

THE COVENANTER
February 23, 2020

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



Before the Ash Wed Worship service at 6:30pm you are invited to enjoy dinner with us in the fellowship hall. Please call the church office or email Karen at kwetherington@covpresathens.org and let us know that you are coming so we will know how many to prepare for.



At our recent session retreat, we spent time thinking about what "home" meant to us. And we tried to imagine how Covenant could feel more like home to both members and neighbors. What makes us want to be here? What makes us feel at peace? What about this place and community makes us feel like our best, truest selves? In other words, what is it about Covenant that would inspire us, not to just go through the motions of church life, but to really ENGAGE with God, with one another, and with our neighbors? To help us -- and you -- respond to questions like these, we invite you to come to an "engagement day" on **March 1st, following the 10:45 a.m. worship service**. This event will take place in the fellowship hall and will feature a light but delicious lunch of homemade chilis and soup. After grabbing a bite, you will be encouraged to circulate among a number of tables where a facilitator will encourage you to consider how one of your deep interests could intersect with something that is happening, or might happen, at Covenant. These tables will not represent Ministry Teams, but will raise what we hope are provocative questions, like: **Do you like cooking? *Do you like to build things and/or make things beautiful? *Do you like to be outdoors? *Do you like building connections with kids? families? adults of all ages? *Do you like music? *Do you like to engage in social justice issues? *Do you like numbers or technology?* We want to hear from you and to learn what gets your heart beating and spirit moving. We want to engage with you so that together we can better engage with one another and the community we are called to serve. *See you on March 1st!*

COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Bowden Church Vocations Fund

a special offering for Covenant Presbyterian Church

February 2015 Named in honor of Jim & Jere Bowden's 35 year ministry here at Covenant the Bowden Church Vocations Fund was established in 1996 by our Session to support our members who have been called to full-time employment in some form of Christian ministry. A special offering will be received this month, though donations are welcome all year long. Make checks out to Covenant and mark them BCVF or Bowden Fund. Please respond generously, as we support our members in this journey of faith together.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

We need your help to make our children and youth ministries vibrant, especially our Sunday morning WoRM program, Sunday afternoon youth groups, and Wednesday evening Covenant Connection. Here are some opportunities to serve our young people and (by the way!) honor your baptismal vows to raise our children in the Christian faith:

Are you willing to make a light lunch for our youth groups? If so, please contact our Lunch Volunteers Coordinator, DeLynda Tweedell, 706.540.2473. The volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office.

Are you interested in brightening the morning for our young people? Please consider bringing a snack for them to enjoy during the Sunday School hour. The box to receive donations is in the hall across from the church office. Thank you!

We continue to need volunteers to help with our vital Covenant Connection ministry which is serving our own young people, kindergarten – twelfth grade, but also young people from our neighborhoods. If you are able to assist with table set up, meal prep, or “hanging out” with our middle and high schoolers, please sign up on the CovConn Volunteers Sign -up on the bulletin board outside the church office. We are in special need of volunteers to help with table set up and to “hang out” with our high schoolers and middle schoolers.



WoRM CHURCH SCHOOL - Sunday, February 23rd at 9:30am

We will enter the season of Lent on Wednesday, and to help understand the significance of this season, Rindy Trouteaud and our shepherds, Jere Bowden and Wanda Oliver, will prepare some creative learning activities for our young people.

YOUTH GROUPS - Our winter retreat last weekend was a huge success, and this week we'll meet at our usual time, 12:30ish – 2:00 p.m. for lunch and a conversation about faith and culture inspired by Nadia Weber-Bolz. **Parents... a reminder!!!** If your young person is registered for one of the Montreat youth conferences – high school or middle school – the second \$100 deposit is needed to help with the cost of registration. The final deposit (\$85 for high schoolers, \$150 for middle schoolers) will be received in April.

Confirmation—Our winter retreat last weekend was a huge success, and this week we'll meet at our usual time, 12:30ish – 2:00 p.m. for lunch and a conversation about faith and culture inspired by Nadia Weber-Bolz. **Parents... a reminder!!!** If your young person is registered for one of the Montreat youth conferences – high school or middle school – the second \$100 deposit is needed to help with the cost of registration. The final deposit (\$85 for high schoolers, \$150 for middle schoolers) will be received in April.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

10am Adult Bible Study in the Upper Room

Using Miriam Dunson's book, *A Very Present Help*, the Wednesday morning Bible study which meets in the Upper Room, 10 – 11:15 a.m. Mark Harper facilitates.

