

THE COVENANTER
March 17, 2019



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

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON— TODAY—Sunday, March 17 at 12:15pm

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." Revelation 21:1

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face" 1Corinthians 13:12

Here at Covenant we are in an exciting season in our life together as an outpost of God's Beloved Community. We are welcoming new members while caring for those who have called this place home for many years. We find ourselves deeply engaged in the life of Athens and the world through ministries like FEAST, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and the Olomouc Partnership. At the same time, we are faced with some real anxiety as we prepare for a major staffing transition with Beecher's retirement at the end of September. Even as we approach the year 2020, it is hard to imagine seeing the future with 20/20 vision. What we can know is that God promises to be with us, guiding our congregation through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, we request that you look deep within your own heart and consider how your gifts of money and time can not only sustain the important ministries already happening here but will put us in a strong position to move forward in the future. Followers of Jesus have never been able to see exactly where their Lord is leading them. But at its most faithful the church has always been ready to follow, trusting that God's vision is 20/20 even when ours is not. *Please give generously to this year's stewardship campaign.*



The **Restaurant Roadtrip** will head downtown to The Last Resort, 174-184 West Clayton Street, for lunch together on Tuesday, March 19, at 11:30am. Please SIGNUP on the bulletin board, so we can reserve a table. You can meet us there or carpool from the church, leaving at 11:15am. Separate checks. Come and join us!

May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going and the insight to know when you're going too far. Irish Blessing

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605
706-548-2756 or 706-613-2344
www.covpresathens.org
covenantp@covpresathens.org



ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK! The month of MARCH Covenant is collecting these items for the AAEFB: *Pork & beans, canned salmon and rice.*

And as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!

Remember in Prayer: Ruth Brewster, recovering from a concussion after a recent fall; Tim Jarboe, recovering from shoulder surgery March 7; Chuck & Chandler Rosenberger's 4-yr-old granddaughter, learning to live with juvenile diabetes; Wayne & Susan Swinford (friends of the community) & family in the sudden death of their son, Thomas Wayne Swinford, age 33; and Ben Bruner, recovering at home in Dahlonga, awaiting a second surgery - donations of support should be made out to Covenant and marked Bruner

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	March 18	Psalm 63: 1-8
Tuesday	March 19	Psalm 65
Wednesday	March 20	Isaiah 55: 1-9
Thursday	March 21	I Corinthians 10: 1-13
Friday	March 22	I Corinthians 10: 23-33
Saturday	March 23	Luke 13: 1-9
Sunday	March 24	Luke 13: 10-17



An inviting church is creative and colorful, well-kempt and welcoming. Freshening up one of Covenant's many flower beds, as we move toward the upcoming Spring and Summer, just may be your gift for reaching out to the local community, to help people "Come and See" Covenant. Please speak with Alice Rose, who is coordinating contributions for these flower spaces. She is willing to help with contemporary flower gardening ideas as well as skills-coaching for flower gardening volunteers. You may contact Alice at alicerosephd1@gmail.com or 678-886-8680.

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #37

Anticipated Pledges: \$331,187.71

Received Pledges: \$308,793.54

It is time to catch up on pledges.

With Covenant's own Wyatt Herndon. Show dates are MARCH 16th, 18th, and 19th at 7:00pm at Madison County High School Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Seating is reserved. **Cash only. Ticket money can be enveloped with buyers last name and can be placed in The Herndon mailbox.**

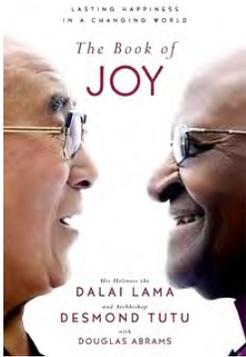


Once on This Island JR is the authorized young performer's edition of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's story of "two worlds, never meant to meet," where the power of love is proven to conquer the power of death - a lesson well told for generations to come.

EMMAUS ROAD CLASS : The Life and Witness of Dorothy Day

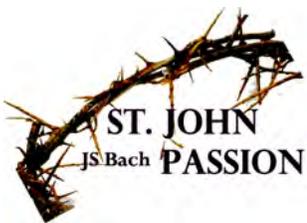


Starting on **Sunday, January 13th**, the Emmaus Road class will begin a conversation with and about Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and one of the most significant North American followers of Jesus in the 20th century. The class will begin by watching an hour-long documentary of her life entitled, “Don’t Call Me a Saint,” and then will reflect each week through February on some of her writings (provided via email prior to the class). Please join us in the fellowship hall at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings . Mark Harper will facilitate the discussion.



