

THE COVENANTER

February 10, 2019

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

Happy Valentine's Day! The **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** will meet at 9:30am on Thursday, February 14, reading chapter 6 in their booklet, "God's Promise: I Am with You." Scriptures include: Isaiah 41:8-13, Isaiah 43:1-7, and Psalm 46:1-11. All women are invited. This month we will stay afterwards for a lite lunch of soup, bread, and fruit. Bring your favorite to share. Always good conversation, devotions, & missions.



ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK The month of February Covenant is collecting these items for the AAEFB: *Pork*

& beans, canned salmon and snacks items such as crackers, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc. Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Bowden Church Vocations Fund

a special offering for
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
February 2019

We continue to be grateful to God for all the gifts of the Spirit seen in Covenant's ministry of the past 53 years. We have had 8 candidates for ministry who attended Columbia Seminary in Atlanta: Andy Casto-Waters, Rob Lohmeyer, Jennifer and David Horton, Insook Lee, Boin Cho, David Fuentes, and Lauren Van Wicklen Peters; and 1 who attended Union in Richmond, Robin Murzynski Mann. We have also supported the efforts of members as Volunteers in Mission, as Young Adult Volunteers, as Mission Teams, as student interns on our church staff, and in other studies and certifications at Montreat College and Columbia Seminary. We also encouraged Susan Verbrugge and Catherine Willis Oliver as they too became PCUSA Ministers of Word & Sacrament.

Named in honor of Jim and Jere Bowden's 35-year ministry here at Covenant, the **Bowden Church Vocations Fund** was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. This year, we celebrate with Colleen Cook who is finishing her 4 years of study at Columbia Seminary this spring. Colleen is a longtime member, who was active in the choir and coordinator of our Covenant Connection program. Please include her in your prayers as she seeks a call to ministry. With your help, we'll keep her debt-free as she begins new work.

A **special offering** for the Bowden Fund will be received this month, though donations are welcome all year long. Make checks out to Covenant & mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. **Please respond generously**, as we support our members in this journey of faith together, wherever it may lead us. Many thanks!

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Come one, come all, to the **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, February 12, at 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. This month we welcome Covenant's Bill Lindstrom & Sophie, who is a certified pet therapy dog, visiting those who have special needs - helping reduce blood pressure, pains, & stress, and having a general calming effect, as well as putting a smile on their faces! Bill works through the Athens Area Council on Aging to meet Sophie's clients. Always a great time of good food & fellowship. Bring a dish to share, and bring a friend. Beverages are provided.

Remember in Prayer: Chuck Rosenberger at home recovery from outpatient surgery this past week; Patrick recovering from a severe sinus infection; Beecher recovering from the flu; Cliff with a bad cold; Zia Topple recovering from the flu; Mrs. Bowen's family & community, in difficult times; Anne Page, now at Avery Place in Winterville, room #116 (visitors are welcome); Kathy Boardman, who had to delay her departure, but continues her preparations for ministry in state parks around the country; Jean Gibson, at The Oaks; Pauline Marshall, in Highland Hills memory care; and Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Feb. 11	Genesis 2: 1-10
Tuesday	Feb. 12	Jeremiah 17: 1-13
Wednesday	Feb. 13	Psalms 1
Thursday	Feb. 14	Luke 6: 17-26
Friday	Feb. 15	Matthew 5: 1-12
Saturday	Feb. 16	I Corinthians 15: 12-20
Sunday	Feb. 17	I Peter 4: 12-14



Title: "Stay Close"

Theme: God calls us to live close to the power of the Holy Spirit.

SOMEWHERE THERE'S MUSIC. Complete these song titles with the correct name of a place:

1. _____ Blues.
2. The Girl from _____.
3. I Found My Thrill on _____.

1. St. Louis
2. Ipsema
3. Blueberry Hill

ANSWERS TO SOMEWHERE THERE'S MUSIC:

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #32

Anticipated Pledges: \$286,432.62

Received Pledges: \$266,429.71

Thank you for your faithful Giving!

