

THE COVENANTER
March 31, 2019

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

Please welcome **Dagmar and Jan Lukáš**, who is the pastor of our partnership/sister church, Olomouc, Czech Republic, along with pastor **Aleš Wrana**, a mentor and spiritual leader of the students at the **ECCB Music Conservatory in Olomouc**.

This school is closely connected to the Olomouc congregation.



Covenant will be hosting homeless guests overnight for IHN (*Interfaith Hospitality Network*) this week of **April 21—28**. Please examine your calendar and give thought and prayer of the way you can serve from the many options: set up, *take down*, provide a meal, *spend a night*, host for three hours one evening, *transport guests to the day center*, and more. The sign-up board is now in the Gallery across from the staff offices, so please sign-up and help us provide Christian hospitality to families seeking a home of their own. If you have never been an IHN helper, a training opportunity will be provided. *“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2*

Inter Faith Hospitality Network (IHN) Training... Interested in Learning about Inter Faith Hospitality Network (IHN) and perhaps volunteering when Covenant hosts?

IHN Athens now hosts regular volunteer training each month at First Baptist Church. These are available for anyone new to volunteering and also a great refresher for old hands. The next two sessions are **April 4th, 12:30 - 1:30 pm** and **May 2nd, 5:30 - 6:30 pm**. Randy and I can still do trainings that will fit your individual schedule. Call us at 706-850-0835.

The location of the IHN Day Center, where the training will take place, is now inside the First Baptist Church at 355 Pulaski Street. As you are looking at the back of the church from the parking lot it will be the door farthest to the right marked with a sign.

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY, APRIL 7th at 9:45am!

I hope by now you have received by email the two proposed job descriptions we think will enable us to keep moving forward with God's mission in and through the Covenant Community. These job descriptions are for a **Coordinator for Christian Education and Community Life**, and a **Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator**. Please take some time to read through them carefully, and then come for an hour discussion on **Sunday, April 7th at 9:45am** in the fellowship hall. In the meantime, Finance and Personnel will be figuring out salaries for these two positions. Thanks for your prayerful attention to this matter.

Remember in Prayer: Katy McGill's future mother-in-law in India, with a renal condition that requires dialysis; Coffee Worth in the recent death of her sister-in-law in North Carolina; Sonja Holden's mother, in the recent death of her close friend Diana, and other family members with medical concerns; and Ron Cervero & family, in the recent death of his father in CT; Tamara Stam's mother's close friend, Marsha Grant, very ill in Hendersonville NC.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	April 1	Isaiah 43: 16-21
Tuesday	April 2	Psalm 126
Wednesday	April 3	Isaiah 35
Thursday	April 4	Genesis 1: 26-31
Friday	April 5	Romans 8: 18-23
Saturday	April 6	Colossians 1: 15-20
Sunday	April 7	Psalm 133



Title: In a Climate of Change

Theme: God loves all that God has made—and asks us to care well for all God loves.



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 co-

ordinating 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-

2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #39
 Anticipated Pledges: \$339,903.18
 Received Pledges: \$321,228.57
It is time to catch up on pledges.



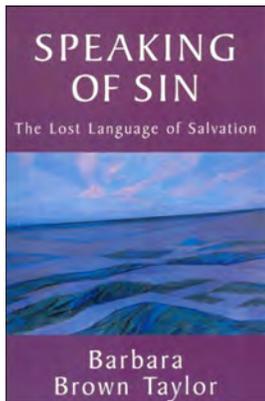
April 19th, 7:00 p.m.
 Covenant Presbyterian Church of Athens will host this year's Good Friday Presbyterian

Community Service, which will be a Tenebrae Service led by area clergy and choirs. Meaning "darkness" or "shadows," the service of Tenebrae was first practiced in medieval times. It later became an important part of worship during Holy Week. Please join our Presbyterian brothers and sisters from the Athens area.

There will be a choir from all congregations (rehearsal 6pm)



Dancing with the Athens Stars is Sat. April 6, 2019 at 7:30 PM. Don't miss this magical night of performance featuring Covenant's own Grace Bagwell Adams (partnered with Cathy Rumpfelt) and benefitting Project Safe. Tickets are on sale at the Classic Center box office www.classiccenter.com. This year's event features many local business owners including Janet Geddis (Avid Book Shop), Rob Sutherland (Good Dirt Studio), 2018 Georgia Small Business Person of the Year Tonya Dugas (TSAV), exhibition dances from Canopy and Inti'sam. This is Project Safe's largest fundraiser event, and accounts for over 10% of our annual revenue. **Can't make the show? You can still donate** in the name of your favorite team, go to <https://www.project-safe.org/ways-to-donate/dancing-with-the-athens-stars/>.



