



Covenant Chimes



May 2021

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Notes from Session

April 6, 2021

Although several Session members were on spring break as well as Music Director Lyn Patterson, there was a quorum present. After all the necessary procedural motions passed, Moderator Andy called the meeting to order.

Andy stated he was interested in knowing how the Lenten Micro Practices had been meaningful to Session members. Andy told the group that he had enjoyed learning about saints from one of the links in the Micro Practice. Others shared they benefited from the weekly email which included the Micro Practices. Andy thanked the Education Ministry Team for offering this resource to the congregation and proceeded to open the meeting with a prayer.

Clerk's Report

There were no building or grounds requests and no changes in membership. Katelyn informed the group that the Reverend Gloria Jennings Marshall as a parish associate was a member of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, not Covenant.

Treasurer Aubrey Moore expressed his gratitude to interim Finance Secretary Jenn Harrison. He provided Session with 2020 year-end reports and 1st Quarter 2021 (Jan-March) church financial reports. Aubrey asked Session members to

From Our Pastor

The hymn *Earth and All Stars* came up in a worship planning meeting lately. Katelyn, Lyn, and I lamented the fact that it is no longer in the current version of the Presbyterian hymnal. It is an ode to the new ways that God is at work in the world and the ways that we might praise God for all that we witness. It does have one goofy and memorable line, which may have caused it to be excluded from the current hymnal: "Classrooms and labs, loud boiling test tubes, sing to the Lord a new song!"

That may be a ridiculous lyric, but I firmly believe in the sentiment behind it: God is at work in many of the scientific advances of this world, and we should praise God for them.

Recently, we have seen a world that is worn down by a pandemic receive hope through the development of multiple vaccines. And it makes me want to sing to the Lord a new song. To me, this is evidence of God's gift of human intellect and ingenuity used to make the world a better place.

One result of this is a sense of hope and joy that has crept into our work and worship at Covenant. Over the past month, we have worshiped in new ways. It makes a big difference to have fifty or sixty people confess sin or affirm faith with you. It is moving to hear the choir lead us in song. We also just had our first in-

person meetings of staff and ministry teams in over a year.

I am grateful that so many in our congregation have received vaccines. I am glad to report that the entire staff has been vaccinated, too. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, then I would recommend doing so right away. Katelyn and I used the AU vaccination site in the old Steinmart on Washington Rd. and we were very impressed by their operation.

Going forward, I am sure that we will continue to see changes in the ways that we are doing things at Covenant. We are doing our best to hear all points of view in a nonjudgmental way and to let those perspectives inform the decisions that we are

making. In the meantime, I hope that you'll continue to wear a mask when you come into the building and participate in whatever ways that you feel comfortable.

Finally, I want to say that after a year of not visiting people in hospitals or in homes, Katelyn and I are now ready to return to that part of our work. If you would like for us to visit you, then please let us know. If you are not ready for that, then we will respect your wishes.

We'll look forward to seeing you around Covenant as we "sing to the Lord a new song" together!



(See "Session Notes," page 3)

Preschool News

A big thank you for your participation in the preschool's spring plant sale fundraiser. Your support means so much to us, and we hope your plants are blooming and growing beautifully!

The teachers are the heart of the school, and we're blessed to have nine fantastic teachers and staff in our preschool. The first week of May is Teacher Appreciation Week, and we're excited to show them how much we love them.

We're looking forward to celebrating our kindergarten graduates on May 14! We have nine graduates this year, and we are so proud of them and all that they have learned in Ms. Ferris' class this year.

