

THE COVENANTER
March 24, 2019

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



SUNDAY, APRIL 7th at 9:45am!

I hope by now you have received by email the two proposed job descriptions we think will enable us to keep moving forward with God's mission in and through the Covenant Community. These job descriptions are for a Coordinator for Christian Education and Community Life, and a Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator. Please take some time to read through them carefully, and then come for an hour discussion on Sunday, April 7th at 9:45am in the fellowship hall. In the meantime, Finance and Personnel will be figuring out salaries for these two positions. Thanks for your prayerful attention to this matter.

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF ELDERS BEGINS

Forming a Nominating Committee



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. Dick Zimdars is the Nominating Committee chair with Judy Capie as the second Elder approved by the Session. Now the Congregation recommends members of the church to serve on the Nominating Committee. The two 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 14 at noon immediately following worship.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK! The month of MARCH Covenant is collecting these items for the AAEFB: *Pork & beans, canned salmon and rice.*

And as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Remember in Prayer: those recovering from severe weather disasters recently in the Midwest and Alabama, needing so much help; those who lost loved ones in the mass shootings in New Zealand; those who spread so much hatred around the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	March 25	Psalm 32
Tuesday	March 26	Psalm 33
Wednesday	March 27	2 Corinthians 5: 1-10
Thursday	March 28	2 Corinthians 5: 11-21
Friday	March 29	Luke 15: 1-7
Saturday	March 30	Luke 15: 8-10
Sunday	March 31	Luke 15: 11-32



An inviting church is creative and colorful, well-kempt and welcoming. Freshening up one of Covenant's many flower beds, as we move toward the upcoming Spring and Summer, just may be your gift for reaching out to the local community, to help people "Come and See" Covenant. Please speak with Alice Rose, who is co-

ordinating contributions for these flower spaces. She is willing to help with contemporary flower gardening ideas as well as skills-coaching for flower gardening volunteers. You may contact Alice at alicerosephd1@gmail.com or 678-886-

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #38
 Anticipated Pledges: \$331,187.71
 Received Pledges: \$312,594.64
It is time to catch up on pledges.



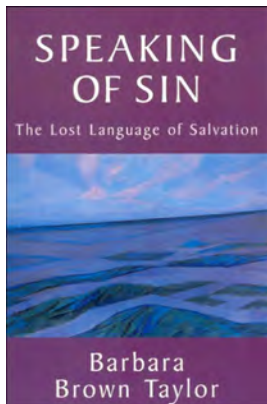
April 19th, 7:00 p.m.
 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Athens will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian

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)



Dancing with the Athens Stars is Sat. April 6, 2019 at 7:30 PM. Don't miss this magical night of performance featuring Covenant's own Grace Bagwell Adams (partnered with Cathy Rumpfelt) and benefiting Project Safe. Tickets are on sale at the Classic Center box office www.classiccenter.com. This year's event features many local business owners including Janet Geddis (Avid Book Shop), Rob Sutherland (Good Dirt Studio), 2018 Georgia Small Business Person of the Year Tonya Dugas (TSAV), exhibition dances from Canopy and Inti'sam. This is Project Safe's largest fundraiser event, and accounts for over 10% of our annual revenue. **Can't make the show?** You can still donate in the name of your favorite team, go to <https://www.project-safe.org/ways-to-donate/dancing-with-the-athens->



EMMAUS ROAD CLASS is now discussing *Speaking of Sin: the Lost Language of Salvation* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contrary to prevailing view, Taylor calls sin “a helpful, hopeful word.” Naming our sins, she contends, enables us to move from “guilt to grace.” In recovering this “lost language of salvation” in our worship and in the fabric of our individual lives, we have an opportunity to “take part in the divine work of redemption.” If you would like a copy of this book you can order it online. Class facilitated by Mark Harper.



