

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Feb. 14:

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

THE COVENANTER February 14, 2021

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



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Live Zoom Meeting

Time: Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84928520883?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84928520883?pwd=VGRoVGZlZQTk0UVU2cjZHMHhWVDJ5dz09)

[pwd=VGRoVGZlZQTk0UVU2cjZHMHhWVDJ5dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84928520883?pwd=VGRoVGZlZQTk0UVU2cjZHMHhWVDJ5dz09)

If you would like to receive the ashes stop by the office on
Tuesday, February 16 10am-12noon or Wednesday, February 17 10am-12noon

BOWDEN CHURCH VOCATIONS FUND

a special offering for

Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 2021

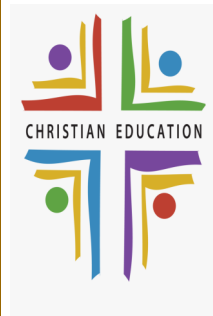
Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the Bowden Church Vocations Fund was established in 1996 by our Session . The Bowden Church Vocations Fund has been used in the past to support Covenant members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian 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 of 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.



Covenant members and friends are invited to bake Easter cookies to be given out on our Thursday food distribution just before the holiday. Please bag the cookies in groups of 8-12, and bring them to the church between March 29 and April 1. They will be given out on the Thursday before Easter.



During the season of Lent when we are invited to deepen our awareness of our relationship with the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us, the Christian Education Ministry Team will provide materials - online and paper - to guide and enrich your individual and family times for reflection. Some of these materials will be posted weekly online in separate e-mails to the congregation (midweek) and on our church website and in our newsletter (Fridays), and some will be mailed to our church family next week.

New Adult Study Opportunities

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. Please click on this link to access this weeks devotions for February 17 – 20. https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-Devotions_2021_FULLset.pdf



Journey Class – When four religious leaders walk across the road, it's not the beginning of a joke. It's the start of one of the most important conversations in today's world. Can you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own?

In one of his most important books, *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* *Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World* widely acclaimed author and speaker Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on "benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility." This way of being Christian is strong but doesn't strong-arm anyone, going beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other.

Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim this strong-benevolent faith, challenging us to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to become more Christ-like than ever before. Books may be ordered from Amazon.com (prices differ depending on format), and if you would like to join this important conversation, contact the church office for a ZOOM invitation. The class is held on Sunday mornings, 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours with Chris Holmes and Brennan Breed – Two innovative scholars, Dr. Brennan Breed, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Rev. Chris Holmes, FPC Atlanta, host a weekly online pop-up Bible study on Face Book (live streaming) and YouTube (recorded). They invite scholars from around the country to lead conversations from their homes or offices, and this Sunday they begin a Lenten series, *Jesus and the Cross*. Each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. a different topic will be considered: Jesus and the Forces of Evil, Jesus and the Forces of Death, Jesus and the Powers and Principalities, Jesus and the Cross (a feminist take), Jesus and the Transformation of Repentance, and Jesus and the Possibility of New Life. If you'd like to be a part of the live ZOOM conversation, you must register with Columbia Theological Seminary, ctsnet.edu. If you prefer the live Face Book option, join the Office Hours Face Book Group. If you want to hear the recorded conversation at your convenience, search YouTube Office Hours Options.

Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers—Young people will receive in the mail the devotional, *Where Your Heart Is*. It's published by the young, super-talented team of Illustrated Ministry, and it offers opportunities for middle schoolers and high schoolers to wonder about what is happening in their lives and world and how God may be speaking to them through these events and the people involved. This devotional offers scripture and creative outlets for responding to these timely, relevant, awe-inspiring and convicting promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Kindergarten - Fifth Graders—Our elementary schoolers will receive in the mail a devotional for families written by the gifted pastors and Christian educators of Illustrated Ministry, *An Illustrated Lent for Families: Reflections on the Heart*. In it families and children will find stories and hands-on activities to deepen their understanding of the rich meaning of the season of Lent.

Toddlers and Preschoolers—Our toddlers and preschoolers will have a really fun and creative way to learn more about the stories of Lent. In a website developed by the gifted Rev. Tori Smit, parents and children will be able to navigate weekly a screen, *Lent Garden* for stories, songs, and hands-on activities. The link for this screen will be included on the website and e-mailed to the Covenant family during the week. We invite grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends to share this unique resource with others!

Girls on the Run!

GIRLS ON THE RUN program. My name is Emma Powell and I am a senior at the University of Georgia. This semester I am interning with Girls on the Run which is a national nonprofit organization with the goal of promoting young girls' social, mental, and physical health. We are trying to establish a greater presence in Athens this season and I was wondering if you would be able to pass the program information along to the families of your congregation at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Now more than ever, girls need the social and emotional skill-building lessons of Girls on the Run. Social isolation and stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic may be affecting your girls more than you know. We are offering both in-person (Bishop Park & Memorial Park) and virtual teams this season.

