

Please click here to view Covenants Worship Service, Sunday, Mar. 28

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

THE COVENANTER

March 28, 2021

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

HOLY WEEK BEGINS!

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday—*Hosanna! Hosanna!*

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

Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday/Communion—*available 7pm*

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

Friday, April 2, Good Friday Community Worship—*please watch for an email with information on how to access this worship service!*

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday—*available at 8am*

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



Please bring your flowers for the cross located near the outside worship area Good Friday, before 12noon for recording purposes.

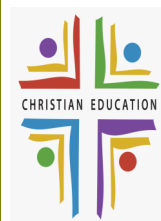


Family Promise®
Building community, strengthening lives.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

-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. Please click on this link to sign up. **Please note that spots are still open for overnight hosts, and meal prep** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4ca5aa29a4fe3-fpainterfaith>. *our help is needed, so use this unique opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.*





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.

A Gift to Enrich Our Holy Week Journey from our Presbyterian Brothers and Sisters in Canada

During the season of Lent, we have been blessed by the creativity of Rev. Tori Smit, Regional Minister for Faith Formation, Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. She has created and shared with us a series of Lent Garden screen shots and pdf resources for us to access different activities, stories, songs, and crafts that deepened our faith journey. Her latest gift to the Church promises to enrich our journey to the cross and tomb. Rev. Smit is a gifted pastor and educator, and you will find a link to her blog that may guide your conversations about the events of Holy Week with your children. Check our church website, Face Book page, and e-mail for links to all of her inspiring work!

Now, for a little bit about the Holy Week slides.



There are two slides for Holy Week with four days of activities per slide. The first slide covers Palm Sunday to Wednesday, and the second slide goes from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday. Participants are encouraged to click on the Bible on each slide first to download the daily devotions for the week. While there is a Bible on each slide, the devotion sheet covers the whole week and is simply repeated on the second slide. Users can then click on the items found on the

section for that day. There will always be a videoed children's bible story reading found connected to the books; one for every day. Then there are generally two additional activities each day to explore: crafts, recipes, guided meditations, and music are wonderful additions to each day.

Holy Week Slide #1 - Palm Sunday to Wednesday— <https://bit.ly/3uutUQq>

Holy Week Slide #2—Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday—<https://bit.ly/3pWPpWq>

Click the link below for Holy Week Activities, Crafts and Recipes:

<https://www.covpresathens.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Holy-Week-Activities-Crafts-and-Recipes.pdf>

Tori Smit's blog: cnob.org and scroll to Christian Education Archive, "What Will We Tell the Children?"



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!

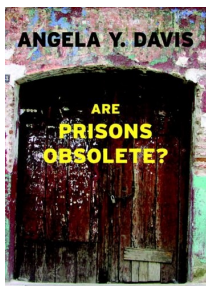
Going solar" at Covenant Presbyterian . . .

1. Reflects a witness statement by the faith community, affirming God's Grace remains with us today and in future, with improved campus operations for the next 30 years.
2. Represents a concrete and redemptive act taken locally, while being globally mindful as to better practices of stewardship for the earth and all of its creatures
3. Removes from the carbon / greenhouse gas footprint created by the Georgia Power grid that portion associated with the church's electric power usage.
4. Enables noticeable financial savings away from continued purchase of electricity over the next 30 years, creating a potential for alternative use of such financial resources.
5. Provides a site-based and church-owned source of electric power, along with added capacity to convert the campus's natural gas heating of space and water, more economically to electrical units over future time, again reducing undesired carbon / greenhouse gas residuals from use of fossil fuel.



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. Thank-You!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2021! For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world. Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. Please indicate on the memo portion of your check or giving envelope OGHS. *Thank you for your generous giving!*



Covenant Social Justice Book Club! Monday, 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.

For the second session we will finish the rest of the book (or pages 60-128).

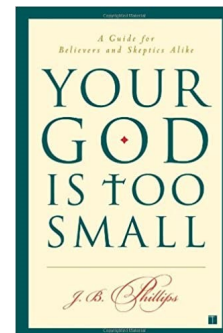
Email twilliams@covpresathens.org for more info.

