

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

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

THE COVENANTER

March 14, 2021

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

Update on Our Solar Power Project—

Looking for answers about and a solar panel system at Cov Presby?

Want to be able to state 1 of the 5 reasons to "go solar" at Cov Presby?

Wondering if "going solar" at Cov Presby will take 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months, or 3 years?

Curious to understand how much future Cov Presby electric bills might be reduced, 25%, 35%, 65%, 100%?

Wondering about a location for installing a solar panel system at Cov Presby?

Wishing to pose questions of your own about a solar panel system for Cov Presby?

If so, attend the ZOOM meeting scheduled for **Monday, March 15, 5:30 p.m.**, for which linking details will be sent out by email from the church office.

Kind regards, *Rich Reaves*

Would you like to learn more about the status of our solar power project and how you can be a part of moving our plans forward? Rich Reaves, who has spearheaded our planning efforts, will facilitate a ZOOM conversation with the congregation on **Monday, March 15, 5:30 p.m.** for the purpose of answering your questions and sharing how you can contribute your time and financial resources to bring this project "to light". This is a timely and important conversation as the session considers at its next meeting proposals for allocating unexpended resources. Your voice matters, so please look for a ZOOM invitation in an e-mail from the church office (Karen Wetherington) Monday morning.



*Don't forget to turn
your clocks forward
one hour before bed-
time on Saturday,
March 13th.*

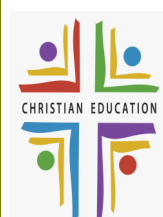
"The Partnership Working Group of the ECCB and the Czech Mission Network of the PC(USA) invite You to an on-line meeting to share our experiences and ideas about the worship in our churches during the pandemic.

"PRAYER AND PRAISE IN THE PANDEMIC: A Conversation About Worship in the Season of COVID-19"

The meeting takes place on March 21, 2021 at 2pm. EST.
7pm Czech Time

The meeting will open with theological introduction by Dr. Petr Sláma and be followed by three short witnesses of three churches. The scope of the meeting is a conversation of the participants about what has worked well during this year in our churches and where has it pushed us. All are welcome!

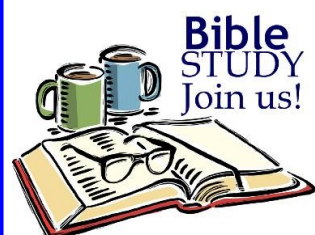
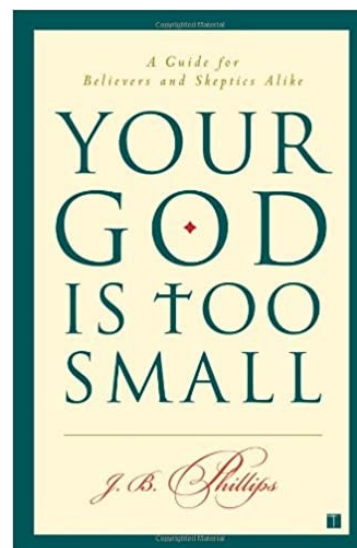
Those interested in taking part in the meeting, please contact Rev. Mark Harper (mharper@covpresathens.org) by 20 March 2021 to obtain the zoom link.



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.

TUESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY— beginning Tuesday, March 23 at 10am.

Join us as we look at the book, *Your God is Too Small!*. A groundbreaking work of faith, which challenges the constraints of traditional religion. In his discussion of God, author J.B. Phillips encourages Christians to redefine their understanding of a creator without labels or earthly constraints and instead search for a meaningful concept of God. Phillips explains that the trouble facing many of us today is that we have not found a God big enough for our modern needs. In a world where our experience of life has grown in myriad directions and our mental horizons have been expanded to the point of bewilderment by world events and scientific discoveries, our ideas of God have remained largely static. This inspirational work tackles tough topics and inspires readers to re-evaluate and connect more deeply with a God that is relevant to current experience and big enough to command respect and admiration. Facilitated by Mark Harper. Please email Karen at karenwetherington@covpresathens.org for a zoom invitation.