Covenant Connection

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Our young people will be preparing the ashes for our congregational Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday evening. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. to sift the ashes and learn more about the significance of ashes in worship.

Dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m., followed by the with Ash Wednesday Worship beginning at 6:30pm.

Ash Wednesday service.

Wednesday, March 4, we will enjoy an intergenerational event during Covenant Connection, *Bringing the Wilderness in Art Project* where we will make wilderness vase displays that will be used to enhance our Lenten worship. We will begin the project at 5:30 p.m., enjoy a meal together, 6:00 p.m., and conclude our artistic endeavors by 7:00 p.m. **Please bring a clean, clear glass vase (one larger than a single bloom vase) or a mason jar to use for this project. All other materials will be supplied.**

For this evening we will suspend all activities for our young people so that we may enjoy time together as our Covenant family.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY →

6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT
YOUTH AT
COVENANT
CONNECTION on
Wed, Feb. 26**

**No Faith & Film. Please join us for the Ash
Wednesday Worship at 6:30pm**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

6:30pm – 7:30pm will resume March 18th.

Wednesday evening Bible studies will resume after spring break, Wednesday, March 18. Lewis Smede's book, Keeping Hope Alive for a Tomorrow We Cannot Control, will guide our conversations.

In this fearful and cynical age, when doom-and-gloomers forecast catastrophe and fearmongers try to get us to hedge our bets on the future with insurance policies and safety nets, we need to rediscover real hope. Lewis Smedes says, "Hope is as native to our spirits as thinking is to our brain. Keep hoping, and you keep living. Stop hoping, and you start dying." He shows how hope powers every good thing we accomplish and helps us overcome every bad thing we encounter. He talks about how to keep hope alive in difficult times, discern false hope from true hope, and move beyond worry to trust in God. If you would like a book, please call Karen Wetherington in the church office to place your order, 706.548.2756.

THE GRADUATES



Covenant Breakfast Club
 Monday, March 2 at 8am.
 Cracker Barrel on Epps
 Bridge Road. Join us for a good time
 of conversation and food.

Knitters & Knotters
 Thursday, February 27 at 2pm
 Join us for a great time of fellowship &
 ministry as we join together to make
 blankets, hat, scarves, pillows, etc. for those in
 need. Everyone is invited, beginners welcome!



Lunch Bunch
 Let's meet for good food,
 great company, and
 interesting conversation
Tuesday, February 25, 12:30 p.m.,
 at
 DePalma's Italian Café (eastside)
 1965 Barnett Shoals Rd

DOUBLE HITS – *the same words or phrases can share a common expression.*
Example: Peter's Family; judge unfavorably. P A N

1. Tsar, King; used to draw lines	Answers to Double Hits: 1. Ruler 2. Jam 3. wedge
2. Impasse; toast; topper	
3. Shim; ladies' hairstyle	

By Marilyn Brown

Graduate Gaming Group
 will Meet **March 3, 2020 at 10:00am**
 The March meeting of the G3 (Graduate Gam-
 ing Group) will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4th at
 10 am. All ages of adults are welcome to partic-
 ipate in this group, so come and bring a friend.

La Table Luncheon
 Tuesday, February 25 beginning at 11 am
 It is the major fundraiser for Family
 Promise. See page 5 for more details!



GRADUATES COVERED DISH LUNCHEON –
March 10th at 12:30pm
 Join us as we enjoy the **Green Flag Band**, Celtic inspired
 traditional & contemporary folk music. Please bring
 your favorite dish to share and a friend.
 Beverages will be provided.



Please consider signing up to take a meal to the home
 of Anna and Gene Holshouser.
 To sign up, go to the website takethemameal.com.
 Under "Find", type in Holshouser and also type
 Holshouser for the password. Or, you can call Luanne
 Rigsby, (706) 224-3828 and she can sign you up or walk
 you through the website sign up process.