EMMAUS ROAD CLASS is now discussing *Speaking of Sin: the Lost Language of Salvation* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contrary to prevailing view, Taylor calls sin “a helpful, hopeful word.” Naming our sins, she contends, enables us to move from “guilt to grace.” In recovering this “lost language of salvation” in our worship and in the fabric of our individual lives, we have an opportunity to “take part in the divine work of redemption.” If you would like a copy of this book you can order it online. Class facilitated by Mark Harper.

**Immigration:
A Jewish and American conversation**

Immigration attorney Dale Schwartz will shed light on the complex immigrant experience, one of America’s most divisive issues. Please join us for this special symposium on April 11 at 7:00 pm.

A professor of immigration law at Emory University School of Law for 26 years, Dale Schwartz has been a frequent expert witness on immigration before Congressional committees.

Save the date!
Thursday, April 11, 7:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
780 Timothy Road

This program is presented by Congregation Children of Israel and the Florence and Sanford Schwartz Symposium Fund.
Reception by Trumps Catering will follow the program.

Congratulations to Brad Smith & Jennifer Drago on the recent birth of a granddaughter, Merly Jubilee Kelly, on March 5, weighing only 5.3 pounds but totally healthy & happy. Parents are Rebecca & Nathanael who live at Jubilee Partners. Jennifer’s grandma name is GiGi. AND congratulations to Sarah & Brian Parido, in the surprisingly quick birth of their second daughter Madeline Rose on March 22 at 2:22am, all doing very well with no C-section (and no pain meds!) Hope to meet both girls soon!

Everyone’s invited to this month’s **Graduates Covered Dish Luncheon** on Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. Covenant member, Brad Sperr, an Athens attorney specializing in Elder Law, will present a very informative program on estate planning, including topics such as wills, trusts, probate, and the new advanced directives for Georgia.

Beverages and Linda Koehler’s delicious salmon will be provided. Bring a dish to share and bring a friend! **TWO MORE THINGS:** 1) send Beecher your latest recommendations about repair people around town, so we can update the list we created 10 years ago, and 2) we’ll take a second photo of The Graduates, to add to the one taken March 12, as there are too many retirees now to fit into one shot! It’ll be a great day – come and join us!

The **Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study** will meet on Thursday, April 11, at 9:30am, in the Gathering Room, as we conclude this year’s study booklet, “God’s Promise: I Will Be with You.” Join us for good refreshments & fellowship, missions, devotions, and lively discussion of chapters 8-9, led by Beecher. Also read John 14:1-31 and Matthew 18:15-20 and 28:16-20. **SAVE THE DATE:** Thursday, May 2, at 6:30pm, in the Gathering Room, as we enjoy our annual Salad Supper, plus special worship in the Music Room. Bring a penny (or a dollar) for the years in your age, to give to these ministries supported by the 2019 PW Birthday Offering: the Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte in NC, the Effingham Child Development Center in Illinois, the Presbyterian Homes & Services in Phelps, KY, and the Wings of Refuge home in Iowa Falls. Thank you!



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!

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 Middlers 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 4–6pm! *High School Youth* meet regularly from 5-7pm each Sunday.

All meetings at the church unless otherwise indicated

Upcoming Sundays:

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

Apr 7: “The Bridge” at the Presbyterian Student Center. An annual presbytery youth gathering hosted by the PSC. This year’s theme is: “Real Talk: Faith Life / College Life.” The evening will include: Sunday Dinner, followed by a fun college student led program. Meet at Cov Pres at 5:30, return to church shortly after 8pm.