The Journey Class will be studying **THE BOOK OF JOY**. The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World is a book by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu published in 2016 by Cornerstone Publishers. This book is the result of a 7-day meeting between the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, two of the world’s most influential spiritual leaders, during which they discussed one of life’s most important questions: how do we find joy despite suffering? Join us Sundays at 9:30am in the Journey Class room located in the nursery hallway. Steve Bell will facilitate the class.

This fall the NAUTILIUS discussion group studied the great women of the Bible like Miriam, Mary, and Lydia. For the winter-spring semester, we move to the *Lives of Great Christians*, a Great Courses series presented by the much-acclaimed William Cook, Professor of Medieval History at the State University of New York. A Tree of Life stands in the center of the US Constitution Hall on Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. On its branches hang pictures of 100 people who have made a significant contribution to make the US Constitution what it is today. Simply press a button by each name to hear the important contribution each made. This semester we are pressing the buttons on *Lives of Great Christians* to learn the contribution of each. Class sessions begin with Professor Cook’s presentation, followed by a discussion led by various class members. We start with St. Antony, then St Augustine of Hippo. We find out the importance of Hildegard von Bingen to Martin Luther’s theses. We conclude with the contribution of Gustavo Gutierrez and Liberation Theology. Every week, the name of the person studied will appear in *The Covenant*. Come learn with us for one Sunday morning or all of them, at 9:30am in the Conference Room next to the mailboxes. *Coordinated by Warren & Arnelle Combs.*



On March 21 the UGA Hugh Hodgson School will present Johann Sebastian Bach's Lenten masterpiece *The St. John Passion*. For complete information, go to: <https://pac.uga.edu/event/uga-hodgson-singers/>



Learn more about the Bible!

B.A.S.I.C. on Sunday mornings from 9:40 - 10:30. Lead by Abby Horvath; and,

Covenant Connection, Wednesday evenings at 5:30 with Pastors Mark and Beecher

Youth Group Happenings! The youth had a blast at the Frozen Chosen Cup this past Sunday. Unfortunately, we were not able to retain The Cup, as Oconee Pres prevailed. We will be in training over the next year! And, we had a blast. Next combined youth event is April 7 at the PSC from 6-8pm.

There is NO SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GROUP this Sunday, March 10 due to CCSD Spring Break

Middler Fundraiser for Montreat: CE approved a fundraiser to help our middle school kids earn some money for Montreat. Those attending are being asked to complete 10 hours of work for any from the CovPres community who need some help. Be thinking if you have a project you could use a Middler or two to help with. Those who "hire" the middleers are asked to pay \$10/hr, and provide a minimum of 2 hours of work. The work is to be supervised and there must be two adults present at the place of work. All jobs will be approved by an adult youth leader and a parent/caregiver of the youth. "Hiring" can begin as early as late March early April and will last through mid July.

Sunday evening programming

Middle School Youth Programming -- Thank you Cliff Brock for sharing your gifts to all who attended the "parting of the trails" event at the Bot Garden.

CE is very much in favor of the Sunday evening Middler program to continue for the rest of Spring. Already, Jeremy Reaves has come up with some great ideas. Look for an email from him for details.

High School Youth meet regularly from 5-7pm each Sunday when there is school (according to CCSD calendar) on Monday, unless otherwise publicized. All meetings are announced through "GroupMe." Sign up with Bert Ballard-Meyer.

Upcoming Sundays:

Mar 10: No Youths → CCSD Spring Break

Mar 17: Youth Groups

Mar 24: Youth Groups

Mar 31: No Youth Groups → Madison/Oglethorpe/Oconee Spring Break

On Down the Road:

Sunday, April 7: "The Bridge" at the Presbyterian Student Center. 6-8pm. Area youth groups are being hosted by the PSC for a campus ministry experience. Details to follow.

Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8. An awesome week is in store for any rising 9th - graduated from HS! We will again share the GA Lodge with Covenant Augusta. So far 8 youth have registered and paid their deposit. If you haven't yet registered or paid your deposit, no worries, you can still sign up. Speak with Craig. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact ctopple@covpresathens.org

Middle School Conference -- Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21. A unique energetic week is in store for rising 6th - completed 8th graders! Six youth have been registered! If you know you (your child) want to go, please speak with Craig. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact ctopple@covpresathens.org.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is July 16-20 at Purdue University. What is Presbyterian Youth Triennium? A gathering of over 3000 students from PCUSA churches all over the country. The Northeast Georgia Presbytery is planning to send a delegation, which will travel on a charter bus with youth from Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbyteries. Any rising 9th - graduated HS student wants to attend, please **contact Brian Herndon** for more information.