Knitters & Knotters Need Help! From time to time, K & K regulars make heart-shaped
 pillows for the Lauren Smith Cancer Support Center. This is one of those times and we
 could use some extra people to help cut out the hearts and stuff the pillows. K & K
 meets every Thursday, 2-3 PM, so if you are free at that time, stop by the church for
 some fun and fellowship as you contribute to the comfort of local cancer patients.
 Caren Snook for K & K

MANY THANKS to the 40+ volunteers who extended room, board, & hospitality at Covenant to 3 delightful families through Family Promise February 9-16. We had 2 families with dads this time, & the 3rd family will be moving into permanent housing very soon. All five adults who stayed with us are employed. Family Promise works! -Jere & Jim Bowden, host coordinators



The annual *La Table* luncheon will be held this year on February 25 at the Athens Country Club beginning at 11am. It is the major fund raiser for Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network). You will enjoy beautiful and creatively set tables and a chance to visit with Covenant friends. Tom Rawlings, State Director of DFACS will be the key note speaker. Please sign up on the form on the bulletin board or call Ginger Davis-Beck or Ellen Stoneburner for information. \$50.00 per person check made out to Covenant with LaTable in the memo portion.

Want to give a helping hand? Join our ministries at **Our Daily Bread**, the soup kitchen for Athens, based at First Baptist Church downtown. Dorothy Newland coordinates preparing lunch on fifth Wednesdays, arriving at 10am. The next day of service is Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Contact Dorothy at 706-202-0474 if you would like to help.

Paige Cummings coordinates preparing lunch on first Fridays monthly, arriving at 11am. Contact Paige at paigemercercummings@gmail.com if you would like to help. The next day of service is Friday, March 6, 2020.

Puerto Rico Mission Donation Board

Help your mission team help the families that we will be working with to restore their communities.

Select an envelope of any amount you wish to donate and please return envelope with your contribution.

Bring your donation to the church office or place it in Sunday's offering plate.

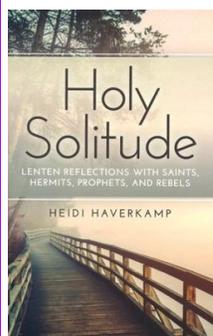
FEED MY SHEEP for February
Covenant is collecting these items for the Athens Emergency Food Bank:
salty snacks, canned pork & beans, canned fruit with pop-top, and saltines.

And as always brown paper bags.

Thank you Covenant and
May we all have enough!



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY!
We will resume our gatherings at the Sumner's home on **March 3** where our conversations will center around Lenten



spiritual practices. Heidi Haverkamp's book, *Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Prophets, and Rebels* will guide our discussion. **If you would like a book, please call Karen Wetherington in the church office to place your order, 706.548.2756.**



The Presbyterian Student Center has an urgent need for folks to help provide meals for their Tuesday night dinner and church service. They have had very few volunteers this year and could really use your help.

You can search for available dates and sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4ca4af2ca1fb6-tuesday>. Please contact Pam Knox to ask about dietary needs or other information or if you need someone to help.

Did you know that Covenant has an Emergency Food Pantry?

In partnership with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, our Emergency Food Pantry exists to distribute food to families and individuals in need. For some, this need is on-going. For others, this need may be temporary. Covenant's Food Pantry is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1PM-4PM.

Did you know that we need volunteers to help distribute the food?

Here is what is needed:

1. Two volunteers each Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1-4. You can just sign up for 1 day, or for multiple days. You can also share the 3-hour time slot with 2 friends!
2. When someone comes in requesting food, one person will assist the person in filling out the required one page form, and the other person will go to the food pantry, put the food in the bag, place it in the grocery cart and take the cart to the person.

Interested? Call or email Betsy Pless 540-1719 bppless@gmail.com

OR- [click the link](#) below for an easy 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.



THANK YOU Covenant Emergency Food Bank Volunteers!

For the month of January, 47 families were given food, that included 38 children under the age of 18, and 14 adults 65 and older. *Don't forget to sign up for March.*

This month we have two more opportunities to serve.

The first opportunity is for the **Ash Wednesday Service**, which will be 6:30-7:00pm on February 26th. We need 3 Ushers to participate in that service. They will also serve as Greeters that evening.

The second opportunity is for the NEGA Presbytery Meeting and Service on Saturday, February 29th. We will need volunteers between 8am and noon, with times varying for different roles. The roles include Ushers (4), Greeters (4), Parking attendants (4), Registration attendants (4), Breakfast Table (2), Sound system (1), and Childcare (1). All the volunteers would need to be at the church by 8am Saturday morning, to help set up and greet and park the guests. Registration begins at 9am. Check out the sign up sheet on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes. Please let us know if you are available and able to assist on either of these two dates. We want to provide a warm welcome to all the members of the Presbytery who will be visiting with us this month. Covenant Presbyterian Church is known for its hospitality and we want to continue that in 2020! *Thank you in advance for your willingness to volunteer! Jennifer Frey & Tamara Stam, Worship*



