

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Jan. 31:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCkRp1t3MnecoYXnds4X03A>

THE COVENANTER

January 31, 2021

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

BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATIONS FUND

a special offering for

Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 2021

Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the Bowden Church Vocations Fund was established in 1996 by our Session. The Bowden Church Vocations Fund has been used in the past to support Covenant members that have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. Because Montreat Youth Conferences have played such an important role in their call to Christian Ministry, a part of the BCFV will be sent annually to Montreat in gratitude for their spiritual blessing the conferences have bestowed. Covenant thus becomes a church patron to the Conference Center at Montreat. A special offering for the Bowden Church Vocations Fund will be received for the month of February, though donations are welcome all year long. Mark your check for BCFV in the memo portion. Thank you for your generous giving.



We're moving forward in this season of the pandemic with our plans for our Christian Education Ministry. We have some important ZOOM meetings this week with various groups, and if you'd like an invitation to those meetings, please contact Rindy at rindy@trouteaud.com. Invitations will be sent the day before each meeting so that they may be easily found the days of the meetings.

Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Ministry Team. We'll discuss a short-term plan for moving beyond the season of Lent and send best wishes to our chairperson, Clayton Adams, as he, Grace, and Bonnie welcome a new baby!

Wednesday, February 3, 7 p.m. - Parents Meeting for parents of middle schoolers and high schoolers. We'll talk about how we navigate the season of the pandemic with our young people, including the summer.

Sunday, February 7, 5:00 p.m. - ZOOM check-in with middle schoolers.

Sunday, February 7, 6:00 p.m. - ZOOM check-in with high schoolers.

The Czech Partnership network has invited us to make contributions to a Lenten Devotional being prepared for all congregations in the network..
Please consider submitting a reflection, poem, photo, or other creative work according to the guidelines outlined below. Thank you for helping to strengthen our friendships with sisters and brothers in the Czech Republic and the US.

Be Merciful, Just As Your Father is Merciful (Luke 6: 36)

ECCB-PCUSA Partnership 2021 Lenten Devotion

Please select a date by Friday, January 29th and write your name and email address on the form:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_el0587b-88jXI81czr_duNBdE9agIg7Y4oococIuvM/edit?usp=sharing

Please submit your devotion to Deborah Murdoch at damurdoch@gmail.com by Friday, February 12th. Early submissions are welcome! A couple of notes to keep in mind.

- ♦ A devotion is simply a little sharing from the heart with a connection to a scripture passage. It is written for the purpose of inspiring us to have hope for each day through our faith in Christ. Be yourself in writing a devotional. No need to be deeply theological or intellectual unless this is your style.
- ♦ It begins with a scripture passage. In the body of the devotional, you can tell a story that related to the passage and end it with the point you are wishing to make. A short prayer that is related to the story comes at the end.
- ♦ If you are able to submit in English and Czech please do so. We will coordinate translations for those who cannot submit in both languages.



Do You Shop at Kroger?

If you do, you may be able to collect a new kind of plastic packaging for TerraCycle. Starting today, you can recycle Simple Truth and Simple Truth Organic bags, pouches, liners and wraps. Examples of these products include fresh potatoes, frozen fruit and vegetables, nuts, bacon, chips, cheese, squeezable baby foods, etc. The instructions on the website indicate that it is not necessary to clean the packaging, but I certainly washed the wrapping that I took off of a package of bacon! Everything else would be OK unwashed. A special note about CHEESE BAGS: Simple Truth cheese bags should be placed in the Simple Truth drawer; other brands should be placed in the cheese bags drawer. It makes a difference because TerraCycle pays us for the Simple Truth packaging, but not for other brands. I'm excited about this new recycling opportunity! *Caren Snook* for the Green Dream Team

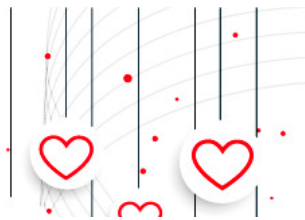


ARBOR MONTH - *we love trees!*

February 2021 — Did you know that college campuses and healthcare facilities across the country are dedicated to establishing and maintaining healthy community forests. 402 colleges and universities are recognized as Tree Campus Higher Education schools. More than 81,000 students were engaged in service-learning projected related to Tree Campus Higher Education. 16 healthcare facilities received Tree Campus Healthcare recognition in the program's inaugural year.

February

Calendar of Birthdays



2 Heide Wiegel
3 Benjamin Simpson
5 Paul Van Wicklen
9 Warren Combs
Sallie Hale
12 Delaney Braswell

13 Bill Lindstrom
17 Heidi Nibbelink
18 Jim Bowden
Willene O'Neal
19 Tom Rigsby
21 John Scott

27 Carolyn Hatfield
Nate Nibbelink
Barbara Parker



Dear Fellow Covenanter –

The Cov Presby Session hopes to implement a fundraising effort to create a financial base for installing a renewable, site-producing, electrical energy system using solar panels.