Apr 14: - Youth Groups

On Down the Road:

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

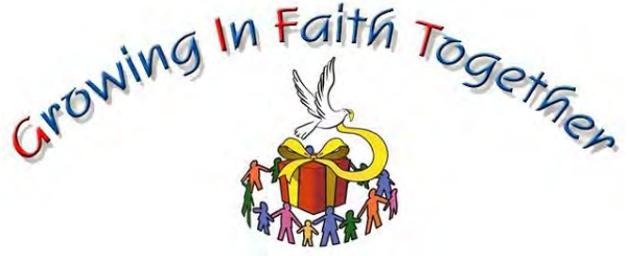
Middle School Conference--Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21. A unique energetic week is in store for rising 6th - completed 8th graders! Six youth have been registered! If you know you (your child) want to go, please speak with Craig. For more information visit montreat.org, and contact ctopple@covpresathens.org.

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)

3/31 Jacob, 4/7 TBD, 4/14 Isaac, 4/21 Eli

*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.*



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

March/April Scripture: Luke 22:39-46

Memory Verses: "'Father," he said, "if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done." Luke 22:42 (*Good News Translation*)

WoRM Rotation for upcoming Sundays:

Date	Teacher/Shepherd	Teacher/Shepherd	Music	Story Teller
3/31/19	Craig/Jere (Potters Workshop)	Jerry/Jennifer (Oasis Theatre)	Betsy	Craig
4/7/19	Craig/Jere	Combined (Seder)	Betsy	Craig
4/14/19	Prep for Palm Sunday			

Parents Corner: For the three weeks leading up to Easter, we go to the "Garden of Gethsemane." Work on spelling Gethsemane with your child! Try to locate it on a map of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was there the night before his arrest. His last act before his trial is to take his closest companions with him to a place of prayer. Interestingly, Luke does not include the name of the garden as other gospels do; the evangelist just refers to it "the place." Places become sacred as they facilitate a desire to draw close to God. As you see in the memory verse above, the heart of Jesus' prayer is one of intention: "remove this cup;" as well as submission: "not my will, but Thine" (nothing quite does it like the King James translations in instances like these). So much is happening in these few passages which speak to our faith journey including: the importance of companionship, of naming our intentions, of surrendering to that which is out of our control, and trusting God is present in the midst of all of it. These concepts are probably better understood, initially, when our children are in their mid-teens, which is just the beginning of their understanding. Sometimes they are not understood at all by people of faith who, instead would prefer to gloss over the suffering narrative and get straight to the "good stuff" of Easter. But, "the place" is at the crux of the spiritual journey. Exposing our younger children to this portion of the faith narrative may make it not only more easy to comprehend at a later stage of life, but also a very valuable lesson to cling to when suffering comes, which it inevitably will. This may seem like a *gloomy* lesson to engage with our children for the weeks leading up to Easter, but doesn't the contrast make the Easter celebration that much sweeter?

Vacation Bible School - 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: https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/](https://firstpresathens.org/z_extra_pages/vacation-bible-school-form/). Any youth or adults who want to volunteer are welcome to do so.

Covenant Pres is planning to do Wednesday evening "Kickin' It at Covenant" over the summer. More info to come!

Wonderful Wednesdays—April 3rd

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

COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)

MENU April 3rd

Pizza

Salad & Fruit

Brownies

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.

Chuck and Chandler Rosenberger would like to share a video for the **JDRF Ride to Cure Diabetes**. It stars our precious granddaughter Laurel (Clair's daughter), who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in December. Her father, Ryan Bertram, is hoping to participate in this 100 mile ride to help raise funds to cure diabetes. He and Clair live in Suwanee and he is a middle school band teacher in Gwinnett County. He produced the video, and also composed the music for it. Thanks for watching. Here is the link: https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804

WHO'S WHO at Covenant? Who at Covenant have really been into Jazzercise?

Who's Who: Juanita Floyd & Jennifer Frey

PROCESS FOR THE ELECTION OF ELDERS BEGINS

Forming a Nominating Committee



Each year Covenant elects its officers to serve a 3-year term on the Session. The involvement of the congregation is important during the entire process. Dick Zimdars is the Nominating Committee chair with Judy Capie as the second Elder approved by the Session. Now the Congregation recommends members of the church to serve on the Nominating Committee. The two Elders will then select one member to nominate to the congregation to be elected to serve with them on the Nominating Committee. The Congregational meeting to elect the Nominating Committee will be on Sunday, April 14 at noon immediately following worship.

**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.



Celebrating our 40th anniversary year. . .