Prayer Concerns: Paula Zimdars recovering well from surgery on Feb. 18th; Caren Snook feeling stronger; Ellie McMinn doing well at home; Anne Page at Avery Place #145; Ruth Brewster at Arbor Terrace #222; Pauline Marshall at Highland Hills #112; and Louie Boyd, John & Elizabeth Brewer, & Anna Holshouser at home.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS February 24 – March 1

Monday	Psalm 8
Tuesday	Psalm 9
Wednesday	Psalm 10
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5: 1-10
Friday	2 Corinthians 5: 11-21
Saturday	Genesis 39: 1-10
Sunday	Luke 6: 27-36

FINANCIAL REPORT for
Week Ending 2/16/2020

ANTICIPATED PLEDGES:

\$294,321.92

ACTUAL PLEDGES:

\$296,036.73

Thank you for your faithful giving!

Bowden Church Vocations Fund:

\$4,365.00



ATHENS WINTER CHAUTAUQUA
Celebrate Black History Month
The Black American Experience

Athens-Clarke County Library

Appleton Auditorium

Sunday, February 23, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Featuring Documentary Film: *Rosa Parks: The First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement* and Panel Discussion with

Broderick Flanagan, Artist and Community Activist

Freda Giles, Associate Professor Emerita of Theatre and Film Studies and African American Studies, UGA

Dawn D. Bennett-Alexander, J.D., Associate Professor of Employment Law & Legal Studies, UGA

Public Reception following in Multipurpose Room B in appreciation of Community Partners, Sponsors, and Friends of Athens Chautauqua

Community Sponsors: Athens Downtown Development Authority, Swagler-Marlowe Family Fund, Athens Area Arts Council and Friends of Athens Chautauqua

Community Partners: OLLI@UGA, UGA Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, WUGA-FM Public Radio, Classic Center Cultural Foundation, Athens-Clarke County Library, Rabbit Box Storytelling, and Boom Athens Magazine

For information on Athens Chautauqua

<http://historycomesalive.org/performances/athens/>

YEAH. WELL - - - It is TRUE THAT February 14 =

ATHENS Arbor Day & February 21 = GEORGIA Arbor Day, & the focus is on TREES, but guess what??

Athens Clarke County Water Department is giving away free water-saver showerheads this month, and your ever-vigilant Green Dream Team has put a bag of these handy-dandy gadget on the table in front of the GDT bulletin board along with installation directions.

Take one, install it in your most used shower & see if your water bill shrinks. You'll feel good knowing you've done something to help planet earth.



“The **COMMUNITY TREE COUNCIL** is a citizen’s advisory committee of the Athens Clarke County government. Phil Hale & Pam Knox faithfully serve on this committee; Jere Bowden served for over 20 years. **YOU** could be a member, too! Talk to Phil or Pam or call Rodney Waters, Community Forester (706-613-3561) if you feel moved by the spirit to apply.”



February 29, 2020
10am-3pm
 (workshops and award continue until 5pm)
State Botanical Garden of Georgia

The Green Life Expo is designed to provide inspiration and the tools needed to help our community members become more sustainable in our everyday lives. More information at athensclarkecounty.com/greenlife.

ACC (Athens-Clarke County) is mighty engaged in addressing global challenges through local solutions programs and events. Ed's note: Plan to spend the day visiting displays at the EXPO, attending workshops and taking garden walks. Greet the Covenant member who will be there with the presentations, displays and activities. A great expo — a lot of fun

The Climate Crisis — Working Group at Covenant will, when it is deemed helpful, highlight such university, church and community events which focus on our role in the global climate challenge. If you would like to join a Covenant climate working group we invite you to call Coordinators: Carolyn Hatfield, Steve Rathbun or Ed Ralph. Next General Meeting: 12:30pm, Sunday, March 1 in the Conference Room (bring a sack lunch). Workers always Welcome!



The Reverend Jimmie Hawkins
 Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness
 will be here in Athens for a series of events in Athens:

— Saturday, February 29: **“Faith & Intersectionality of Race, Money and Creation”** at Covenant as featured speaker at the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Stated Meeting beginning at 10am (call church office for time of keynote).

— Sunday, March 1: Sermon **“Faith Over Politics: The Word of God for the People of God”** preaching at Covenant at 8:30am and 10:45am and the Sunday school presentation at 9:30am.

— Monday, March 2: **“Appreciating Diversity, Eliminating Greed and Preserving Creation”** at the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia from 3:00pm - 5:30pm.