Emmaus Road Class-

The next three weeks, the Emmaus Road class will continue Peter Enns' personal journey to discover a new, more honest way to love and appreciate God's Word. We will read and discuss five biblical texts to see "What the Bible Has to Say to Us Today" in light of what we know now about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The class dates and readings are:

March 14th / Genesis, Chapter 19

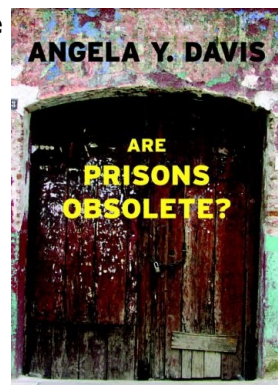
March 21st / Psalm 89

March 28th / Matthew, Chapter 5

Come and join us for this five-week study and the fellowship of this faithful group. To receive the Zoom meeting invite contact Bob Trouteaud: bob@trouteaud.com or [404-405-6085](tel:404-405-6085)

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

Youth Group Events!



This **Sunday, March 14, 3-5:00 p.m.**, high schoolers are invited to the Tweedell homestead for a time to re-connect, have fun, share some conversation around a bonfire, and make plans for the summer. Masks are a MUST, and we will social distance. Snacks and drinks will be provided. If you plan to attend, please contact Bert, mysammie1@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 27, 11 am - 1:00 pm, middle schoolers are invited to hike the trails at the Sandy Creek Nature Center, 205 Old Commerce Road, Athens. Snacks and drinks will be provided. If you plan to attend, please contact Rindy, rindy@trouteaud.com.



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: Nancy Omdahl undergoing surgery at Athens Piedmont, Wednesday, March 17; friend of Gloria Pylant, Jack Carter, also an educator, back in Athens Piedmont with COVID-19; students and teachers as they return to school; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings—March 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 March 15 – 21



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

FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE - Week #37
Anticipated Pledges \$ 320,192.31
Actual Pledges— \$ 326,712.44
Thank you for your faithful giving!

Our friend Reginald Willis from East Friendship Baptist Church is inviting us to a celebration honoring the 60th anniversary -- yes, 60th! -- of the Rev. James Kendrick as their pastor. Please contact Reginald through Facebook if you would like to participate in any of the virtual events. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AS PASTOR OF EAST FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH. APRIL 17-18, 2021. ON APRIL 17 AT 11AM THERE WILL BE A DRIVE BY PARADE IN HONOR OF PASTOR AND 1ST LADY KENDRICK. WE ARE INVITING ALL OF ATHENS TO JOIN US IN THIS PARADE. (details will be coming soon) Feel free to inbox me. ALSO ON APRIL 17TH at 6:00pm THERE WILL BE A VIRTUAL BANQUET (via Zoom) TO HONOR PASTOR AND 1ST LADY KENDRICK. WE WILL CULMINATE WITH MORNING WORSHIP ON APRIL 18 AT 11AM (via Zoom) with Dr. Derrick Dewitt Sr, Pastor of First Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland bringing the message. LOOKING FORWARD TO YOU ALL SHARING WITH US. (if you plan to participate in the parade, please inbox me so I will be sure to get detailed info to you)



Calling all Ministry Team Chairs!

Now is the time to submit your new and improved 2021—2022 Ministry Team Budget.

Please email them to Pam Knox at

pnknox@yahoo.com as soon as possible. Thank you to all the Ministry Team Chairs that have already submitted their budgets.

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.* Also needed are sweat-pants, sweatshirts and socks! 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!*



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

I have been a collector of antique rugs for a number of years. Our rugs have been exhibited in several museums over the past several years. The first was an exhibition of Rugs From the Caucasus at the UGA Museum in 2014. A second was an exhibition of Prayer Rugs at the Calvin College Fine Arts Center in 2016. An exhibition of some of our rugs from Southwest Persia (Iran) opened at the UGA Museum this week. Given the pandemic situation, this is an online exhibition that can be viewed and enjoyed without physically visiting the Museum. Here is how one can view the exhibition in a few easy steps>



Go to the UGA Museum website georgiamuseum.org scroll down to the bottom of the page and you will see a photo of one of the rugs and click on it read the intro to the exhibition written by Emma Emery. In the body of her intro, you will see highlighted in blue the title of the exhibition----- *Beyond Utility: Rugs of Southwest Persia*. The photography was done professionally at the Museum, and it is stunning. I wrote the essay and am listed as the Curator of the exhibition

Take a look and enjoy! *Jim Verbrugge*



Covenant Presbyterian Church was certified once again as an Earth Care Congregation by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Presbyterian Hunger Program through February 2022. This honor speaks to the great commitment that Covenant Presbyterian Church has made to care for God's earth.

