

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Feb. 21:

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

THE COVENANTER

February 21, 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

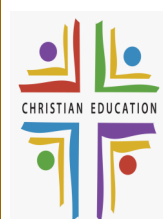
Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant, the Bowden Church Vocations Fund was established in 1996 by our Session . The Bowden Church Vocations Fund has been used in the past to support Covenant members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian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

Tune into La Table

This Tuesday, February 23, will be the 2021 virtual *La Table*. You can access the short program either by going to familypromiseathens.org or via You Tube any time after 12:00 noon on Tuesday. The *La Table* 2021 video will be available not only on the 23rd, but any time after that so you can tune whenever you have the time. Donations can also be made any time prior to the airing of the video. We hope we can gather around the table again next year, but until then, please consider learning more about the work of Family Promise and then scrolling down to the donate button to help Covenant show its strong support for helping homeless families in the Athens area. For more information please contact Susan Parish at sdp51@yahoo.com or 956-220-6004 or Ellen Stoneburner at ellenstoneburner@gmail.com or 706 296-4468. *Thank you.*



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.

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 21 – 28. https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Lent-Devotions_2021_FULLset.pdf



New Adult Study Opportunities

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.

A New Lenten Opportunity for Children of All Ages!



Now, for a little bit about the Lent Gardens.

*Enjoy your journey through the Lent Garden each week. Start by clicking on the **bible on the park bench**. With one click you will open up a collection of daily bible readings, children's bible story readings, prayers, and questions to think about throughout each week. Once you've*

got these devotions at hand, go ahead and click around the rest of the garden to discover so much more.

*Each of the **itty bitty library boxes** behind the park bench (there may be one or two to click on each week) unlock one or two video recordings of a wonderful bible story read by a church leader for everyone to enjoy. These stories come from the bible story books listed in the weekly devotions.*

*The **hanging flower basket** will take you on a weekly adventure of garden musings and gardening ideas with Kristine O'Brien, an avid gardener and thoughtful minister.*

*The **guitar** leaning against the tree sings out a brand new or much-loved hymn or song that will connect you to our weekly bible stories and themes. You'll want to sing along with all of these talented musicians.*

*Are you feeling like going for a walk? Click on the **wooden door** and walk into a world of labyrinth visits, reflections and finger labyrinth opportunities.*

*Is it time to be creative? The **garden gnome** reveals a simple craft idea that makes use of materials that you likely already have at home.*

*And when it's time for something to eat, click on the **picnic basket** for a new recipe or two to try out at home.*

Here are the links to the first Lent Garden (Ash Wednesday) and the First Sunday in Lent. In following weeks, these links (and screens) will be posted on the Christian Education webpage of our church website. It is our prayer that these will connect with you as we travel together to Jerusalem and experience the love and grace of Jesus for us all.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 <https://bit.ly/3oydAKs>

Lent 1, February 21, 2021 <https://bit.ly/3cj3PwV>

Three new thoughts for your consideration about bringing solar power to Cov Presby

Owning solar panels to create electricity on-site at Cov Presby embraces the 21st Century movement to using renewable energy sources. It positions the Cov Presby campus to meet the electricity needs of both the current and next generation. It does so, at lower cost to the environment as well as to the financial fortunes of the church. Installing solar panels at Cov Presby approaches the future with Hope.

The 12 month period of July, 2018, through June, 2019, represented a routinely, typical, and unremarkable pre-COVID year, in which Cov Presby's ordinary work, service, and worship consumed about 86,700 KWH of electricity --- all procured from Georgia Power. The solar panel array proposed for Cov Presby would yearly substitute for this purchase about 57,900 KWH of site-produced electricity. Significantly, this would occur without leaving the residual carbon footprint produced by energy customarily furnished through the Georgia Power grid.

From July, 2018, through June, 2019, Cov Presby spent about \$12,900 buying electricity. Producing power on-site using the array of solar panels proposed could save around \$7,500 per year --- or \$270,000 over the installation's 30 year life span. This savings projection relies upon conservative estimates that employ 2018-2019 pricing rates, and make no guestimate for inflation creep in the expense of grid produced power over the next three decades. Neither do they take credit for any allowance from sales back to the Georgia Power grid for excess energy created on site. The \$94,500 cost of the Cov Presby solar panel installation would be recovered from savings on electricity purchases within the first 11 years of operation, leaving another 19 years of positive return from the investment. *Rich Reaves*



It was pointed out that last Sunday's blessing of those moving to Presbyterian Village might have given the impression that all those beautiful people were also leaving Covenant and transferring their memberships elsewhere. That is by no means the case! While some may choose to worship with the