Email kwetherington@covpresathens.org for a Zoom Invitation.

TUESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY – beginning Tuesday, March 30 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. Facilitated by Mark Harper.

Please email Karen at karenwetherington@covpresathens.org for a zoom invitation.



WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK STUDY – beginning Wednesday, March 31 at 4p.m.

When did kindness become a sign of weakness? What if kindness actually has the power to change the world? Join us as we share a conversation about kindness using Bruce Reyes-Chow's book, *In Defense of Kindness: Why It Matters, How It Changes Lives, and How It Can Save the World*. According to Reyes-Chow, culture is at a crossroads when it comes to kindness. These days we either view kindness as an inert act based on the absence of being a jerk, or we see acts of kindness as heroic and herculean, beyond the reach and capability of mere mortals. Choosing kindness

is also exhausting. The public and private back-and-forth exchanges of hatred and de-humanizing that is more about ratings, retweets, and winning than relationships and community is taking a toll on our motivation to even contemplate kindness as a valid response. *In Defense of Kindness* makes a case that we each can choose kindness as a way to experience community and wholeness in new ways. With a playful spirit, tender heart, and unwavering commitment to justice, "kindness enthusiast" Reyes-Chow explores the many ways in which kindness can bring about healing, wholeness, and hope in ourselves and the world. Through unfiltered sharing of his own experiences, he invites the reader into an adventure of discovery and rediscovery of kindness of heart, mind, spirit, and action. Rindy Trouteaud will facilitate our conversations. If you would like a copy of this book, please call the church office and speak with Karen Wetherington, 706.548.2756. If you would like a ZOOM invitation for our conversations, please contact Rindy Trouteaud, rindy@trouteaud.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for our nation and leaders; Anne Page with a hip infection and in hospice care at Avery Place; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112.

Daily Bible Readings—March 29—April 4

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 29 – April 4

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 #39
Anticipated Pledges \$ 337,500.15
Actual Pledges— \$ \$337,662.14
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)**

ITEMS NEEDED!

Yes! Covenant is still 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 sweatpants, sweatshirts and socks! AND.....

Personal size shampoos and conditioners, lotions, toothpastes, etc (like you get by staying at a hotel) for distribution during the Thursday food distributions.

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!*



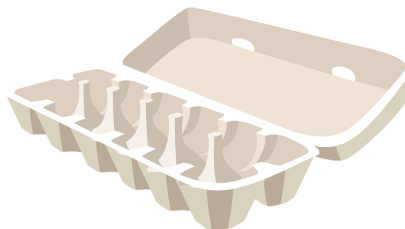
TerraCycle: Spotlight on Toothbrushes, etc. Are you wondering what the best thing is that you can save for TerraCycle? If so, the answer is worn-out toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and empty floss containers. Why is that? TerraCycle provides UPS shipping labels for boxes of these items and it also pays the Green Dream Team 2 cents for each item sent. This does not sound like much, but between October 2012 and March 2020, TerraCycle paid the GDT a total of \$166.02. This is important because TerraCycle does not provide shipping labels for other packaging materials such as cheese and candy bags and wrappers. The GDT uses the \$\$ that it earns from some items to pay the shipping cost for other items. I have an almost-full box of toothbrushes, etc. and I want to ship it soon! Please bring all that you can to either the church or my house!

Caren Snook for the Green Dream Team



The University of Georgia 4-H Program will hold the Georgia 4-H Gala on August 14, 2021. **Diane Davies**, retired Extension 4-H Specialist and Senior Public Service Associate, is the ninth recipient of the Georgia 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations to Diane. Georgia 4-H is grateful for the contributions she made to the Georgia 4-H Program and her leadership in the development of the Georgia 4-H Environmental Education program

The Athens Area Emergency Food Bank is in need of Egg cartons! You can bring them by the church, Tuesdays 10am—12 noon, Thursdays, 1pm—4pm or on Fridays, 10am—4pm. Thanks!



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.*