To become an Earth Care Congregation, this congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into their worship, education, facilities, and outreach.

The Earth Care Congregation certification is designed to recognize churches that make the commitment to take seriously God's charge to "till and keep" the garden.

Started in 2010 by the PC(USA), the goal of this program is to inspire churches to care for God's earth in a holistic way, through integrating earth care into all aspects of their church life. The Earth Care Congregation certification honors churches that make that commitment and encourages others to follow their example.

"It is exciting that Covenant Presbyterian Church is one of the 276 churches that chose to dedicate themselves to intentional care of God's earth this year. Particularly in a time of much uncertainty and worry about the future, this congregation's activities and commitment even in the midst of navigating limitations brought about by COVID-19 brings hope to their community. We believe that Covenant Presbyterian Church will inspire others to respond intentionally to God's call to care for the earth," says Jessica Maudlin, Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information on the Earth Care Congregations program visit www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations.

A Video for our Friends in Olomouc—As you may have heard, the Czech Republic is currently the nation hardest hit by COVID-19 in all of Europe. This is tragic on so many levels, especially since in the early days of the pandemic they were a model for the rest of us about the positive power of masking. Since then poor decisions by national leaders and a shortage of medical personnel and hospital beds have led to profound suffering, a strict nation-wide lock-down, and the need to send some patients to surrounding countries for care. A recent report indicated that as much as 45% of the population has been infected by COVID-19.

For us, this should resonate on a personal level in light of our close friendship with brothers and sisters at our partner church in Olomouc. As a sign of hope and support, I suggest that we put together a simple video expressing our love for them as well as our faith in the God who always shows us a way out of no way. I imagine a short series of greetings, personal messages, and scripture readings or poetry that could be recorded on your cell phones and then sent to the church where we would edit them together before sending it on to Olomouc. If you feel led to participate, please contact me in the next week (mharper@covpresathens.org).

In addition, please note the announcement in the newsletter on page 1 about a Zoom meeting on March 21st at 2 pm between partner congregations in the U.S. and Czech Republic. It will be a great opportunity to see some of our friends while learning from one another about how the pandemic has impacted our approach to worship. Grace and peace, *Mark*

Volunteer Opportunity

Family Promise

From April 11-17 Covenant hosts three homeless families in the Family Promise program, but not in our facility. Because of COVID, Milledge Ave Baptist will continue to serve as their temporary home, for which we are thankful, but members of Covenant will serve as hosts. We need volunteers to be present throughout our week along with an evening meal. The meal preparers leave the meal inside the door. We also need church members to serve as morning hosts, afternoon hosts, evening hosts, and overnight hosts. Hosts remain in a room on the first floor of the church, and the families reside on the 2nd floor. This church facility enables everyone to remain a safe distance from each other. As a result, the COVID germ has infected NO ONE. Volunteer sign up can be done with the on-line link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith>

Your help is needed, so use this unique opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.



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.

Beautiful Fruit from the Food pantry

Several weeks ago, a neighbor who regularly picks up groceries from the Covenant Food Pantry, stopped by to give us something in return: a word of deepest thanks. She told Travis and our volunteer crew that she had been utilizing the food pantry for months so she could save money on groceries. With those savings, she was able to pay the hefty up-front deductible she needed as an uninsured person to receive gall bladder surgery. The surgery went well, and she's feeling so much better – praise God! I'd say that's some beautiful fruit produced by that simple ministry. Thanks to all of you who support it with your time, dollars, prayers, and in-kind contributions. Now let's work on pushing our political leaders to enact universal health care so neighbors like this one don't have to make such hard choices!

Grace and peace,

Mark

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 February: Covenant Volunteers served 890 of our food insecure neighbors.

Of those, 289 were children, and 107 senior adults. Thank you Covenant and all the wonderful volunteers that make this ministry possible!