**Immigration:
A Jewish and American conversation**

Immigration attorney Dale Schwartz will shed light on the complex immigrant experience, one of America’s most divisive issues. Please join us for this special symposium on April 11 at 7:00 pm.



A professor of immigration law at Emory University School of Law for 26 years, Dale Schwartz has been a frequent expert witness on immigration before Congressional committees.

Save the date!
Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
780 Timothy Road

This program is presented by Congregation Children of Israel and the Florence and Sanford Schwartz Symposium Fund.
Reception by Trumps Catering will follow the program.

Everyone’s invited to this month’s **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. Covenant member, Brad Sperr, an Athens attorney specializing in Elder Law, will present a very informative program on estate planning, including topics such as wills, trusts, probate, and the new advanced directives for Georgia. We will also celebrate our friends Coffee Worth and Sara Boggs, who are moving to Lakeland, FL, in early May. Beverages and Linda Koehler’s delicious salmon will be provided. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend! TWO MORE THINGS: 1) send Beecher your latest recommendations about repair people around town, so we can update the list we created 10 years ago, and 2) we’ll take a second photo of The Graduates, to add to the one taken March 12, as there are too many retirees now to fit into one shot! It’ll be a great day – come and join us!

ONLINE READERS: This Saturday, March 23rd at 2:00 PM, there will be a program, “A Gathering of Love” at Al Huda Islamic Center. Please invite members of your congregations, friends and all the lovers of humanity to join our Muslim brothers and sisters and let them know that they are loved. Together we can fight and eliminate this type of prejudice from our world, our society and our hearts.

What: A Gathering of Love
Where: Al Huda Islamic Center of Athens
2022 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA 30605
(706) 548-4620
When: Saturday March 23rd, 2:00 PM



The **Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, April 11, at 9:30am, in the Gathering Room, as we conclude this year’s study booklet, “God’s Promise: I Will Be with You.” Join us for good refreshments & fellowship, missions, devotions, and lively discussion of chapters 8-9, led by Beecher. Also read John 14:1-31 and Matthew 18:15-20 and 28:16-20. SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, May 2, at 6:30pm, in the Gathering Room, as we enjoy our annual Salad Supper, plus special worship in the Music Room. Bring a penny (or a dollar) for the years in your age, to give to these ministries supported by the 2019 PW Birthday Offering: the Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte in NC, the Effingham Child Development Center in Illinois, the Presbyterian Homes & Services in Phelps, KY, and the Wings of Refuge home in Iowa Falls. Thank you!



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

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS!

Middler Fundraiser for Montreat: CE

approved a fundraiser to help our middle school kids earn some money for Montreat. Those attending are being asked to complete 10 hours of work for any from the CovPres community who need some help. Be thinking if you have a project you could use a Middler or two to help with. Those who "hire" the middlers are asked to pay \$10/hr, and provide a minimum of 2 hours of work. The work is to be supervised and there must be two adults present at the place of work. All jobs will be approved by an adult youth leader and a parent/caregiver of the youth. "Hiring" can begin as early as late March early April and will last through mid July.



Sunday evening programming

Middle School Youth Programming -- 4—6pm! The journey of "Star Wars" and faith continues!

High School Youth meet regularly from 5-7pm each Sunday .

Upcoming Sundays:

Mar 24: Youth Groups MS—4pm & HS- 5pm with supper together at 5:30pm.

Mar 31: No Youth Groups → Madison/Oglethorpe/Oconee Spring Break

On Down the Road:

Sunday, April 7: "The Bridge" at the Presbyterian Student Center. 6-8pm. Area youth groups are being hosted by the PSC for a campus ministry experience. This year's theme is "Real Talk: Faith Life/College Life". The evening will include Sunday Dinner, followed by a fun college student led program. Meet at Covenant at 5:30pm, we will return to church shortly after 8pm.

