

THE COVENANTER  
April 7, 2019



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

**APRIL** is "Love the Earth Month" at Covenant, and today, April 7th, we begin our celebrations with a special worship service. 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/>



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 session **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](http://www.covpresathens.org)  
[covenantp@covpresathens.org](mailto:covenantp@covpresathens.org)



**TODAY—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:** Gloria Pylant, having carotid artery surgery April 10 at Piedmont Athens; Missy Green & family, as her adopted sister Seleta's 5-month-old son Louis is in ICU at Eggleston in Atlanta; Mrs. Bowen's family & community; and local concerns & prayers for how we present recreation to our children and for bullying in schools and neighborhoods.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Monday	April 8	Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-20
Tuesday	April 9	Psalm 31: 9-6
Wednesday	April 10	Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Thursday	April 11	Philippians 2: 5-11
Friday	April 12	Psalm 126
Saturday	April 13	Psalm 132
Sunday	April 14	Luke 19: 28-40



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](mailto:alicerosephd1@gmail.com) or 678-886-8680.

**2018-2019 FINANCIAL REPORT YTD**

Fiscal Year to Date: Week #  
 Anticipated Pledges: \$348,400.76  
 Received Pledges: \$332,939.62  
*It is time to catch up on pledges.*  
 You will find your July 2018 – March 2019 statements in your mailbox.

Join us for this month's **Restaurant Roadtrip** on **Tuesday, April 23**, to Catch 22



Gastropub, 1021 Parkway Blvd, off Epps Bridge Road

near Kohl's. Please SIGNUP on the bulletin board, so we can save a large-enough table. You can meet us there at 11:30am, or you can carpool from the church parking lot at 11:15am. Bring a friend! Separate checks.



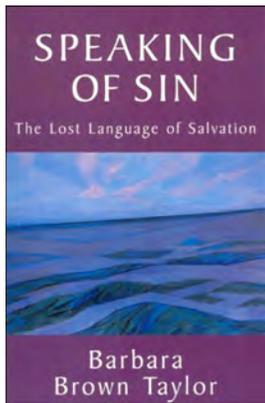
**April 19th, 7:00 p.m.**

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)*



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

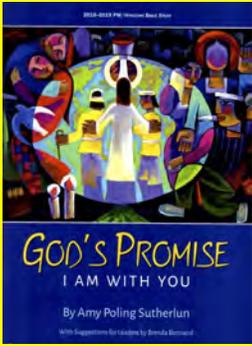
This program is presented by Congregation Children of Israel and the Florence and Sanford Schwartz Symposium Fund.  
Reception by Trumps Catering will follow the program.



Covenant’s **Lunch Bunch** meets every final Tuesday at 11:30am at DePalma’s Eastside, for great food & fellowship. Come and see on Tuesday, April 30th! Lots of laughter & good stories. Separate checks.



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. We will also celebrate our friends Coffee Worth and Sara Boggs, who are moving to Lakeland, FL, in early May. 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!



"I couldn't decide what to give up for Lent, so I gave it all up."

## 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.

### "Sunday evening programming"

*Middle School Youth - 4-6pm*

*High School Youth - 5-7pm.*

All meetings at the church unless otherwise indicated

Upcoming Sundays:

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 Group

Apr 21: No Youth Group → Easter Sunday

Apr 28: Youth Group

May 5: End of Year Party

### COMING SOON!

**Montreat High School Conference, June 2-8.** We are less than two months away from this fun filled, faith forming event. Nine youth from Covenant, Athens, will share lodging at the GA Lodge with youth from Covenant, Augusta who together will join youth from across the region for week 1 programming. This year's theme is "Let Love Lead" (read more on the Montreat website). Thanks to the church's generosity, and the La-sagna Lunch fundraiser, youth and their parents are only responsible for paying approximately 25% of the cost. What a gift. We will commission the youth on Sunday, June 2, after which they will head to the hills!

**Middle School Conference--Montreat at Maryville College, July 17-21.** Six youth will travel with Sarah Shannon, Mary Barnett, and Jeremy Reaves to Maryville College for five days of fun and faith formation. This year's theme is "For Such a Time is This" (read more on at [montreat.org](http://montreat.org)). It's not too late to sign up. If you know you (your child) want to go, please speak with Craig.

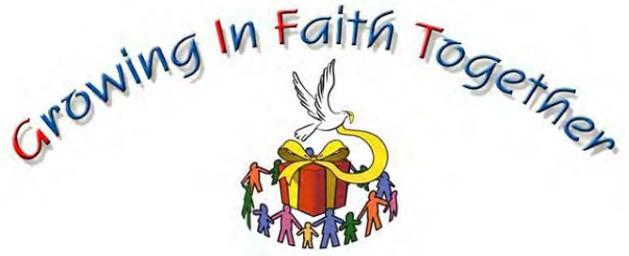
**Presbyterian Youth Triennium is July 16-20.** Four youth, plus Brian Hernden will travel to Purdue University for this special event (which in my humble opinion is one of the best events of the denomination). What is Presbyterian Youth Triennium? *A gathering of over 3000 students from PCUSA churches all over the country.* The Northeast Georgia Presbytery delegation will travel on a charter bus with the delegation from Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbyteries. Please **contact Brian Herndon** 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)

