

THE COVENANTER

February 24, 2019

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



March 06, 2019 at 6:30pm - The season of Lent begins this year, Wednesday, March 6th. Join us in the evening for our annual Ash Wednesday Worship, beginning at 6:30pm, which includes song, prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes. Our Covenant Connection activities will end at **6:25pm** so that the participants may worship with us. *May it be a meaningful way to start this season of renewal and new beginnings in the Spirit of Christ.*



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



PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH FEAST ON March 16th!

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, Nancy Omdahl, Ed Ralph or Mark Harper.

Remember in Prayer: Ben Bruner, recovering at home in Dahlonga, with multiple broken bones, following surgery Feb.12, having been hit by a truck that backed into his motorcycle; those remembering anniversaries of loved ones who have died; DeLynda Tweedell's father, Larry Davis, a past lung cancer patient and now with colon cancer; Mrs. Bowen's family & community, in difficult times; 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; Ruth Brewster at Morningside; Pauline Marshall, in Highland Hills memory care; Anne Page and Libby Wright (Jack Chamblee's aunt), at Avery Place; Grace Eubank in AL; and Craig Topple's sister Genia in Atlanta.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Feb. 25	Psalm 99
Tuesday	Feb. 26	Psalm 100
Wednesday	Feb. 27	Psalm 101
Thursday	Feb. 28	Exodus 34: 29-35
Friday	Mar. 01	2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2
Saturday	Mar. 02	Luke 9: 28-36
Sunday	Mar. 03	Luke 9: 37-43



LINK'EMS! Find the missing word and from it you will see two new word combination:

1. Fly _ _ _ game.
2. Wide _ _ _ _ sesame.
3. Power _ _ _ _ bag.

1. Ball
2. Open
3. grab

ANSWERS TO LINK'EMS!

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #34

Anticipated Pledges: \$304,334.66

Received Pledges: \$276,936.71

Thank you for your faithful Giving!

Bowden Church Vocations Fund: \$1715.00

The church office will be closed
February 29, 30 & 31!



Presbyterian Women

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

32nd Annual Gathering of

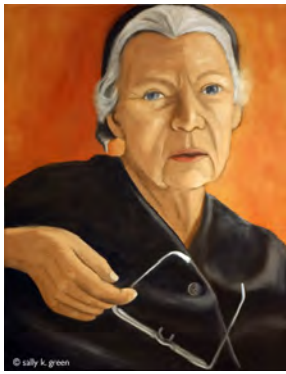
Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women

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

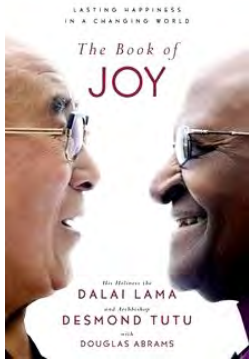
Saturday, March 15 at 9:45am

Reservations must be made by March 11

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.*

Congratulations to Adam Brooks, representing Oconee County High School, for winning his division title in Class 4A-5A boys diving, at the GHSA state championships at GA Tech, Feb.7-9 in Atlanta. Covenant has a STAR! What a wonderful culmination of his high school sports career and all the time & effort he & his family have given to nurture this talent. Way to go, Adam!



Congratulations to Grace Adams, assistant professor in UGA’s College of Public Health, who will present a TED Talk, on Fri.Mar.22 at 7pm, at the Classic Center, based on her recent work & research in the community and how Athens & other towns might look for solutions based on our gifts & strengths, for problem solving.

Congratulations to Sarah Shannon, recently receiving tenure at UGA, in the department of sociology.



Learn more about the Bible!
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 24: Youth Group—Middlers at 4pm-6pm; Senior High 5pm-7pm

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

March 10: No Youth Group-- CCSD Spring Break

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 once won a Betty Crocker award?

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:
 Luanne Rigsby

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

2/24 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 27th

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

COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

MENU for February 27:

Bar-B-Q Chicken, rice,
fruit, chocolate sheet cake

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.

BRAS Spring Potluck

Friday, March 22 at 6:00pm

Home of Valerie Stone

106 Buckeye Branch, Athens 30605

(Olde Lexington Gardens Subdv near Whit Davis Elementary)

Bring whatever you would like to drink and a dish to share. Life is busy and sometimes plans fall through, but if you would please RSVP if you hope to come, that would be helpful with planning & logistics!

Thanks very much for responding to the poll March 22 was definitely the preferred date. Please rsvp to Valerie at valeriefreystone@gmail.com or text to 678-360-6983

Community Outreach Mission Team Meeting

March 5 at 6:30 pm.



ALL ARE INVITED! Please attend this meeting if you are interested in serving our neighbors in the East Athens Community, or wish to know more about how Covenant serves our neighbors in need.