Souper Bowl of Caring: \$1,749.00



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

**32nd Annual Gathering of
Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women**

At Covenant Presbyterian—AUGUSTA
3131 Walton Way Augusta, GA 30909 706-733-0513
www.covenantaugusta.org

Saturday, March 15 at 9:45am

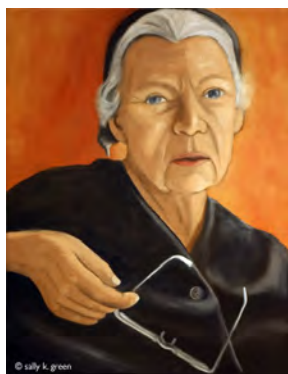
Reservations must be made by March 11

Continental Breakfast and Lunch \$10

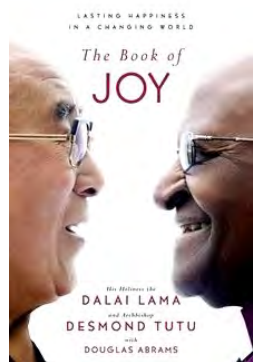
You can find a registration form on the table in the gathering room or on the sign up bulletin board.

Happy Valentine's Day! The **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** will meet at 9:30am on Thursday, February 14, reading chapter 6 in their booklet, "God's Promise: I Am with You." Scriptures include: Isaiah 41:8-13, Isaiah 43:1-7, and Psalm 46:1-11. All women are invited. This month we will stay afterwards for a lite lunch of soup, bread, and fruit. Bring your favorite to share. Always good conversation, devotions, & missions.

EMMAUS ROAD CLASS : The Life and Witness of Dorothy Day



Starting on **Sunday, January 13th**, the Emmaus Road class will begin a conversation with and about Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and one of the most significant North American followers of Jesus in the 20th century. The class will begin by watching an hour-long documentary of her life entitled, “Don’t Call Me a Saint,” and then will reflect each week through February on some of her writings (provided via email prior to the class). Please join us in the fellowship hall at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings . Mark Harper will facilitate the discussion.



The Journey Class will be studying **THE BOOK OF JOY**. The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World is a book by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu published in 2016 by Cornerstone Publishers. This book is the result of a 7-day meeting between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, two of the world’s most influential spiritual leaders, during which they discussed one of life’s most important questions: how do we find joy despite suffering? Join us Sundays at 9:30am in the Journey Class room located in the nursery hallway. Steve Bell will facilitate the class.

This fall the NAUTILIUS discussion group studied the great women of the Bible like Miriam, Mary, and Lydia. For the winter-spring semester, we move to the *Lives of Great Christians*, a Great Courses series presented by the much-acclaimed William Cook, Professor of Medieval History at the State University of New York. A Tree of Life stands in the center of the US Constitution Hall on Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. On its branches hang pictures of 100 people who have made a significant contribution to make the US Constitution what it is today. Simply press a button by each name to hear the important contribution each made. This semester we are pressing the buttons on *Lives of Great Christians* to learn the contribution of each. Class sessions begin with Professor Cook’s presentation, followed by a discussion led by various class members. We start with St. Antony, then St Augustine of Hippo. We find out the importance of Hildegard von Bingen to Martin Luther’s theses. We conclude with the contribution of Gustavo Gutierrez and Liberation Theology. Every week, the name of the person studied will appear in *The Covenant*. Come learn with us for one Sunday morning or all of them, at 9:30am in the Conference Room next to the mailboxes. *Coordinated by Warren & Arnelle Combs.*

Needed: School Supplies and Toiletries for WORM Project! Last weeks's WORM Church School lesson was about Mary, Joseph and Jesus fleeing to Egypt for their safety and how even today people have to leave their homes quickly for the same reason. The children decorated knapsacks that will be donated to children in transition. Now we need to fill the bags with school supplies, toiletries or anything you think someone who has had to flee their home quickly might need. Please place items in the box in the hallway outside the office. *Thank You!*

Youth Group Happenings!

Want to learn more about the bible? Come to:

- B.A.S.I.C. on Sunday mornings from 9:40 - 10:30. Lead by Abby Horvath; and,
- Covenant Connection, Wednesday evenings at 5:30 with Pastors Mark and Beecher



Sunday evening programming

- *Middle School Youth Programming* is underway with its first four week series--"Star Wars" from a faith perspective--of the semester! Fifth graders have joined 6th and 7th graders for Sunday evening programming from 4-6. The time includes programming; followed by recreation and a meal shared with the senior high group. Sunday evening adult leaders are Jeremy Reaves, Dibenhi Reyna, and Mark Harper. Parents are welcome to sit in on any session.
- *High School Youth* meet regularly from 5-7pm each Sunday when there is school (according to CCSD calendar) on Monday, unless otherwise publicized announced. All meetings are announced through "GroupMe." Sign up with Bert Ballard-Meyer.