- all events are free to attend and open to the public -

The Climate Crisis — Working Group at Covenant will, when it is deemed helpful, highlight such university, church and community events which focus on our role in the global climate challenge. If you would like to join a Covenant climate working group we invite you to call Coordinators: Carolyn Hatfield, Steve Rathbun or Ed Ralph. Next General Meeting: 12:30pm, Sunday, March 1 in the Conference Room (bring your own sack lunch). Workers always Welcome!

MARCH Birthdays!

2 John Knox	16 James Malone
3 Jack Pannecoucke	17 Bill Parker
Ben Whitney	Ron Simpson
5 Sam Brewster	18 David Loegel
Josh Ballard-Myer	19 Thomas Bowden
6 Betsy Pless	21 Jacob Douylliez
Kathy Boyle-Gast	23 Donny Whitehead
Paige Cummings	Owen Barnett
8 Richard Page	24 Preston Devaney
Dan Whitney	25 Karen W. Redwine
Jonathan Freeman	26 Andrew Mote
9 Junan Crisler	McKenzie Redish
10 Kent Wolfe	30 Phil Koehler
14 Sonja Holden	
16 Eileen Francher	



WEEK OF February 23, 2020—

SUNDAY— 8:30am Worship
9:30 Church School for all
10:45am Worship
12:30pm High School Youth Group
3:30pm Debtors Anonymous

**MONDAY—
OFFICE CLOSED**

6:30pm Scouts
7pm—8pm AA (New Freedom)

TUESDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
11am La Table at the Athens Country Club
11:30am Lunch Bunch at DePalma's (eastside)
6:30pm Session
8pm New Freedom in FH

WEDNESDAY—

8:30am—9:30am New Freedom
10:00am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—6:30pm Covenant Connection
6:30pm ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters and Knotters
6:15pm Yoga
7:30pm CR
8pm Happy Squares

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
3:30pm The Cave

SATURDAY—

8:00am—3:00pm NEGA Presbytery Meeting at Covenant Fellowship Hall Cleaned
10:30am OEA in Upper Room

WORSHIP—February 23, 2020

8:30am

Reader: Sonja Holden
Ushers: Heidi & Kent Wolfe

10:45am

Reader: Jim Newland
Ushers: Jim & Dorothy Newland, Bob Trouteaud, Steve Rathbun,
Mike Swanson

Greeters: Jim & Dorothy Newland
Congregational Care: Bert Ballard-Myer

Counters: Pam Knox, Sue Loegel

Flowers: Juergen Wiegel

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Jim Bowden

Close the Building: Rich Reaves

Grounds Stewards: Wayne Crowell (Feb. 24—March 1)

Nursery/Super: Pam Knox

Birth—Walking: Pam Knox

Walking—5 years old: Phil Hale, Dell Whitehead, Sandy Whitney

WEEK OF March 01, 2020—

Special Guest Speaker, Jimmy Hawkins

SUNDAY— 8:30am Worship
9:30 Church School for all
10:45am Worship
12:15pm Lite Lunch & **ENGAGE!** in Fellowship Hall
1:00pm Climate Crisis Meeting in Conference Room
12:30pm Confirmation Class & High School Youth Group
3:30pm Debtors Anonymous

**MONDAY—
OFFICE CLOSED**

6:30pm Scouts
7pm—8pm AA (New Freedom)

TUESDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
8pm New Freedom

WEDNESDAY—

8:30am—9:30am New Freedom
10:00am Adult Bible Study
5:30pm—7:00pm Covenant Connection

THURSDAY—

2pm Knitters and Knotters
6:15pm Yoga
7:30pm CR

FRIDAY—

9:30am Athens Mothers Center
3:30pm The Cave
8pm New Freedom

SATURDAY— 5Fellowship Hall Cleaned
10:30am OEA in Upper Room

WORSHIP—March 01, 2020

8:30am

Reader: Bruce Menke
Ushers: Dennis & Carol Calbos

10:45am

Reader: Sallie Hale
Ushers: Robyn Malone, Juergen Wiegel, The Tweedell Family
Greeters: Steve Rathbun, Jim Anderson

Congregational Care: Hilda Clark

Counters: Caren Snook, Bill Barstow

Plant Care: Frank Allen

Open the Building: Alan Edwards

Close the Building: Phil Koehler

Grounds Stewards: Brian Striggow (March 2—8)

Nursery/Super: Valerie Stone

Birth—Walking: Valerie Stone

Walking—5 years old: Brian & Eli Stone, Chuck Rosenberger