# OVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE COVENANTER April 28, 2019

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



For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need through supporting **One Great Hour of Sharing**. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly. **One Great Hour of Sharing** funds are divided among its three programs: *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, *Self-Development of People (SDOP)*, and *Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)*. 32% of the offer-

ing goes to SDOP, 32% goes to PDA and 36% goes to PHP. You will find an insert and envelope in your mailbox or on the table in the narthex or take a fish and fill it with coins. Thank you!



TODAY Sunday, April 28th we will honor

Covenant's High School Graduates and Seminary Graduate at the 10:45am worship service, with a reception following.

# High School Graduates for 2019

Adam Brooks

Isaac Carpenter

Andrew Mote

Max Lorrain

Katie Rentz

# Seminary Graduate 2019

Colleen Cook

# TODAY - Sunday, April 28th

Central Presbyterian Church will join us in worship. Please join us in giving them a heartfelt welcome!



COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road Athens, Georgia 30605 706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344 www.covpresathens.org covenantp@covpresathens.org Everyone's invited to the **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, May 14, in Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm. Bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages and Ann Anderson's delicious meatballs will be provided. Our program will welcome back former Covenant member and Elder, Geof Gilland, who is now the Public Information Assistant at the ACC Police Department, sharing stories of interest about the department and his new position, leaving time for Q&A as well. We hope you'll be able to attend!

Remember in Prayer: Wayne Crowell & family, in the death of his brother Gary on Easter Sunday April 21, after a long illness; Craig Topple & family, in the death of his sister Genia Cayce age 47 from cancer April 23 in Atlanta; Becky Silver & family, in the death of her mother with Alzheimer's April 23 - and the resulting stress on her father with his own health concerns; Marie Ballard-Myer's mother Mary Ruth, hospitalized at Emory for a heart attack and stent repair; Patrick McMaster's brother Neal, after back surgery; Elsie Bothwell, at home with a back injury & infection; first responders, victims, shooters, and families in 2 events this past week in Athens; Sonja Holden's mother in AZ, with a contagious virus within her retirement community; Caren Snook's niece Terry, in the recent cancer death of her husband Larry Harper in Athens; Gloria Pylant and Katie Bemisderfer, recovering well from recent surgeries; Dianne Ralph at home; and Ben Bruner, in continued healing from a motorcycle accident – please send cheer & blessings to this address = 86 Sleepy Hollow Road, Dahlonega, GA 30533.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS						
Monday	April 29	Acts 9: 1-20				
Tuesday	April 30	Psalm 30				
Wednesday	May 01	Psalm 104: 33-34	OLDER ADULT SUNDAY			
Thursday	May 02	John 21: 1-19	Title: Always Abounding			
Friday	May 03	John 21: 20-25	Theme: God always has a purpose for us—to			
Saturday	May 04	Romans 12: 1-2	spread the good news with our very lives.			
Sunday	May 05	Ephesians 4: 29 - 5:2				

# Uncoming Events!

Opcoming Events:						
Sun. Apr.28	High School Graduates Sunday & reception					
	and Colleen Cook's seminary graduation					
	and hosting Central Presbyterian, worshiping with us					
Thurs. May 2	s. May 2 6pm, Pres Women's Salad Supper & Worship					
Sun. May 5	Older Adult Sunday					
	celebrating Christian Education volunteers					
	and saying goodbye to Coffee Worth					
Sat. May 11	2-4pm, goodbye party for Coffee Worth at Jubilee Partners					
Sat. May 18	The FEAST Food Distribution					
Sun. May 19	9:30am, FINAL Church School for WoRM					
Sun. May 26	8:30am, FINAL early worship					
	9:30am, FINAL Church School for all ages					
Sun. June 2	9:45am, Summer Worship begins					

# BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY

**TEAM** meeting TODAY- April 28 at 12:25pm..

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #43

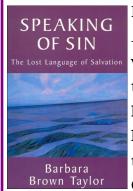
Anticipated Pledges: \$384,893.83

Received Pledges: \$359,027.51

It is time to catch up on pledges.