As this school year wraps up this month, we can't help but notice God's faithfulness through all of the ups and downs of this year, and we give thanks for the children, families, and staff who are part of our



CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: All Covenant Members

Co-Pastors:

The Rev. Katelyn Gordon Cooke and

The Rev. Andy Cooke

Director of Music and Organist:

Lyn M. Patterson

Parish Associate:

The Rev. Karla Conditt Daniels

Nursery Caregiver: Sherry Nash

Church Secretary: Judy Strogonoff

Interim Finance Secretary:

Jenn Harrison

Preschool Director: Lauren Stull

Covenant Presbyterian Church

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(706) 733-0513

info@covenantaugusta.org

www.covenantaugusta.org

www.facebook.com/covenantaugusta

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri

Building & Grounds

OUTDOOR WORKDAY

Saturday, May 15, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We will gather to do some low impact improvements like the following:

- Spread pine straw in shrubbery.
- Trim back bushes around the building
- Weed flower gardens
- Clean gutters (where it is safe to do so)
- Limb-up trees around Aumond Road parking
- Give the playground some TLC
- Pressure wash areas where mildew exists

We'll have ladders, trimmers, blowers, shovels, wheelbarrows lawn bags and pressure washer. Bring your favorite lawn and garden tools. Please contact Chuck Baldwin at 706-339-1506.

See you then,

Chuck Baldwin

Building & Grounds Chairman

Presbyterian Women

All Covenant women are invited to the PW Bible Study on May 18, 2021 at 2 pm. We will be resuming the study *Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*, by Max Lucado. Join us either in person in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom as Judy Grieve leads us in this most interesting study.

At Covenant we will be socially distanced and wearing masks. The Zoom link is below:

To join the meeting go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83341591619> or call 646-558-8656 and enter meeting ID 833 4159 1619#

Worship

WORSHIP NURSERY IS BACK!

Beginning Sunday, May 2, we will be offering childcare during the 11 a.m. worship service for children in kindergarten and younger. We're also excited to welcome back Sherry Nash as one of our nursery caregivers! She is a familiar face at Covenant from her previous years working in the nursery and at the preschool, and we are grateful to have her on staff again. Several Covenant members will be volunteering in the nursery on these Sundays in May, so that we will have two adults in the room and be in compliance with the Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.



Please note that the nursery room has changed, and the nursery is now in room 2 (the last room on the right of the hallway on your way to the sanctuary). Childcare is available from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and we will be following the COVID protocols as outlined by the Session.

For questions or more information about Sunday morning childcare, please contact Katelyn Gordon Cooke

SUMMER CHOIR INVITATION

Summer Choir begins **May 30**. If you'd like to sing with the Covenant Choir during the summer months and are fully vaccinated, please join us in the Balcony at 10:15a on Sunday mornings. We prepare an easy anthem in our 30-minute rehearsal and sing it during the 11:00a worship service. Covenant's current Covid Guidelines require Choir members to wear singers' masks when singing; we have extras available for your use. Questions? See Lyn Patterson or email her at lpatterson@covenantaugusta.org.

Session Notes

(continued from page 1)

review these reports and to let him know what information is helpful and what might not be needed. He stated that Jenn was working on the preschool financials which she hopes to have completed by the May 4th Session meeting.

Task Forces

1. Membership Task Force.

Andy reported the letters have been sent out. The task force will meet in April to work on a recommendation for Session in May.

2. Open the Gates Task Force

The task force has no new recommendations. The members of the task force have discussed Rally Day in August as a target for returning to everything in person. There is no end date to Stage 2 which will continue in place until the task force recommends Stage 3. The next meeting is April 29.

3. Memorials Task Force

The recommendation from the Memorials Task Force: It is the policy of Covenant Presbyterian Church that engraved nameplates, plaques or tags that identify a donor or a person in whose memory donations were given shall not be placed in the church. It did not need a second and the motion passed. Vernon Barnes thanked Charlotte Ealick, Terry Bowers, and Chuck Baldwin for the work they had done.

Following discussion about the Memorial Book, Vernon agreed the Memorials Task Force would address who maintains the book, how information is entered and updated, and bring this information back to Session in May.

Ministry Reports

1. Building and Grounds Ministry Team—Chuck Baldwin and Mary McCarter

Mary informed Session the sink hole had been repaired and that she is looking into guttering to help with the draining.

Mary also told Session that an annual backflow inspection had been done.