Village community under the leadership of newly appointed chaplain the Rev. Christin Johnson Norman, or attend one of the churches in closer proximity to their new home, they will remain part of the Covenant family. And since we're not that far away, we hope that they will be part of the worshiping community that gathers at 1065 Gaines School Road whenever that happens again. And happen it will! *Mark*

Thank you to all who have provided floral arrangements in the past. We especially appreciate the amazing talent of Juergen Wiegel, who has contributed his time and skill to provide beautiful arrangements and to coordinating the floral schedule for many years. If you would be willing to provide a flower arrangement for weekly virtual worship services, please check the dates below. We are now hoping to provide arrangements for Mar 21 through June 27. It is important to note that the services are actually recorded on Fridays, every week. This means that the flowers need to be placed in the worship center on Friday morning, by 10 AM. Please use the following link to view the available dates and to sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084AA5AA22A20-provide> . For further information please contact Julie Bower (bower.julie@gmail.com) or Karen Wetherington (kwetherington@covpresathens.org) The Worship Ministry Team appreciates each one who contributes to the beauty of our worship services in this way. Thank you!



PRAYER CONCERNS: Texans as they are still without power and water; 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. 22—28

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 22 – 28.

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



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 #33
Anticipated Pledges \$ 285,577.05
Actual Pledges— \$ 305,176.49
Bowden Vocations Church Fund
\$2,002.17

Thank you for your faithful giving!



A R B O R M O N T H *w e l o v e t r e e s !*

February 2021 – After more than a century, this national holiday continues to embody the importance of planting trees. In the midst of the pandemic, celebrating Arbor Day looked much different in 2020. One thing, however, remained constant. People were committed to showing their appreciation for trees. Some planted trees in their yards while others spent time in nature. Many communities celebrated online as much as possible, and some cities even encouraged residents to draw or paint trees and hang them in their windows to share the spirit of Arbor Day with neighbors passing by. All in all, it was inspiring to see the strong desire to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees—a passion for conservation and the environment that cannot be stopped even the face of global crisis.

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,

Thurs-

days 1pm – 4pm or Of-

fice hours, Tuesday

10am – noon, and Fri-

days 10am – 4pm.

Thanks!



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

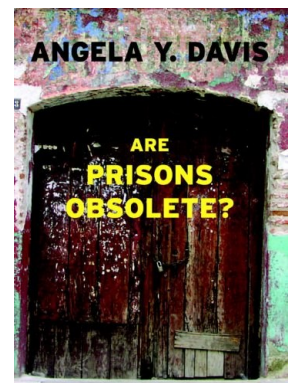
money for postage. If taking your recyclables to the church is inconvenient and you live near me (160 Plantation Dr., off Old Lexington and Whit Davis Rds.) feel free to drop bags of stuff on my front porch.

(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

Prepare to join the Covenant Social Justice Book Club when it kicks off in March! We will meet on Monday, March 22 & 29 at 7pm, we will work through Angela Davis' "Are Prisons Obsolete" and explore the history of the American prison system through the work of one of our country's most impactful justice activists, Angela Yvonne Davis.

More about Angela Davis: Born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1944, Davis studied at Brandeis University, the Sorbonne, and with Herbert Marcuse at the Goethe Institute. In 1998, Davis was one of the twenty-five organizers of the historic Berkeley, California conference "Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex." She is the author of many books, including *Are Prisons Obsolete?* and *The Meaning of Freedom*. She currently teaches in the History of Consciousness Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Email twilliams@covpresathens.org for more info.

https://www.amazon.com/Are-Prisons-Obsolete-Angela-Davis/dp/1583225811/ref=sr_1_1?crid=4FWNYNH437VP&dchild=1&keywords=are+prisons+obsolete&qid=1613758436&s=books&sprefix=are+pri%2Caps%2C176&sr=1-1



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!

Covenant's Ministry Teams 2021

Building & Grounds: *Rich Reaves, Brian Striggow, Alex Clark*

***Christian Education:** *Clayton Adams*

***Mission Outreach:** *Paige Campbell, Steve Rathbun, Sarah Shannon*

Congregational Care: *Linda Koehler, Don Bower*

Congregational Fellowship: *Kay Brooks*

Finance: *Bob Trouteaud*

Worship: *Jennifer Frey, Kathy Boardman*

Clerk of Session: *Luanne Rigsby*

**It was agreed upon by the Session to combine Care & Nurture of Young Children with Christian Education. Witness was combined with Outreach to make it Mission Outreach., which will focus on global and local Missions.*

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 the generous donations that making this possible.