HIGH SCHOOL & MIDLERS YOUTH SUNDAYS!

Feb 10: Youth Group - Middlers at 4pm-6pm; Senior High 5pm-7pm

Feb 17; No Youth Group

Feb 24: Youth Group—Middlers at 4pm-6pm; Senior High 5pm-7pm

March 3: FROZEN CHOSEN CUP—Athens Skate Inn 6-8pm. Details to follow

Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8. An awesome week is in store for any rising 9th - graduated from HS! We will again share the GA Lodge with Covenant Augusta. So far 8 youth have registered and paid their deposit. If you haven't yet registered or paid your deposit, no worries, you can still sign up. Speak with Craig. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact ctopple@covpresathens.org.

Middle School Conference--Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21. A unique energetic week is in store for rising 6th - completed 8th graders! Registration has begun, and if you know you (your child) wants to go, please submit a \$100 deposit by Jan 31. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact ctopple@covpresathens.org

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is July 16-20 at Purdue University. What is Presbyterian Youth Triennium? A gathering of over 3000 students from PCUSA churches all over the country. The Northeast Georgia Presbytery is planning to send a delegation, which will travel on a charter bus with youth from Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbyteries. Any rising 9th - graduated HS student wants to attend, please **contact Brian Herndon** for more information. A deposit of \$100 is due to "Northeast Georgia Presbytery" by Feb 1.

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant finished 2nd in the school spelling bee in the 4th grade?

Congregational Care needs greeting cards, especially Birthday Cards for men and children. Please leave them in the container in the hallway across from the church offices. Thank you! Mary Anna



Who's Who:
Paige Campbell

**Child Liturgist
(10:45 Service)**

Please let Craig Topple know if your child would like to become a part of the rotation: ctopple@covpresathens.org

2/10 Ruby; 2/17 Isaac; 2/24 Eli; Jacob 3/3

Instructions: As part of a rotation, your child is assigned to a Sunday. If you can't make the Sunday assigned, switch with someone ahead of you on the schedule, and if you can't find a replacement, no worries, as one of the pastors will fill in. The bulletin is 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."



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

February Scripture: *Luke 5: 17-26*

Memory Verses: When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the man, "*Your sins are forgiven my friend.*" Luke 5: 20 (Good News Translation)

WoRM Rotation for January:

	K-2	3rd-5th	Music Time	Story Teller
2/3/19	Jerry/Jere (Oasis T)	Craig/Jere (Potters Workshop)	Betsy	Jerry
2/10/19	Patrick/Megan (Loaves/Fishes)	Jerry/Jere (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Megan
2/17/19	Kay/Adam (Temple Courtyard)	combined	Betsy	Adam
2/24/19	Luanne/Susan (Potters Workshop)	Patrick/Jennifer (Loaves & Fishes)	Betsy	Susan or Luanne

Parents Corner: "Say you're 'sorry.'" Have you ever said this to a child? Children surely know feelings of remorse. Think of some incidents which may have caused your child to feel bad about what he or she did. Did she smooch a bug by accident? Did he hurt a sibling on purpose, but later felt bad for it? Did a friend get left out of a game? Did he act in a way displeasing to his parents? Our children most often know when they've caused hurt, and certainly know when they have been hurt. It can help to have words accompany those feelings, such as "sorry." In "biblical times," a commonly held belief that the relationship between physical ailments/illnesses and sin was causal--one became ill primarily as a result of sins one had committed. Significant emphasis was placed on cleansing and purification rituals as a way to intercept any physical ailment that would otherwise surely be coming a "sinners" way. We have a similar mentality today. It's not unusual when one falls ill, particularly chronically so, to at least consider, "Did I do something to deserve this?" Our WoRM lesson this month comes from Luke 5:17-25. It gets at the intersectionality between "sin" and physical illness. Often in this story, we focus on the faith of friends, the shock of opening a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was teaching, and the miracle of Jesus telling the man to "take up his mat and walk!" But, not to be lost, at the heart of the pericope is Jesus pronouncing forgiveness to the paralyzed man. Was Jesus suggesting his physical condition was a result of sin? What was Jesus hoping might happen by forgiving the man's sins? We will likely never know. Still, it shows how essential forgiveness was in the ministry of Jesus. We can internalize guilt, as well as rancor to the point that it contributes to illness. Contrarily, think of how liberating forgiveness is: to be forgiven, and to forgive. Our president may be the only person who thinks he doesn't need to be forgiven of anything. The rest of us can probably think to just earlier in the day before reading this of a time when there may have been a need to say, "sorry;" or someone has needed to say "sorry" to us. The 12 steps know this well! What a gift when the one you say sorry to says, "I forgive you." Now, with an Ignatian twist, imagine the words spoken by Jesus are said to you; "your sins are forgiven, my friend." We look forward to a good month of learning about and growing in faith.

