressed with the streamlining of this food packaging project as we donned cooking caps and gloves and bagged and boxed 10,000 meals of a vegetable rice mixture, while pop songs old and new were blasting overhead. The kids loved it. The final night closed with a dance party--a well chaperoned middle school dance party, need I say more? After which--and it somehow segued--all 200 plus of us gathered in a large circle in a field under a clear sky for a moving candlelight vespers service. We slept well that night.

Sunday morning, we packed up, then joined together for closing worship with communion. We said our goodbyes, then off we went arriving back to Athens just after 9pm. I was so pleased to participate with our young people in this way. Presbyterian camps are done in a unique way, and for this become special places which shape the faith of our children to engage the world as an expression of that faith. Thanks be to God.

Bathroom Renovation update from Pam Knox as of June 16 I've been asked a number of questions about the status of the bathroom renovation project and thought I would provide a short discussion of what has been done, how it is being paid for, and when it will be finished. Most of this is based on information from Hank Tweedell and Karen Wetherington. Information is also available in Session minutes from February 4, 2018. The work is being done by Grahl Construction. There are two different projects underway. A shower is being added to the basement next to the WORM cooking room for use by IHN visitors. The cost of this portion of the renovation is approximately \$25,000. Upstairs, the Fellowship Hall bathrooms have been gutted and new men's and women's rooms are in the process of being plumbed, with three stall in each bathroom plus new double sinks along with mirrors. At the time I looked at it, the rough plumbing was in and the contractors were about to pour the cement floors. Once those are dry, they will frame in the walls and install tiles and fixtures. The process of connecting the Fellowship Hall bathrooms to the kitchen sewer line should help alleviate ponding of water near the entrance to the portico in the parking lot when they resurface that part of the lot. The cost of the upstairs renovation was estimated to be approximately \$95,000, but some additional costs were incurred when asbestos was discovered in the demolition and had to be removed. The original sewer line from Gaines School Road to the Fellowship Hall bathrooms was determined by camera inspection to have collapsed (which is why they were shut down earlier than expected), and replacing that would have cost about \$100,000 due to the depth of the line, so Covenant is fortunate that the separate sewer line from the kitchen was already available. Hank was not sure when the work would be completed, but it could be as early as three weeks. There should be no problem finishing by the end of July, well before the fall season begins. Costs for the renovation project will be somewhat higher than originally expected due to the discovery of the asbestos as well as changes made in the design of the project by Session as the contract was finalized. Most of the cost will be covered by the Jubilee Campaign account, which also covered the roof replacement. Some of the Jubilee money is also reserved to renovate the playground, so additional money for the bathroom renovation will come from the Capital Reserve Fund. Jim Bowden has also requested that some additional funds be made available from the Bowden Book Fund. At this point I cannot tell you the exact amounts from each source since the final bill has not yet come in.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to answer them. *Pam Knox*

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Aug. 7	7:00pm, Christian Education team meeting
Sunday, Aug. 12	8:30am, First Grade Breakfast
Tuesday, Aug. 14	11:30am, Restaurant Roadtrip to Em's Kitchen on Hawthorne
Saturday, Aug. 25	Covenant BRAS performing at Groovy Nights for Project Safe
Thursday, Sept. 6	7:00pm, Worship team meeting

Leaders of Covenant ministries & programs! Please plan to submit what you would like in our **Fall Brochure** NOW, or by the latest Friday, August 3, as we are publishing the next week.

Email kwetherington@covpresathens.org with your submissions! *Many thanks.*

WEEK OF July 15, 2018

SUNDAY-

9:45am Worship
11:00am Punch and Cookies
1:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous
6pm Session Social at Stoneburner’s Home

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

8am Covenant Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel Epps Bridge Road
9am—4pm Project Safe

TUESDAY-

9am—4pm Project Safe
9:30am Athens Mother’s Center
11:30am Restaurant Road Trip to Gaby’s by the Lake
8pm New Freedom in FH

WEDNESDAY- 9am—4pm Project Safe

5:30pm—8:30pm Project Free
6:30pm—8pm Kick’n It!

THURSDAY— 9am—4pm Project Safe

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

FRIDAY— 9am—4pm Project Safe

9:30am Athens Mother’s Center
8pm New Freedom in FH

SATURDAY— 7am—10am FEAST food truck distribution

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—July 15, 2018

9:45am—

Liturgist—

Reader: Phil Koehler

Ushers: Juergen Wiegel, The Tweedell Family

Greeters: Bert Ballard-Myer, Katie Bemisderfer

Congregational Care: Catharine Tyson)

Counters: Pam Knox, Randy Parish

Punch & Cookies: Linda Rogers & Steve Follin

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Ed & Dianne Ralph (July 16—22)

Nursery/Super: Ellen Stoneburner

Birth—Walking: Ellen Stoneburner

Walking—5 years old: Stephanie Cahill, Susan Parish, Wyatt Herndon

WEEK OF July 22, 2018

SUNDAY-

9:45am Worship
11:00am Punch and Cookies
1:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous

MONDAY- OFFICE CLOSED

9am—4pm Project Safe

TUESDAY- Beecher on leave thru 7/31

9am—4pm Project Safe
9:30am Athens Mother’s Center
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma’s Eastside
6:30pm Covenant Coffee House
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-

9am—4pm Project Safe
10am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—8:30pm Project FREE!
6:30pm—8pm Kick’in It!

THURSDAY-

9am—4pm Project Safe
2:00pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm—8:00pm YOGA
7:00pm Celebrate Recovery (Mary McGarity)

FRIDAY—

9am—4pm Project Safe
9:30am Athens Mother’s Center
8pm New Freedom in FH (celebrating their 41st year in Athens)

SATURDAY—

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—July 22, 2018

9:45am—

Liturgist—

Reader: Steve Follin

Ushers: Jim & Dorothy Newland, Dick Zimdars, Stephanie Cahill,
Betsy Pless

Greeters: Phil & Sallie Hale

Congregational Care: Catharine Tyson)

Counters: Sue Loegel, Judy Capie

Punch & Cookies: Reaves/Burmeister

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (July 23—29)

Nursery/Super: Annemarie Braswell

Birth—Walking: Annemarie Braswell

Walking—5 years old: Richard & Marcia Page, Sydney Braswell