You will find your July 2018 — March 2019 statements in your mailbox. 

Congratulations to Colleen Cook, called to serve as pastor of a PCUSA church in Columbus, GA, with her ordination service to be held at Covenant on Sunday, June 9 at 4pm - and to James Malone, graduating from Athens Tech on April 30 - to the Davis/ Lloyd/Huberty/Barstow family on the recent birth of a new grandson, first child born to Ashley and her husband William and to Abby Horvath's best friend newly married, as well as Abby's grandmother turning 100 years old.



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, except when it isn't.

Covenant is getting a new play yard. Check out some of the particulars on the poster board as you enter the building. Any questions see Rich Reaves.

**Thank you** to everyone that contributed to the T-shirt collection. We have more than enough for our project. Covenant you are the best. *June Meyers* 



You are invited to drop by Jubilee Partners, (427 Jubilee Rd, Comer, Georgia) on Saturday, May 11th, between 2-4pm. Bring a finger food and a hug for Coffee Worth as she sets off for her daughter's house in Florida.



A heartfelt thank you to our Covenant Family, Personnel and Pastors for the wonderful Administrative Professionals week of beautiful flowers, cards, candy and thoughtful, kind words.

It is a pleasure to work for and with such wonderful folks.

Karen, Judy and Sharon



Covenant's **Lunch Bunch** meets
every final Tuesday at 11:30am at
DePalma's

Eastside, for great food & fellowship. Come and see on Tuesday, April 30th! Lots of laughter & good stories.



# ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY

FOOD BANK! The month of APRIL Covenant is collecting these items for the AAEFB: instant mashed potatoes, canned sweet peas, dried pasta, and cereal. Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

PW Salad Supper & Worship

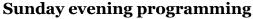
<u>Thursday, May 2, at 6:00pm</u>, in the Gathering Room, as we enjoy our annual Salad Supper, plus special worship in the Music Room. Bring a penny (or a dollar) for the years in your age, to give to these ministries supported by the 2019 PW Birthday Offering: the Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery 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

**Middler Fundraiser for Montreat:** Middlers are earning some money for Montreat! They've helped out with projects around the church. And now, the CovPres community is being asked to "hire a middler!" Do you have a pro-√youth Group. **Services** Fundraiser

ject 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.



*Middle School Youth - 4-6*pm High School Youth - 5-7pm.

All meetings at the church unless otherwise indicated

# UPCOMING YOUTH GROUPS!

Apr 28: Youth Group

May 5: End of Year Party

# Just Around the Corner!

Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8. We are less than two months away from this fun filled, faith forming event. Nine youth from Covenant, Athens, will share lodging at the GA Lodge with youth from Covenant, Augusta who together will join youth from across the region for week 1 programming. This year's theme is "Let Love Lead" (read more on the Montreat website). Thanks to the church's generosity, and the Lasagna Lunch fundraiser, youth and their parents are only responsible for paying approximately 25% of the cost. What a gift. We will commission the youth on Sunday, June 2, after which they will head to the hills!

Middle School Conference--Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21. Six youth will travel with Sarah Shannon, Mary Barnett, and Jeremy Reaves to Maryville College for five days of fun and faith formation. This year's theme is "For Such a Time is This" (read more on at montreat.org. It's not too late to sign up. If you know you (your child) want to go, please speak with Craig.

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium** is July 16-20. Four youth, plus Brian Hernden will travel to Purdue University for this special event (which in my humble opinion is one of the best events of the denomination). What is Presbyterian Youth Triennium? A gathering of over 3000 students from PCUSA churches all over the country. The Northeast Georgia Presbytery delegation will travel on a charter bus with the delegation from Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbyteries. Please contact Brian Herndon with youth from Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbyteries. Any rising 9th - graduated HS student wants to attend, please contact Brian **Herndon** for more information.

**DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH!** April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month so this is a good opportunity to discuss the dangers of distracted driving. Thousands of people have lost their lives due to distracted drivers. We want to do our part to make sure this comes to an end! Please follow this link to read more...https://www.nsc.org/Portals/o/Documents/DistractedDrivingDocuments/2019-DDAM/

Scott & Sean Holshouser in concert Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the No. 3 R.R. Street Doors open at 6, potluck meal at 6:30pm (please bring a dish if you want to eat). Music at 7pm. \$10 donation at the door to support Sean's education fund.

# **Child Liturgist**

(10:45 Service)

4/28 Ruby, 5/5 Eli, 5/12 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.

# Covenant Connection has concluded for the school year.

"I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped in any way with Covenant Connection this year! It's a big effort every week but we always find a way to make it work together. A more formal recognition is coming soon at an upcoming Sunday service, but for now thank you all very much!" Sarah Shannon

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

Easter Scripture: John 21:1-19

Memory Verse: Jesus said..."Do you love me?" John 21:17c

WoRM Rotation for upcoming Sundays:

Date	Teacher/Shepherd	Teacher/Shepherd	Music	Story Teller
4/21/19	various	Combined	Betsy	everyone
4/28/19	Kay/Adam (Temple Courtyard)	Jerry/Jere (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Adam/Kay
5/05/19	Luanne/Susan (Potters Workshop)	Patrick/Jere (Loaves and Fish)	Betsy	Susan
5/12/19	Megan/Jennifer	Craig/Jere	TBD	Craig

Parents Corner: Last summer, pop-musician Drake issued a viral challenge called the "Kiki challenge" which featured his hit song, "In My Feelings." (Note: It's a fun song, but look up clean version if you want to listen. Also, there were creative ways people responded to the challenge on You Tube, but be aware police had to issue a warning against some dangerous ways people were living into the challenge.) Anyhoo, in the song Drake asks a key question: "Do you love me?" This is a question we have all asked at some point or another. It's very likely that even our children have asked that of us, their parents! "Do you love me?" It could be asked of anyone by anyone? Even Jesus asked this deep and intimate question of his closest disciple, Peter. Peter had denied knowing him three times on Good Friday. Our Easter story in WoRM over the next few weeks explores John 21:1-19, in which Jesus appears before disciples in a dramatic way by fostering in a huge catch of fish, he grills fish for them on the beach, and he asks Peter three times: "do you love me?" The way we will encourage our children to respond to that question of Jesus is in the affirmative (of course), and to show they love Jesus by sharing God's love through care of others. "Feed my sheep," is how Jesus puts it. Maybe we'll start a new fad this summer. Instead of the "Kiki challenge" it will be the "Jesus challenge" to feed sheep as we are inspired by our children to care for those who are most vulnerable among us.

**Vacation Bible School -** First Pres will once again be hosting VBS May 28 - 31st, and CovPres Children are invited to sign up through <u>their website</u>: <a href="https://firstpresathens.org/z">https://firstpresathens.org/z</a> extra pages/vacation-bible-school-form/ Any youth or adults who want to volunteer are welcome to do so.



**Kickin' It at Covenant** will happen again this summer for three in June and three in July. Many thanks to Jerry Shannon for again helping organize these events! If you have ideas, let him know. More info to follow!



Elsie BothwellLinda VanSickle

3 Alex Clark
Wesley Whitehead

5 Janna Dresden Mary Cook

6 Evan Knox

7 Katharine Himley

8 Sandy Perkins

10 Caren Snook

12 Abby Horvath

Marcia Verbrugge

13 Catharine Tyson

Bastiaan Schimmel

14 Teresa Mauldin

15 Brandon Doughty

16 Steve Rathbun

19 Michelle Cram

Sue Loegel

**Annie Meyers** 

**Ansley Tweedell** 

22 Kent Silver

23 Tim Simpson

23 Ruby Basham

24 Dick Zimdars

Ntumwa Kisaalita

25 Carol Calbos

**Emily Ballard-Myer** 

26 Tim Bemisderfer

Luke Shannon

27 Joan Prittie

31

28 Emily Bower

Spencer Baird

Eric Zimdars

Isaac Carpenter

Ssempa Kisaalita





Juergen Wiegel who so lovingly provides the floral arrangements each Sunday will be gone for several weeks.