Wonderful Wednesdays—February 13th

10:00am Adult Bible Study— Bible overview using the Disciple Bible Study curriculum.
Facilitated by Mark Harper.

MENU for February 13:

Ham, Mac/Cheese
Broccoli, fruit,
brownies

COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

5:30pm—6:00pm K-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant Time

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

6:30pm—7:00pm 3rd—5th Grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

WEDNESDAY COVENANT CONNECTION For Youth

5:00pm Supervision for Middle and High School Youth in the youth rooms begins

Youth Rooms will NOT be open until then

5:30pm "Wednesday School—Bible Study" for Middle School Youth led by Mark and Beecher
(optional for High School), High School Youth continue to fellowship

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Faith and Film

7:00pm Depart

6:30pm Adult Bible Study—led by Beecher Mathes. DVD video, "The Dark Ages: An Age of Light"
a lively journey through Christian & Islamic art in the early middle ages, full of beauty in a barbaric time

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

7:00pm—7:30pm

Come & join us for this new offering at Covenant every Wednesday night.

This introspective worship is built on these 3 tenets: *repetitive song, prayer, and silence.*

Led primarily by the pastors and Cliff Brock, the services will include devotional music and chants from the Taize tradition, along with scripture and prayer. This time of centering and prayer is open to the community, so please share this invitation with colleagues and neighbors and all who are spiritually hungry and thirsty.



Come one, come all, to the **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, February 12, at 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. This month we welcome Covenant's Bill Lindstrom & Sophie, who is a certified pet therapy dog, visiting those who have special needs - helping reduce blood pressure, pains, & stress, and having a general calming effect, as well as putting a smile on their faces! Bill works through the Athens Area Council on Aging to meet Sophie's clients. Always a great time of good food & fellowship.
Bring a dish to share, and bring a friend.



Our next **Restaurant Roadtrip** will take us down the street to "A Taste of India" in the Ansonborough complex, at the corner of Gaines School Road & Cedar Shoals Drive. Join us on **Tuesday, February 19, at 11:30am.** Separate checks. Meet you there. Please signup on the bulletin board to let us know how big a table to reserve! Always great food & fellowship to share.



Hello Covenant Ladies, Let's rejuvenate **Building Relationships And Support** -- otherwise known as BRAS. We'd like to meet a few times per year for fun and fellowship with potlucks or other types of social gatherings. We'll soon send out a poll for our first gathering of 2019. **(The February 16th pot luck has been postponed.)** For questions, contact either Bert Ballard-Myer (mysammie1@yahoo.com) or Valerie Stone (valeriefreystone@gmail.com).

FEBRUARY IS ARBOR DAY MONTH IN GEORGIA!

First American Arbor Day- The first American Arbor Day was originated in Nebraska City, Nebraska by J. Sterling Morton.^[2] On April 10, 1872, an estimated one million trees were planted in Nebraska. Birdsey Northrop of Connecticut was responsible for globalizing the idea when he visited Japan in 1883 and delivered his Arbor Day and Village Improvement message. In that same year, the American Forestry Association made Northrop the Chairman of the committee to campaign for Arbor Day nationwide. He also brought his enthusiasm for Arbor Day to Australia, Canada, and Europe.