Child Liturgist (10:45 Service)

3/17 Isaac; 3/24 Eli; 3/31 Jacob

Instructions: As part of a rotation, your child is assigned to a Sunday. If you can't make the Sunday assigned, switch with someone ahead of you on the schedule, and if you can't find a replacement, no worries, as one of the pastors will fill in. The bulletin is emailed by the end of the week on your week. Practice with your child. During the "Voluntary" of the worship service, the liturgist may join the pastors in the chancel. To begin, your child can invite the congregation, "Please join me in the Call to Worship." If you haven't already please let Craig Topple know if your child would like to be a part of the rotation. ctopple@covpresathens.org.

A word about 5th Sunday Worship --Having children and youth take on significant leadership roles during worship each fifth Sunday during the year is so special. The next fifth Sunday is March 31. However, this is also the Sunday before Spring Break for many of our children and youth, not to mention visiting partners from the Czech Republic will be at Covenant. Therefore, we will skip this next 5th Sunday and look forward to a future one, which will come during the summer: June 30.

Going underground with WoRM! "let the little children come unto me." - Jesus

March Scripture: *Luke 4: 1-13*

Memory Verses: "Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert." Luke 4:1 (Good News Translation)

WoRM Rotation for March:

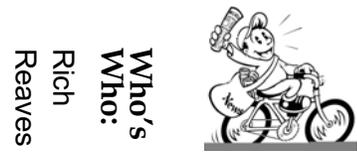
Date	Teacher/Shepherd	Teacher/Shepherd	Music	Story Teller
3/10/19	Jerry/Jere (Oasis Theatre)	Combined	Betsy	Jerry S.
3/17/19	Kay/Adam (Temple Courtyard)	Craig/Jere (Potter's Workshop)	Betsy	Adam
3/31/19	Craig/Jere (Potters Workshop)	Jerry/Jennifer (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Craig

Parents Corner What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? As parents, we do a pretty fair amount of leading of our children. And, we entrust others--teachers, coaches, friends, pastors--to lead them as well. When we lead, we assume a position of power and control, and sometimes children resist that dynamic as they seek to be self-defining, or as they have uncertainty. The more trusting they are of the leader, the more willing they are to follow. How does this translate into being led by the Spirit? Our scripture for three weeks during this Lenten season is about Jesus in the "wilderness"--a place that is just that: WILD! Why would the Spirit lead him to a wild place? Not only was it wild, but it was also where, scriptures says, he encountered the devil. I'm pretty sure none of us would be appreciative of any leader who would lead us, much less our children, to a wild place where we may encounter the devil. So we must ask, are we willing to be led by the Spirit? Are we willing to allow our children to be led by the Spirit? Of course, what came as a result of this leading was a resolution to resist temptation. What came as a result of this leading was a deepening of relationship with God --a healthy dependency on God. That is a special gift. On behalf of all the WoRM leaders, thank you for entrusting your children to our leadership week after week. This is a sacred trust. I trust we will have a beautiful time exploring Luke 4:1-13--"Jesus is Tempted."

Vacation Bible School - As you begin to put together your summer calendar, First Pres will once again be hosting VBS May 28 - 31st. There will not be a formal partnership as there was last year, but children who are interested in attending can sign up through their website at https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/ and any youth or adults who want to volunteer are welcome to do so.

Covenant Pres is planning to have **KICKIN' IT AT COVENANT** on Wednesday evenings over the summer. More info to follow.

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant once had an afternoon paper route and helped his brother with his morning route too?



Wonderful Wednesdays—March 20th

10:00am Adult Bible Study— Bible overview using the Disciple Bible Study curriculum.

COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

MENU March 20

Pork Chops, Mac &
Cheese, Broccoli,
Apple Crisp

5:30pm—6:00pm K-2nd grade choir; 3rd—5th Servant Time

6:00pm—6:30pm Family Dinner for children, youth and adults

6:30pm—7:00pm 3rd—5th Grade Choir; K-2nd Servant Time

WEDNESDAY COVENANT CONNECTION For Youth

5:00pm Supervision for Middle and High School Youth in the youth rooms begins

Youth Rooms will NOT be open until then

5:30pm "Wednesday School—Bible Study" for Middle School Youth led by Mark and Beecher (optional for High School), High School Youth continue to fellowship

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Faith and Film

7:00pm Depart

6:30pm Adult Bible Study—led by Beecher Mathes. DVD video, "The Dark Ages: An Age of Light" a lively journey through Christian & Islamic art in the early middle ages, full of beauty in a barbaric time

7:00pm TAIZE

7:25pm Adult Choir

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE 7:00pm—7:30pm Come & join us for this new offering at Covenant every Wednesday night. This introspective worship is built on these 3 tenets: *repetitive song, prayer, and silence.*

Led primarily by the pastors and Cliff Brock, the services will include devotional music and chants from the Taize tradition, along with scripture and prayer. This time of centering and prayer is open to the community, so please share this invitation with colleagues and neighbors and all who are spiritually hungry and thirsty.

BRAS Spring Potluck

Friday, March 22 at 6:00pm

Home of Valerie Stone

106 Buckeye Branch, Athens 30605

(Olde Lexington Gardens Subdv near Whit Davis Elementary)

Bring whatever you would like to drink and a dish to share. Life is busy and sometimes plans fall through, but if you would please RSVP if you hope to come, that would be helpful with planning & logistics! Thanks very much for responding to the poll March 22 was definitely the preferred date.

Please rsvp to Valerie text to 678-360-6983 or valeriefreystone@gmail.com

Oglethorpe County High School Band Fund Raiser

Towel sets and Sheet sets.

Towel sets \$40. each set: 6 piece set includes 2 bath towels, 2 hand towels and 2 washcloths or Bath Sheet (27 X 52), hand towel, and washcloths.

Colors: white, gray, cream & taupe.

Sheet sets \$40. each set: Available in Split King, California King, Queen, Twin, and XL Twin. Includes 1 flat sheet, 1 fitted sheet 2 pillowcases. (Split King includes 2 fitted sheets; Twin & XL set includes 1 pillow case)

12 colors to choose from white, light blue, silver, taupe, &

Gray

Raspberry

Eggplant

NAVY

Bronze

Brown

GOLD

Sage

Looking for
ing
an Apartment

Cliff is looking for an apartment during the summer (some flexibility). He would prefer to live near the church,

botanical gardens or UGA. Budget is \$400-600 monthly.

Contact Cliff at cbrock@covpresathens.org.

See Carrie Tweedell to order or you can order online at SimplyFund-raising.com. Please include organization name at check out. If you order online the cost is \$49.50.

Be Thou
Our
Vision!

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON—TODAY—Sunday, March 17 at 12:15pm

*"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth..." Revelation 21:1
"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see
face to face" 1 Corinthians 13:12*

Dear Covenant friends,

If you have not already received the pledge package for this year, you should receive it in the next few days. If you do not receive one, please contact the office to request one—we don't want to leave anyone out! I want to give you a little more information on the proposed budget for 2019-2020 to help you as you consider your support for the next fiscal year.

The most difficult part of proposing a budget for this year is the uncertainty in staffing after Beecher retires at the end of September. The Session has been having discussions about how to meet all the ongoing needs of the congregation in October and beyond. I have not been part of these discussions, but because Session has not yet made a final determination about the staff mix, the Personnel Ministry Team asked me to prepare the preliminary budget with no changes to the personnel funding except to include a 3 percent raise across the board (including pastors' salaries) for a cost-of-living increase. That will give Session the maximum flexibility in determining how best to configure the staff in the rest of the fiscal year. I encourage you to talk to the Session members to learn more about how they are addressing this important issue.

Other changes to the budget are quite small, as most Ministry Teams requested only minor changes to their line items. Overall, the increase from the current year's budget is just over 3 percent. One exciting addition to the budget is a new line item for the Youth Triennium, a national program for youth participation similar to the Montreat regional meeting. This occurs every third year, so you will see zero amounts in the next two years' budgets. Several of our youth have expressed interest in attending this meeting and the budget will go towards supporting their attendance. You can ask Mary Barnett for more information about this event.

Because of the uncertainty in what the final budget needs for 2019-20 will be due to the ongoing Session work on staffing, we could be in the position of receiving more pledges than are needed to cover the final budget. That would be great! If so, I plan to ask the Finance Ministry Team that they make a recommendation to the Session that any income we receive in excess of the final budgeted amount be transferred to the long-term maintenance account. We will have spent all of our Jubilee gifts to take care of a number of long-term needs, including a new children's playground which is under development now. It would be great to build up the long-term maintenance account to help cover anticipated costs of improvements we will need to do in the future, including the eventual refurbishment of the Worship Center.