If you would like to provide flowers for worship please sign up on the sheet next to the mailboxes.

Available dates are:

May 19, and 26, June 2 & 16 Thank you!

Colleen Cook seems to need a new used vehicle as her present vehicle must be towed to her new home in Columbus and needs major repairs. If you have one and know of one you can let her know Sunday or email her at cujocook@gmail.com.

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant received a water conservation award from the ACC Water Department?

Who's Who: Jim & Sandy Whitney – for using on average less than 30 gallons per day!

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: <a href="https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr\_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804">https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr\_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804</a>

# A DEVOTIONAL FOR EARTH MONTH (and every day of the year)

by Barbara Burnett, Covenant's Green Dream Team chair

Susan DeGeorge, a Presbyterian minister, wrote an article in the March/April 2019 issue of *Presbyterians Today*, entitled "Getting Involved with Creation." In it she relates this experience:

"During my first year as a new pastor, I decided I would write a curriculum for our children that would focus on common outdoor experiences that they and the main characters in the book of Genesis had. The first lesson focused on God's covenant with Abram in which he was told to look at the sky and count the stars, to get an idea of the number of his descendants. The next centered on Hagar and what it was like to be hot & thirsty and to discover a water source to quench your longing. The third week focused on Jacob's falling asleep outdoors with a stone as a pillow. Week four's curriculum was never written, because by then I had discovered that the children in my suburban congregation had never counted stars on a dark night, quenched their thirst in a cool stream, or slept out under the sky.

"Over the years since then, I've learned that it wasn't just those children in my first church who didn't have a regular connection with God's creation. Many of us are oblivious to or alienated from the earth around us. And yet, Presbyterians come from a tradition that calls us to know, honor, rejoice in, and care for God's creation. Our Scripture – from Genesis to Revelation – invites us to be in relationship with trees that clap their hands, as Isaiah proclaims; water that quenches thirst, cleanses, teaches about justice, and quiets our anxiety; and animals that serve as helpers, partners, and teachers. . . We much tend to those relationships through our daily choices – in what we consume, how we get from place to place, and how we treat the beings around us, along with the water, soil, and air. Only then will we begin to embody Mark's Gospel commission to go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation."

I invite each of you to think of a time when you were a child, to envision the places in Nature that conveyed a sense of the divine or spiritual. Here are a few of the examples that I could remember, from when I was a little girl, around 9-10 years old:

Every summer I used to build a playhouse in the woods between 2 granite boulders. I'd sweep the floor and build a roof of branches and cottonwood leaves. This became my secret hiding place for the summer, a place to read or to play with my dolls, but also a place to hide and feel protected. So I had no trouble envisioning what "Rock of Ages, cleft for me . . ." meant, a song we sang frequently in church.

For a couple of years my family drew water from a well for drinking, cooking, and washing. The days were often hot in the summer and a cool drink from the well bucket with the dipper was so refreshing. It wasn't hard for me to picture the Samaritan woman at the well where Jesus asked for water.

My dad used to plow the garden and fields each spring, and he gave the children the task of walking behind the tractor and throwing or carrying over to the edge of the field the rocks that turned up with the plowing. He said that the seeds would have a hard time growing with so many rocks. The Parable of the Sower, sometimes called the Parable of the Soils, fit right in to my world view, since I could see it plain as day when it came time to hoe that row of plants.

Often on a sunny winter day, I would sit on the south side of the house or barn and soak up the sun's warmth. It was in those indulgent, satisfied moments that I contemplated the view across the fields before me and the mystery & comfort that flows through farm life and that I decided for myself that the Trinity (so difficult for a child to understand) could be thought of as God, the sun; Jesus, the sun's rays across space; and the Holy Spirit, the warmth of the sun. Three in One. It worked for me.