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! Six youth have been registered! If you know you (your child) want to go, please speak with Craig. 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

Child Liturgist (10:45 Service)

3/24 Eli, 3/31 Jacob, 4/7 Ruby, 5/14 Isaac

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." If you haven't already please let Craig Topple know if your child would like to be a part of the rotation. ctopple@covpresathens.org.

A word about 5th Sunday Worship --Having children and youth take on significant leadership roles during worship each fifth Sunday during the year is so special. The next fifth Sunday is March 31. However, this is also the Sunday before Spring Break for many of our children and youth, not to mention visiting partners from the Czech Republic will be at Covenant. Therefore, we will skip this next 5th Sunday and look forward to a future one, which will come during the summer: June 30.

Going underground with WoRM! "let the little children come unto me." - JesusMarch Scripture: *Luke 4: 1-13*

Memory Verses: "Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert." Luke 4:1 (Good News Translation)

WoRM Rotation for March:

Date	Teacher/Shepherd	Teacher/Shepherd	Music	Story Teller
3/17/19	Craig/Jere (Potters Workshop)	Jerry/Jere (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Jerry S.
3/24/19 (Potters Workshop)	Luanne/Susan (Oasis Theatre)	Christine/Megan	Betsy	Christian
3/31/19	Craig/Jere (Potters Workshop)	Jerry/Jennifer (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Craig
4/7/19	Patrick/Craig/Jere	Combined (Seder)	Betsy	Patrick/Craig

Parents Corner For the three weeks leading up to Easter, we go to the "Garden of Gethsemane." Work on spelling that word with your child. Try to locate it on a map of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus is outside the city gates. It is the night before his arrest. His last act as a free man is to take his closest companions with him to a place of prayer. Interestingly, Luke does not include the name of the garden as other gospels do; the evangelist just refers to it "the place." Places become sacred as they facilitated a desire to become close to God. As you see in the memory verse above, the heart of Jesus' prayer is one of intention--"remove this cup;" as well as submission, "not my will, but Thine" (nothing quite does it like the King James translations in instances like these). So much is happening in these few passages which speak to our faith journey. The importance of companionship, the importance of naming our intentions, the importance of surrendering to that which is out of our control, trusting God is present in the midst of all of it. These concepts are probably better understood, initially, when our children are in their mid-teens; and that is just the beginning of their understanding. Sometimes they are not understood at all by people of faith, who would prefer to gloss over the suffering narrative and get straight to the "good stuff" of Easter. But, the garden of Gethsemane is at the crux of the spiritual journey; and exposing our younger children to this portion of the faith narrative, may make it not only more easy to comprehend at a later stage of life, but also a very valuable lesson to cling to when suffering comes knocking on their door, which it inevitably will do. This may seem like a *gloomy* lesson to engage with our children for the weeks leading up to Easter, but doesn't the contrast make the Easter celebration that much sweeter?!

Vacation Bible School - As you begin to put together your summer calendar, First Pres will once again be hosting VBS May 28 - 31st. There will not be a formal partnership as there was last year, but children who are interested in attending can sign up through [their website: https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/](https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/). Any youth or adults who want to volunteer are welcome to do so.

Covenant Pres is planning to do Wednesday evening "Kickin' It at Covenant" over the summer. More info to come!

Wonderful Wednesdays—March 27th

10:00am Adult Bible Study— Bible overview using the Disciple Bible Study curriculum.

COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

MENU March 27

Spaghetti-sausage/
sweet peppers

Salad, fruit
ice cream sandwiches

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

7:00pm TAIZE

7:25pm Adult Choir

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.

Chuck and Chandler Rosenberger would like to share a video for the **JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes**. It stars our precious granddaughter Laurel (Clair's daughter), who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in December. Her father, Ryan Bertram, is hoping to participate in this 100 mile ride to help raise funds to cure diabetes. He and Clair live in Suwanee and he is a middle school band teacher in Gwinnett County. He produced the video, and also composed the music for it. Thanks for watching. Here is the link: <https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?>

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant suffers from turf toe – say what?