2. Congregational Life Ministry Team—Joe Huff and Chris Terry

Chris told Session the Fire and Fellowship event had been successful. The first Food Truck Friday will be April 23 with Diablos and Kona Ice.

3. Education Ministry Team—Steve Bell and Judy Grieve

Steve stated that Graduation Sunday will be May 16.

4. Mission Ministry Team—Charlotte Ealick and Vernon Barnes

Motion to approve applying for recertification as an Earth Care congregation. The motion passed.

5. Sustainability Ministry Team—Chris Henry and Hubert van Tuyl

The Sustainability Ministry Team presented a motion that Session affirm the hiring of an interim Finance Secretary by the co-pastors with gratitude and thanks. The rate of pay was approved by Session. The motion passed.

Chris Henry made a motion to go to Executive Session with the friendly amendment that Treasurer Aubrey Moore be included. The motion was seconded and passed as amended.

The Sustainability Ministry Team presented a motion to Session to approve and adopt the Interim Finance Secretary job description. This motion passed.

The Sustainability Ministry Team presented a motion to Session the approval and adoption of the “Treasurer Position Description.” This motion passed.

6. Worship Ministry Team—Brock Daniels and Sarah Colborn

Motion to fund the purchase and installation of a new sound board for \$1208.16 from Memorials (80857). The motion passed.

Deacons

Katelyn reported that the Deacons continue to do vital work for the Covenant family- praying, feeding and staying in touch. The Deacons have a new prayer initiative that would be announced in the Friday emails.

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Andy presented a suggestion that Session return to in-person meetings. Session decided to discuss returning in person for the June meeting at the May 4th Session meeting.

Katelyn presented a wedding request application from Caley Rentz, a faithful Covenant nursery worker while attending AU, and Houlton Boomer for June 10. It was seconded and passed. Katelyn would notify Caley of Session’s decision.

Co pastor’s report

Katelyn commented on the stressful times involving staff members. She expressed her gratitude to Jenn Harrison who stepped in so quickly to fill the Interim Finance Secretary position. Katelyn said she was excited about a return to campus and the renewal of music. Another hopeful note for Katelyn is all the youth activities that will resume in the summer: a Mission trip with Reid, Montreat Middle School conference and the Senior High Montreat conference also with Reid. She also reported that she and Karla Condit Daniels would resume communion at Brandon Wilde, another step to returning to events that had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

Katelyn closed the meeting with prayer at 8:50pm.

Next Session meeting will be May 4 at 7pm via Zoom.

Judy Grieve,
Clerk of Session

Treasurer's Report

Friends,

The state of our Covenant economy remains strong. Through your faithful giving and the good stewardship exercised by our ministry teams and staff, we finished 2020 with a surplus and we continue to see our revenues outpacing expenses for the first quarter 2021. God is good, and grace abounds—all the time!

Aubrey Moore, Treasurer

Covenant Presbyterian Church			
Year-End Financial Report - January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020			
With 100% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our year-end revenue performance for 2020.			
Revenues	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	Goal ≥ 100%
Income Accounts			
Pledges	\$ 483,511.86	\$ 460,000.00	105.1%
Non-Pledge Gifts	51,277.29	65,000.00	78.9%
Loose Plate Offering	1,125.92	4,000.00	28.1%
Interest, Checking	205.66	350.00	58.8%
Interest, Prime Savings	164.27	500.00	32.9%
Returned Check Fee	(12.00)	-	
Processing Costs Revenue	570.28	-	
Rent/Facilities Use	4,582.50	6,500.00	70.5%
Exp. Reimb. Donation	528.33	300.00	176.1%
Total Income	\$ 541,954.11	\$ 536,650.00	101.0%
Transfers from Bldg. Fund	32,745.76	\$ 32,746.01	100.0%
Total Revenues	\$ 574,699.87	\$ 569,396.01	100.9%
With 100% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our year-end expense performance for 2020.			
Expenses	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	Goal ≤ 100%
Ministry Teams			
Building & Grounds	\$ 169,321.52	\$ 178,365.00	94.9%
Congregational Life	2,330.92	2,000.00	116.5%
Education	5,206.65	13,700.00	38.0%
Mission	42,262.44	43,600.00	96.9%
Sustainability	313,257.40	319,931.01	97.9%
Worship	4,856.02	11,800.00	41.2%
Total Expense Accounts	\$ 537,234.95	\$ 569,396.01	94.4%
Contingency	4,243.68	-	
Total Expenses	\$ 541,478.63	\$ 569,396.01	95.1%
NET SURPLUS	\$ 33,221.24	-	5.8%