Through our program, 3rd - 5th grade girls work together as a team OR meet virtually to explore valuable lessons such as:

- Standing up for themselves and others
- Being a stand-byer instead of a bystander
- Practicing empathy, inclusion and acceptance

Over the 10-week long program, your girl will meet with her peers 2 times per week to review our research-based lessons that incorporate physical activity in a fun and engaging way. She will connect with girls, build healthy habits and stay physically active!

To ensure the safety of girls and our trained volunteer coaches, our trusted curriculum has been modified to include physical distancing precautions and the ability to seamlessly transition to virtual programming should the need arise.

To register or for more information check out our website: <https://www.girlsontherunnorthga.org/> or reach out to me personally at emma@girlsontherunatlanta.org. Thank you so much for your time and help!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Jere & Jim Bowden in the death of their niece Susan Bowden Hurst on Tuesday, February 9 after a month long struggle in Northeast GA Hospital in Gainesville from COVID; Kathy Boardman with equilibrium issues due to ear infection and burst eardrum; Beth Nunnally mourning the loss of her mother, Gloria Langford; Pam Knox as she prepares to testify before Congress on Agriculture and Climate Change; Ginger Davis-Beck and Woody as she enters hospice care at home; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings—Feb. 15—21

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. Please click on this link to access this weeks devotions for February 17 – 20.

<https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-Devotions 2021 FULLset.pdf>

Monday, Feb 15 Psalm 148

Tuesday, Feb 16 Isaiah 61: 1-9



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

A neighbor in Pinewoods Mobile Home Park is in immediate need of a stove. If anyone has one to spare, please contact Mark Harper.
Many thanks!"

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #32
Anticipated Pledges \$ 276,923.08
Actual Pledges— \$ 290,626.49
Bowden Vocations Church Fund
\$1,602.00

Thank you for your faithful giving!



Although La Table can't be an in-person event this year, homeless does not take a gap year. In this time of a pandemic, families seeking a home need our help more than ever. You can help by going to the Family Promise site and scrolling down to La Table. There you will find a way to donate online. Any time after noon on February 23, you can view this year's program. Although it will be very short, but you'll get a chance to meet some former guests, hear from the staff, and see some of the tables from earlier years, Please help Covenant show its strong support for Family Promise. Please help Covenant show its strong support for Family Promise. **To get directly to the La Table page go to <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/latable> to view the event.** Also, you can make a donation to Family Promise at <https://www.familypromiseathens.org/donatenow>.

ITEMS NEEDED! Covenant is collecting these items for families in need. They will be distributed during the food pantry distribution. Gently used: COATS for ADULTS & KIDS, WARM SOCKS, WARM HATS and SCARFS



Please drop them off at the church during Food Pantry hours, Thursdays 1pm—4pm or Office hours, Tuesday 10am—noon, and Fridays 10am—4pm. Thanks!



ARBOR MONTH we love trees!

February 2021— What started as a callout on the social media platform REDDIT quickly turned into an environmental force, driven by a new audience of tree planters. In the fall of 2019, #TeamTrees— a collective effort with YouTube content creators to inspire support for tree planting around the globe—took social media by storm. YouTube influencers Mr. Beast (Jimmy Donaldson) and a former NASA scientist (Mark Rober) formed a unique partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation to raise \$20 million between October 25, 2019 and January 1, 2020. Each dollar raised would plant a tree, and trees would be planted on every continent except America. More than 800,000 people from around the world—including third grade classrooms—were inspired to “join the team” and help plant trees. Individual donations varied from \$1 to \$1,000,001. The fundraising effort, however, was only the beginning. Through December 2022, the Foundation will be planting trees through North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.



TerraCycle Continues—

Though many things have changed, I continue to collect recyclables for TerraCycle. I recently shipped a

huge box of personal care packaging items that earned \$11.70 for the Green Dream Team. That money will help pay the postage on a box of cheese wrappers that I will ship soon. I have an almost-full box of toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and floss containers that I will ship when it is full. It will earn more money for postage. If taking your recyclables to the church is inconvenient and you live near me (160 Plantation Dr., off Old Lexington and Whit Davis Rds.) feel free to drop bags of stuff on my front porch. (Two friends routinely do this, so you won't be the first!) If you want to contact me first, call 306-543-3753 or email caren.m.snook@gmail.com.

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team

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.*

For the month of January 2021, Covenant Volunteers served 742 people with 248 children and 100 seniors. A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers and generous donations for making this possible.



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 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