Looking for an Apartment

Cliff is looking for an apartment during the summer (some flexibility). He would prefer to live near the church, botanical gardens or UGA. Budget is \$400-600 monthly. Contact Cliff at cbrock@covpresathens.org.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me"



Birthdays

2 John Knox	10 Kent Wolfe	26 Andrew Mote
3 Jack Pannecoucke	13 Francesca Cervero	McKenzie Redish
Rad Brosius	14 Sonja Holden	29 Don Hoeler
Ben Whitney	16 James Malone	30 Phil Koehler
5 Sam Brewster	17 Ron Simpson	Rhys Dartez
Josh Ballard-Myer	18 David Loegel	
6 Betsy Pless	19 Thomas Bowden	
8 Richard Page	23 Donny Whitehead	
Dan Whitney	Owen Barnett	
9 Junan Crisler	24 Preston Devaney	
Trasie Toppie	25 Karen Redwine	



The **Presbyterian Women's Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, March 14, from 9:30-11:00am, in the Gathering Room, for devotions, missions, refreshments, and good discussion on this year's theme, *God's Promise: I Am with You*. This month we look at chapter 7 – God with Us as Emmanuel – also reading Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25. Hope to see you there!



Everyone's invited to this month's **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, March 12, at 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall, to enjoy great food & fellowship and to hear a wonderful concert of Celtic music – with members of the Green Flag Band: Julia McDermott on hammered dulcimer and her husband Carl Rapp on fiddle. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend. Beverages are provided.

The **Restaurant Roadtrip** will head downtown to The Last Resort, 174-184 West Clayton Street, for lunch together on Tuesday, March 19, at 11:30am. Please SIGNUP on the bulletin board, so we can reserve a table. You can meet us there or carpool from the church, leaving at 11:15am. Separate checks. Come and join us!

Highlights of the stated Session meeting on Tues. Feb.19 include: 1) appointment of Dick Zimdars as chair of the 2019 Nominating Committee; 2) appreciation to our commissioners attending the presbytery meeting at Covenant/Augusta on Sat.Feb.23 – Luanne Rigsby, Ellen Stoneburner, and Sandy Whitney; and 3) appreciation to Bill Barstow, now serving a 5-yr-term on the Personnel Committee, and to Randy Parish now serving as chair. *Ongoing copies of the minutes of Session meetings, as well as Ministry Team minutes, can be found on the table in the narthex. All Session meetings are open to anyone's attendance.*

WEEK OF February 24, 2019**SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP
 9:30am Church School for all ages
 10:45am Worship
 12:15pm Personnel Meeting 1:30pm Session Meeting
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
 4pm Middle School Youth Group
 5pm Youth High School Youth Groups

MONDAY—

6:30pm Scouts
 OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside
 12:30pm LaTable
 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
 8pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY—

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

SATURDAY—Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—February 24, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Heide Wolfe

Coffee: Shirley Hunt

Ushers: Heide & Kent Wolfe

10:45am-

Reader: Carol Huber

Ushers: Heide & Juergen Wiegel, The Tweedells

Greeters: Jim & Dorothy Newland

Congregational Care: Ann Anderson

Counters: Sue Loegel, Judy Capie

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (Feb 26—Mar. 3)

Nursery/Super: Annemarie Braswell

Birth—Walking: Annemarie Braswell

Walking—5yearsold: Christine Carpenter, Delaney Braswell, Megan Sperr

WEEK OF March 03, 2019**SUNDAY-**

8:30am WORSHIP
 9:30am Church School for all ages
 10:45am Worship
 12:15pm Olomouc Meeting
 12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
 4pm Middle School Youth Group
 5pm Youth High School Youth Groups

MONDAY—

8:00am Covenant Breakfast Club at Cracker Barrel on Epps Bridge Rd
 6:30pm Scouts
 OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
 8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

10:00am Adult Bible Study
 5:30pm—6:25pm COVCONN
 6:30pm ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
 NO Adult Bible Study, No Taize,
 and No 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

SATURDAY—Fellowship Hall Cleaned



WORSHIP—March 03, 2019 8:30am-

Reader: Wayne Crowell

Coffee: Sharon Edwards

Ushers: Dennis & Carol Calbos

10:45am-

Reader: Sallie Hale

Ushers: Phil & Sallie Hale, Jerry & Sarah Shannon, Dianne Simpson

Greeters: Don & Julie Bower

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Caren Snook, Pam Knox

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Steve Bell

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (Mar 4—10)

Nursery/Super: Luanne Rigsby

Birth—Walking: Luanne Rigsby

Walking—5yearsold: Patrick, Alice & George McMaster