Ideally, the committee to lead this effort would feature interested members from the Building and Grounds MT, the Climate Change Awareness Task Force, the Finance MT, and the Green Dream Team. Members of these groups have been invited to take part, so now may be the moment to expand this opportunity to other interested parties.



Would you be willing to serve? If so, please alert me at your earliest convenience via e-mail at: richreav@uga.edu.

Participants will become equipped to explain about as well as answer questions for members and friends of Covenant relating to the:

- ♦ Project costs and component parts associated with the system
- ♦ Benefits of such a facility, in terms of long term carbon footprint reduction as well as financial savings from on-site electricity production
- ♦ Size and location options for this solar panel array;
- ♦ Completion time frames for necessary elements of the undertaking, and how these phases relate to payment of needed pledged
- ♦ Ongoing relationship with the church's current electricity supplier, Georgia Power

In this current era when energy consumers are being asked to examine their utilization choices, the Covenant Session believes the opportunities presented by employing a solar panel installation option should no pass by unexamined.

Kind regards, *Rich Reaves*, Co-Chair, B&G MT



There is
an
urgent
need for

**egg cartons for the Athens
Area Emergency Food Bank.**

Elsie Bothwell was kind enough to take the ones that have lived in the hallway of the church, but they need many more. Thank you for your help!



The six-week Lenten journey is an opportunity to take on a new spiritual discipline. This year congregations are invited to pray with Scripture as a way of discerning God's movement in our personal lives and in the life of the world around us. These devotions start with Ash Wednesday and will guide your journey through Holy Week. The devotions will be posted each week in the Covenanter.

Prayer Concerns: Rebecca Silver and family in the recent passing of her father; Steve Rathbun's parents with health concerns; Clayton, Grace, and Bonnie Adams awaiting a new baby (who may be here by the time we print this, so stay tuned!); Gloria Pylant in the recent deaths of two life-long friends; June Meyers's nieces and nephews recovering from COVID; the surviving loved ones and neighbors of those who died in a mobile home fire at the Hallmark Park in Athens; Jim McMinn recovering from retina surgery, 1/27; Jim Whitney recovering from retina surgery, 1/28; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Ginger Davis-Beck now at home receiving care; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings February 1—7, 2021

Monday Psalm 147
Tuesday Psalm 148
Wednesday Psalm 149
Thursday Psalm 150
Friday Isaiah 40: 21-31
Saturday I Corinthians 9: 16-23



Little Food Pantry— We encourage you to help us keep our Little Food Pantry stocked with pop-top single serve canned goods that do not require cooking, peanut butter, packaged crackers, healthy snack items. Small individual personal hygiene items (ie: soap, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, and shampoos) in a zip lock bag with a granola bar of some kind is also needed. Please remember everything must be sealed (air tight) to prevent ant infestations...*Please no raisins. Thank you to all that help keep the Little Food Pantry stocked.*

HOW TO GIVE. There is a new online giving option through the Presbyterian Foundation at this link <http://covpresathens.org/wp/contributions/> . Or you can click on this link www.covpresathens.org and click on online giving. And as always you can mail your check to the

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #31
Anticipated Pledges \$ 259,615.39
Actual Pledges—\$ 267,942.56
Thank you for your faithful giving!



...for a virtual event to help Family Promise, Athens!

La Table 2021

Something very different

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

For more information please contact Susan Parish
sdp51@yahoo.com, 706-220-6004 or Ellen Stoneburner
ellenstoneburner@gmail.com, 706-296-4468.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry

Jesus said, "You give them something to eat." Members, and friends of Covenant have been giving generously of their time and talents to the Emergency Food Pantry. As you can imagine, the need is great.

Covenant's Emergency Food Pantry days and hours have changed.

It is now on THURSDAYS, 1pm—4pm.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

STAY SAFE—If there is any reason at all that you should NOT physically volunteer—consider the following:

Make a financial donation to the Food Pantry by sending a check to Covenant and write "food pantry" in the subject line. (*You could send it in at the same time you send in your pledge*).

We can use grocery bags (paper or plastic), and small boxes to pack the food. If you call the church, someone could even come out to your car and get it.

If you are able to physically be present as a volunteer:

[Click the link below for an easy sign up](#) or call or email Betsy Pless 540-1719
bppless@gmail.com

You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please sign up for Covenant Food Pantry!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/login/entry/611848298042>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: *SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.*



Online Healing Grief Workshop

Wednesdays, February 17– April 14, 2021

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

You can download Webex on your phone or access their website at [webex.com](https://www.webex.com) in order to join the sessions once we send out the link.

A nine-week workshop for those who have lost someone through death.
The loss does not have to be cancer related.

Topics:

Getting Acquainted	Stress Management
Understanding Grief	Anniversaries
Remembering	Memorialization
Accepting	Role Changes
Closure & Evaluation	

Pre-registration is required for this workshop. **Spots are limited!**

Please call **706-475-4900**

This free workshop is sponsored by the "In Their Shoes" Walk