McCreight and Theodore Roosevelt Beginning in 1906, Pennsylvania conservationist Major Israel McCreight of DuBois, Pennsylvania, argued that President Theodore Roosevelt's conservation speeches were limited to businessmen in the lumber industry and recommended a campaign of youth education and a national policy on conservation education.^[5] McCreight urged Roosevelt to make a public statement to school children about trees and the destruction of American forests. Conservationist Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the United States Forest Service, embraced McCreight's recommendations and asked the President to speak to the public school children of the United States about conservation. On April 15, 1907, Roosevelt issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States"^[6] about the importance of trees and that forestry deserves to be taught in U.S. schools. Pinchot wrote McCreight, "we shall all be indebted to you for having made the suggestion."

"Each generation takes the earth as trustees." —*J. Sterling Morton*

Georgia's Arbor Day - Third Friday in February (*State Tree: Live Oak*)

LA TABLE 2019—A Luncheon Benefit For Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens

On Tuesday, February 26, 2018, IHNA will host its annual *La Table* luncheon at the Athens Country Club, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Attendees are asked to make a contribution of \$50, (Please make your check out to Covenant with LaTable on the memo portion put in offering plate or leave in the church office) a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Terry Kay, a 2006 inductee into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame, will be one of the featured speakers. The funds raised through this event will support IHNA in its mission to mobilize our community to help homeless families in crisis situations achieve sustainable independence by providing emergency housing, meals and comprehensive support services. Please sign up on the bulletin board. See Ellen Stoneburner for more information.

WEEK OF February 10, 2019**SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP
 9:30am Church School for all ages
 10:45am Worship
 12:30pm Exit Interview 1:30pm Called Session Meeting
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
 4pm—6pm Middle School Youth Group
 5pm—7pm Youth High School Youth Groups

MONDAY—

6:30pm Scouts
 OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 10am Adult Bible Study
 12:30pm Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon 8pm New Freedom
 7pm NF Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY—

10:00am Adult Bible Study
 2pm Grad Council Meeting
 5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
 7:00pm Wednesday Taize Worship
 7:30pm Adult Choir
 7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY—

9:30am PW Bible Study in the Gathering Room
 9:30am Examination Board Meeting
 11:00am Committee on Ministry
 2pm Knitters & Knotters
 6:30pm YOGA
 7pm Celebrate Recovery
 7:30pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 10:00am Green Dream Team Meeting
 7:00pm Dance Group (Youth Rooms) 8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY—Fellowship Hall Cleaned
 CANCELLED -Building Relations & Support

WORSHIP—February 10, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Steve Bell Coffee: Lola Bell

Ushers: Judy Capie, Alan Edwards

10:45am—

Reader: Sandy Whitney

Ushers: Kent Silver, Marie Ballard-Myer, Shirley Reinert, Steve Rathbun,
 Julie Bower

Greeters: Maurine Wathen, Gloria Pylant

Congregational Care: Ann Anderson

Counters: Sue Loegel, Paige Campbell

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (Feb. 11—17)

Nursery/Super: Christine Carpenter

Birth—Walking: Christine Carpenter

Walking—5 years old: Clayton & Grace Adams, Phil Hale

WEEK OF February 17, 2019**SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP
 9:30am Church School for all ages
 10:45am Worship
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
 NO Middle School Youth Group
 NO Youth High School Youth Groups

MONDAY—

8am Covenant Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge
 6:30pm Scouts
 OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 10am Adult Bible Study
 11:30am Restaurant Road Trip to "A Taste of India"
 8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

10:00am Adult Bible Study
 5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
 7:00pm Wednesday Taize Worship
 7:30pm Adult Choir
 7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters & Knotters
 6:30pm YOGA
 7pm Celebrate Recovery

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 7:00pm Dance Group (Youth Rooms)
 8pm New Freedom in Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY—Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—February 17, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Dianne Simpson Coffee: Dennis Calbos

Ushers: Elsie Bothwell, Jim Smith

10:45am-

Reader: Juergen Wiegel

Ushers: Julie & Don Bower, Robyn Malone, Phil & Linda Koehler

Greeters: Anna, Shari & Jimmy Cobb

Congregational Care: Ann Anderson

Counters: Caren Snook, Pam Knox

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Hank Tweedell

Grounds Stewards: Ed Ralph (Feb. 18-25)

Nursery/Super: DeLynda Tweedell

Birth—Walking: DeLynda Tweedell

Walking—5 years old: Dell Whitehead, Tim Foutz, Carrie Tweedell