And lastly, as a young girl, I loved the bookmobile in the summertime. One day I excitedly checked out a new book about how to speak the language of animals. I thought that this would be the secret to communicating directly with the wild world. Well, you know how that went! But when I read Job 12:7-8 years later as an adult, I recognized that instinctual urge to learn from Nature. "But ask the animals and they will teach you, or the birds of the sky and they will tell you, or speak to the earth and it will teach you . . ."

Here is a poem by Mary Oliver, one of my favorite poets:

# MINDFUL

Every day I see or I hear something that more or less kills me with delight, that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light. It is what I was born for – to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this soft world – to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation. Nor am I talking about the exceptional, the fearful, the dreadful, the very extravagant – but of the ordinary, the common, the very drab, the daily presentations. Oh, good scholar, I say to myself – how can you help but grow wise with such teachings as these – the un-trimmable light of the world, the ocean's shine, the prayers that are made out of grass? *Amen.* 

# WEEK OF April 28, 2019 - IHN HOSTING WEEK ENDS SUNDAY-

8:30am Worship 9:30am Church School 10:45am Worship

12:15pm High School & Seminary Graduates Reception

12:25pm B&G Ministry Team Meeting 2pm Called Session Meeting

2:30pm Debtors Anonymous 3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous

4pm Middle School Youth 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 5:30pm Christian Education Meeting 8pm New Freedom in Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY-

8:30am—9:30am AA 10:30am—12:30pm NEGA Presbytery Meeting 10:00am Adult Bible Study

# THURSDAY-

2pm Knitters & Knotters 6:oopm PW Salad Supper & Worship 6:3opm YOGA 7pm Celebrate Recovery

### FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center 8pm New Freedom

# SATURDAY- Fellowship Hall Cleaned

# WORSHIP-April 28, 2019

8:30am Worship

Reader: Wayne Crowell

Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Cheryl Devaney Coffee: Dennis Calbos

10:45am-

Reader: Juergen Wiegel

Ushers: Heide & Juergen Wiegel, Bill Rigsby, Julie Bower, Robyn Malone

Greeters: Katie Bemisderfer, Bert Ballard-Myer

Congregational Care: Dell Whitehead/Susan Parish

Counters: Caren Snook, Sue Loegel

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel
Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden
Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (April 29—May 5)

Nursery/Super: Don Bower
Birth—Walking: Don Bower

Walking—5 years old: Megan Sperr, Christine Carpenter, Wyatt Herndon

# WEEK OF May 05, 2019 -

SUNDAY- OLDER ADULT SUNDAY

9:30am Church School 10:45am Worship, celebrating Coffee Worth 2:30pm Debtors Anonymous 3:30pm Overletes Anonymous

3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous 4:00pm Middle School Youth - Final 5:00pm High School Youth Group—Final

MONDAY-6:30pm Scouts OFFICE CLOSED

8:30am Worship

# TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center 8pm New Freedom in Fellowship Hall

# WEDNESDAY-

8:30am—9:30am AA

# THURSDAY-

9:30am Examination Board NEGA PRESBY 11am Committee on Ministry 2pm Knitters & Knotters 6:30pm YOGA 7pm Celebrate Recovery

# FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center 8pm New Freedom

# SATURDAY-

8am—5pm Quality Care for Children in Fellowship Hall Fellowship Hall Cleaned

# WORSHIP-May 05, 2019

8:30am Worship

Reader: Bruce Menke

Ushers: Dennis & Carol Calbos

Coffee: Shirley Hunt

10:45am-

Reader: Jim Newland

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

Greeters: Phil & Sallie Hale

Congregational Care: Ellen Stoneburner (May 1-7);

Ann Anderson (May 7-14) Luanne Rigsby (May 15-31)

Counters: Paige Campbell, Randy Parish

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel
Plant Care: Frank Allen
Open the Building: Alex Clark
Close the Building: Rich Reaves

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (May 6—12)

Nursery/Super: Valerie Stone

Birth-Walking: Valerie Stone

Walking—5 years old: Brian, & Eli Stone, Clayton & Grace Adams