ATHENS CHAMBER SINGERS
Kevin Kelly, Director
Tyler Stampe, Assistant Conductor
Spring Concert:

Loco Lyrics

Musical Fun, Fantasy and Farce



Sunday, April 14, 2019
4:00 pm
Friendship Presbyterian Church
8531 Macon Highway
Athens, GA 30606

Free Admission
Reception following the concert
All are invited



The Georgia blind convention is in Madison, GA, May 2 through 4 this year. They need volunteers. You can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b45a8ad2fa31-2019>. If you have trouble signing up online contact Jamaica at mai2@bellsouth.net.

Training for volunteers is on Wednesday, April 24th, at 6pm at the Advent Episcopal Church at 338 Academy Street in Madison, GA. If people cannot make it to the training, no problem; they can show-up 15 minutes early for their shift on the day of the conference for an on-site orientation.

Purpose of Georgia Council of the Blind. The Georgia Council of the Blind is a non-profit consumer organization affiliated with the American Council of the Blind. We strive to elevate the social, economic, and cultural levels of the blind. For over 61 years, GCB has been working toward providing a forum for views of the blind, improving education and rehabilitation, and broadening vocational opportunities for the visually impaired. Peer support is an important part of GCB as it encourages and assists the blind in developing their abilities and potential to become independent and responsible citizens in their communities. Peer support is especially helpful for the newly blind who may be confused or bitter. GCB works hard to educate the public about the problems of blindness and the needs and capabilities of the blind. Cooperation with the public and private institutions and agencies for the blind is encouraged. G C B holds a convention each year at different locations throughout the state. There will be an event May 2 – 4 in Madison, GA This event offers timely and informative resources and tools for the blind who may be confused or bitter. GCB works hard to educate the public about the problems of blindness and the needs and capabilities of the blind. Cooperation with the public and private institutions and agencies for the blind is encouraged. G C B holds a convention each year at different locations throughout the state. This event offers timely and informative resources and tools.

ATHENS AREA EMERGENCY FOOD BANK!



The month of APRIL Covenant is collecting these items for the

AAEFB: instant mashed potatoes, canned sweet peas, dried pasta, and cereal. Thank you Covenant and may we all have enough!



Al-Huda Islamic Center- Open House

2022 S Milledge Ave,
Athens, GA 30605

Saturday, April 13th,
from 2-6 pm.

April

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Karl Barnett | 11 Mary Anna Wynes |
| Sylvia Huber | Nick Shealy |
| Valerie Maples | 12 Anna Cobb |
| Juergen Wiegel | 14 Deb Agostini |
| Nkaku Kisaalita | Ton Stam |
| 3 Bob Brewster | 17 Alex Morrison |
| Robert Holden | 18 Ben Foutz |
| 4 Phil Hale (Rosebud) | 19 Jim Whitney |
| 5 Marilyn Brown | 20 Stephen Fraedrich |
| 6 Laura Foskey | 22 Marsha Crowell |
| 8 Anje Kidd | Jeri Lynn Whitney |
| 9 Lynda Hale | 23 Jacob Page |

- 26 Sandy Whitney
Hannah Barnet
28 Don Bower
Hilda Clark
29 Alan Edwards



Holy Week

- Sunday, April 14** Palm Sunday 8:30am & 10:45am Worship
- Wednesday, April 17** 5:30pm Covenant Connection
6:30pm Adult Bible Study, 7pm Taize, 7:30pm Adult Choir
- Thursday, April 18** Maundy Thursday
6pm Foot Washing Service
7pm Worship & Communion
- Friday, April 19** 7pm Good Friday Worship at Covenant
- Saturday, April 20** 10am Covenant's Great Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, April 21** Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
7:30am Sunrise Worship (Outside)
8:30am Easter Covered Dish Breakfast
10:45am Worship

APRIL is "Love the Earth Month" at Covenant, and we begin our celebrations with a special worship service on Sunday, April 7. Three Covenant folks will share their stories of connection to creation, especially in this time of climate change, and our hymns will echo our thoughts & prayers. For God loves all that God has made - and asks us to care well for all God loves. So we are called to take action too, doing whatever we can to make a difference. Check out these websites.

1. An 11-minute TED talk by Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old girl from Sweden, who is encouraging the world to act now =

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2QxFM9y0tY>

2. Faith Climate Action Week is April 5-14, with many congregations participating, like ours. See more at <https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/>