Thank you all for your prayerful consideration of your pledges for next year's budget. Covenant is truly blessed by all of the gifts that Covenanters bring to our community! Please bring your completed pledge cards to the office or to the Stewardship Luncheon on March 17 following the 10:45 am service. You are welcome to contact me if you have any other questions about the budget at pnknox@yahoo.com.

Gratefully, *Pam Knox*, Treasurer

March 25-
May 9

A \$25 donation
sends love, flowers,
and a card to a
worthy mother in our
community!



Adopt -a- Mom 2019



The Ark honors single warrior moms, grandmothers raising their grandbabies, and isolated mothers in our local nursing homes and hospice care programs!

Go to
www.athensark.org/adopt-a-mom
to adopt today!

All proceeds benefit The Ark's Single Working Mothers Fund.



ripple effect
FILM PROJECT

Ripple Effect Film Project Blue Carpet Premiere

Lights, camera, action! See films from Athens up and coming filmmakers at the Ripple Effect Film Project's Blue Carpet

Premiere, Saturday, March 23 at the historic **Morton Theatre**. Dress in your finest for a family-friendly event all about blue-tiful water. We have films, magic, and other surprises in store as we also celebrate Fix a Leak Week. Doors open at 2:30 to the general public; seating is first-come, first-served. The films and festivities begin at 3:00 until 4:30. *Sponsored by the Water Conservation Office, Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful, and ACC Stormwater.*

WEEK OF March 17, 2019

SUNDAY-

8:30am WORSHIP
9:30am Church School for all ages
10:45am Worship
12:15pm Stewardship Luncheon
12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
4pm Middler Youth Group
5pm High School Youth Group

MONDAY-

6:30pm Scouts
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
11:30am Restaurant Road Trip to The Last Resort Grill
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY-

10:00am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
6:30pm Adult Bible Study
7:00pm Taize
7:25pm Adult Choir
7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY-

2pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
7:00pm Dance Group (Youth Rooms)
8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY-

Fellowship Hall Cleaned
7:00pm UGA Campus Christian Fellowship in FH

WEEK OF March 24, 2019

SUNDAY-

8:30am WORSHIP
9:30am Church School for all ages
10:45am Worship
12:30pm—2:30pm Debtors Anonymous
3:30pm Overeaters Anonymous,
4pm Middler Youth Group
5pm High School Youth Group

MONDAY-

6:30pm Scouts
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's Eastside Italian Restaurant
6:30pm Stated Session Meeting
8pm New Freedom in FH

WEDNESDAY-

10:00am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—7:00pm COVCONN
6:30pm Adult Bible Study
7:00pm Taize
7:25pm Adult Choir
7:30pm LA Support Group

THURSDAY-

2pm Knitters & Knotters
6:30pm YOGA
7pm Celebrate Recovery
7:30pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY-

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
7:00pm Dance Group (Youth Rooms)
8pm New Freedom in FH

SATURDAY-

Fellowship Hall Cleaned

WORSHIP—March 17, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Dianne Simpson Coffee: Denis Calbos

Ushers: Elsie Bothwell, Judy Capie

10:45am-

Reader: Marcia Verbrugge

Ushers: Robyn Malone, Bill Rigsby, Julie & Don Bower, Betsy Pless

Greeters: Sarah Lamb & Bob Brewster

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Judy Capie, Ellen Stoneburner

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden

Close the Building: Rich Reaves

Grounds Stewards: Hank Tweedell (March 18-24)

Nursery/Super: Ellen Stoneburner

Birth—Walking: Juergen Wiegel

Walking—5yearsold: Ellen Stoneburner, Lily Herndon, Susan Parish

WORSHIP—March 24, 2019

8:30am-

Reader: Sonja Holden Coffee: Shirley Hunt

Ushers: Wayne Crowell, Cheryl Devaney

10:45am-

Reader: Don Bower

Ushers: Kent Silver, Marie Ballard-Myer, Shirley Reinert, Steve Rathbun, Julie Bower

Greeters: Phil & Linda Koehler

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Paige Campbell, Caren Snook

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alex Clark

Close the Building: Alex Clark

Grounds Stewards: Alex Clark (March 25-31)

Nursery/Super: Annemarie Braswell

Birth—Walking: Annemarie Braswell

Walking—5yearsold: Tim Foutz, Sydney & Delaney Braswell