4/07 Isaac, 4/14 Ruby, 4/21 Eli, 4/28 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](mailto: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
4/7/19	Craig/Jere	Combined (Seder)	Betsy	Craig
4/14/19	Prep for Palm Sunday			

**Parents Corner:** Holy Week is close at hand. Our Lenten journey in WoRM has taken us to the desert where Jesus fasted. From the desert we skipped past all of Jesus public ministry to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed before his trial, death and resurrection (yes, the children were a bit confused as the Christian calendar can do). This Sunday before Holy Week begins gives us an opportunity to explore an aspect of that week with the children. Have you ever wondered what kind of meal Christ shared with his disciples at the Last Supper? The Seder tradition is the joyful family dinner and worship service which is held in Jewish homes on Passover every year, which this year is April 19th, the same day as Good Friday. *Seder* means *order*. The Seder consists of a number of ceremonies of extreme antiquity. Through these ceremonies and symbols, we can feel the trials of the ancient Jews as they went through the Exodus - the release of their embittered life of bondage in Egypt and the joy of their subsequent freedom as they crossed the Red Sea, leaving the land of Pharaoh. This Sunday, April 7, the children will share in a simplified version of the Seder meal, which may include: THE KIDDUSH (FIRST CUP), THE URCHATZ (THE RITUAL CLEANSING), THE MAGGID (*the children's questions*), THE YAHATZ (*breaking the unleavened bread of the matzah*), THE HALLEL (PSALM 113), and the DAYYENU (*closing ceremony*). Through food and ritual we form deep memory and exuberant hope in the God of all peoples.

**Vacation Bible School** - First Pres will once again be hosting VBS May 28 - 31st, and CovPres Children are invited to 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.



**Kickin' It at Covenant** will happen again this summer for three in June and three in July. Many thanks to Jerry Shannon for again helping organize these events! If you have ideas, let him know. More info to follow!

# Wonderful Wednesdays—April 10th

MENU April 10th

Ham, mac/  
cheese, broccoli  
and fruit

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

## **COVENANT CONNECTION (CovConn)**

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](https://www2.jdrf.org/site/TR?fr_id=7733&pg=personal&px=12590804)

**WHO'S WHO at Covenant?** Who at Covenant had ancestors from northern Scotland who arrived in Jamestown in 1632?

Who's Who: James Malone

## **T-SHIRTS NEEDED FOR COVENANT CONNECTION SERVICE PROJECT!**



Please bring any size, any color, clean, good condition t-shirts and leave them in the basket in the hallway across from the church office.

We will be collecting these until April 10th.

Thank you!

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](http://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.

**Highlights of the stated Session meeting** on Tues. March 26 include: 1) conversation with Central Presbyterian Church in Athens about their desire to explore a relationship with Covenant. as we share common interests, similar theological convictions, commitments, missional hopes, a casual atmosphere, and love of the arts. The Session of Central isn't certain what this relationship would entail but would like to explore the possibilities; 2) plans for Holy Week services: 6pm foot washing and 7pm communion by intinction on Maundy Thursday, Apr. 18, with the PCUSA Union service on Good Friday, Apr. 19, at 7pm, with a Taizé Tenebrae order of worship and a community choir (rehearsal at 6pm); 3) plans for Covenant's traditional Easter Egg Hunt for members & friends, on Sat. Apr. 20 at 10am; 4) transfer of membership for Patti Priester to First United Methodist Church, Franklin, NC; 5) reports from Erika Schroeder, UGA landscape architecture student, on the new & upcoming fenced playground planned for Covenant's backyard; 6) replacement of the kitchen's double refrigerator; and 7) plans for hosting our visitors from the Czech Republic. *Ongoing copies of the minutes of Session meetings, as well as Ministry Team minutes, can be found on the table in the narthex. All Session meetings are open to anyone's attendance.*



## 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)  
(wear comfortable shoes, and bring fresh flowers for the cross.)  
8:30am Easter Covered Dish Breakfast  
10:45am Worship



You are invited to drop by Jubilee Partners, (427 Jubilee Rd, Comer, Georgia) on Saturday, May 11th, between 2-4pm. Bring a finger food and a hug for Coffee Worth as she sets off for her daughter's house in Florida.

**Each year Covenant** elects its officers to serve a 3-year term on the Session, after the work of a nominating committee in gathering a slate of new officers. This year, Dick Zimdars is the Nominating Committee chair with Judy Capie as the second Elder approved by the Session, and they are nominating to the congregation Wayne Crowell, to serve with them on the Nominating Committee. Please make plans to attend the Congregational Meeting to consider Wayne's election on Palm Sunday, April 14, at noon immediately following worship. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the meeting, with prior permission of the nominee. Thanks to all for participating in this important process, as we seek our officers for the Session's Class of 2022.



## Covenants Great Easter Egg Hunt

All Children up to and including 5th grade are invited to hunt eggs on Saturday, April 20 at 10am. If it rains we will hunt them inside the fellowship hall! Refreshments will be served after the hunt.

*Any questions see Ellen Stoneburner.*