Who's Who: Dick Zimdars

Oglethorpe County High School Band Fund Raiser
Towel sets and Sheet sets.

Towel sets \$40. each set: 6 piece set includes 2 bath towels, 2 hand towels and 2 washcloths or Bath Sheet (27 X 52), hand towel, and washcloths.

Colors: white, gray, cream & taupe.

Sheet sets \$40. each set: Available in Split King, California King, Queen, Twin, and XL Twin. Includes 1 flat sheet, 1 fitted sheet 2 pillowcases. (Split King includes 2 fitted sheets; Twin & XL set includes 1 pillow case)

12 colors to choose from white, light blue, silver, taupe, &

Gray	Raspberry
Eggplant	NAVY
Bronze	Brown
GOLD	Sage

See Carrie Tweedell to order or you can order online at SimplyFund-raising.com. Please include organization name at check out. If you order online the cost is \$49.50.

**PLEASE WELCOME FRIENDS FROM OLOMOUC, CZ
APRIL 5-10**



Please welcome **Dagmar and Jan Lukáš**, who is the pastor of our partnership/sister church, Olomouc, Czech Republic, along with pastor **Aleš Wrana**, a mentor and spiritual leader of the students at the **ECCB Music Conservatory in Olomouc** (5 min from our church). This school is closely connected to the Olomouc congregation.

WE NEED YOU TO SIGN UP AND SHOW COVENANT-STYLE HOSPITALITY AND SHARE YOUR TIME WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM OLOMOUC!

**SUNDAY MARCH 31
COME JOIN US FOR A BBQ LUNCHEON WITH GUESTS
FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Please join us for a luncheon following the 10:45 am worship service to welcome guests traveling to the U.S. for a PCUSA Partnership Conference being held by Columbia Seminary in Atlanta. The first part of the conference is to worship with us at Covenant. Please join us in welcoming our guests where Phil Hale's BBQ will be served with some wonderful fix'ins!

Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to join us or see how you can help.

Any questions please email:
Sue Rathbun at irish_2242@yahoo.com or

Steve Rathbun at rathbun@uga.edu.

WEEK OF March 24, 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,
4pm Middler Youth Group
5pm High School Youth Group

MONDAY—

6:30pm Scouts
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma’s Eastside Italian Restaurant
6:30pm Stated Session Meeting
8pm New Freedom in FH

WEDNESDAY—

10:00am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
6:30pm Adult Bible Study
7:00pm Taize
7:25pm Adult Choir
7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY—

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

FRIDAY-

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

SATURDAY—

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—March 24, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Sonja Holden

Coffee: Shirley Hunt

Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Alan Edwards

10:45am-

Reader: Don Bower

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

Greeters: Phil & Linda Koehler

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Paige Campbell, Caren Snook

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (March 25-31)

Nursery/Super: Annemarie Braswell

Birth—Walking: Annemarie Braswell

Walking—5yearsold: Tim Foutz, Sydney & Delaney Braswell

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MONDAY—

6:30pm Scouts
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
6:30pm CE Meeting
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

10:00am Adult Bible Study
10:30am Presbytery Meeting in Conf Room
5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
6:30pm Adult Bible Study
7:00pm Taize
7:25pm Adult Choir
7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters & Knotters
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FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
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SATURDAY—

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—March 31, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Betsy Pless

Coffee: The Combs

Ushers: TBD

10:45am-

Reader: Sarah Shannon

Ushers: Phil & Sallie Hale, Robyn Malone, Phil & Linda Koehler

Greeters: Steve Rathbun, Robyn Malone

Congregational Care: Dell Whitehead/Susan Parish

Counters: Randy Parish, Bill Barstow

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Jim Bowden

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (April 1—7)

Nursery/Super: Joan Baird

Birth—Walking: Joan Baird

Walking—5yearsold: Adam & Rebecca Rea, Hannah Barnett