Covenant Presbyterian Church			
1st Quarter Financial Report - January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021			
With 25% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our revenue performance to date.			
Revenues	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Goal ≥ 25%
Income Accounts			
Pledges	\$ 121,709.00	\$ 481,000.00	25.3%
Non-Pledge Gifts	5,444.00	57,000.00	9.6%
Loose Plate Offering	20.00	3,000.00	0.7%
Interest, Checking	43.82	200.00	21.9%
Interest, Prime Savings	273.89	200.00	136.9%
Processing Costs Revenue	177.92	500.00	35.6%
Rent/Facilities Use	520.00	4,000.00	13.0%
Exp. Reimb. Donation	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Total Income Accounts	\$ 128,188.63	\$ 546,200.00	23.5%
Designated Funds Transfers			
Transfers from Bldg. Fund	6,643.95	26,575.84	25.0%
Total Revenues	\$ 134,832.58	\$ 572,775.84	23.5%
With 25% of the fiscal year complete, the chart below reflects our expense performance to date.			
Expenses	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	Goal ≤ 25%
Ministry Teams			
Building & Grounds	\$ 38,365.64	\$ 177,744.96	21.6%
Congregational Life	-	2,000.00	0.0%
Education	166.99	13,450.00	1.2%
Mission	10,012.48	44,800.00	22.3%
Sustainability	79,020.89	322,980.88	24.5%
Worship	2,596.25	11,800.00	22.0%
Total Expenses	\$ 130,162.25	\$ 572,775.84	22.7%
Net Total	\$ 4,670.33	\$ -	0.82%



Education



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Zoom Gathering

Sunday, May 16 // 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Elementary and preschool kids are invited to our monthly Children's Zoom gathering! Each month's gathering looks a little different, but we always have time to catch up with our friends, hear a Bible story, and pray together. We hope you'll join us this month!

YOUTH MINISTRY

1st and 3rd Sunday Bible Study



Sundays, May 2 and May 16
3:00 p.m. via Zoom

We're still going with the Gospel of Mark! Join us on the 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons to study the shortest and fastest-paced gospel. Let's see what Jesus will do next!

2nd Sunday Service

Sunday, May 9

This month's service activity is all about how you can serve a particular person: your mom! Since the second Sunday of May is also Mother's Day, we're going to follow Mother Teresa's advice: "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

Katelyn will be in touch earlier in the week with ideas for how you can serve your mom on Mother's Day, and we'll follow up as a group to see what each person did.

4th Sunday Fellowship

Sunday, May 23
3:00 p.m. // Picnic tables outside the sanctuary

It's game day! Middle and high school youth are invited to bring their favorite board or card game, and meet up at the picnic tables outside the sanctuary for an afternoon of fun and friendly competition.

5th Sunday Sabbath

Sunday, May 30 – No youth group



YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Thursday, May 20 // 7:00 p.m. Outdoor Gathering

This monthly gathering for Covenant Young Adults includes time for fellowship, Bible Study, and prayer. Young adults take turns leading the discussion, and we always enjoy some good theological conversation. Details for this gathering will be in the Friday email.

ADULT

SALT and Choir Class
Adult Sunday School,
9:45 a.m., Zoom and Fellowship Hall.

Voices of the Early Church

Mary Beachum will lead us in this five-week class as we explore the experiences of people who were witnesses to Christianity in the first few generations after the apostolic church of the New Testament. Some we will get to know in their own words and others in contemporary accounts of their lives. We will be able to consider what they contributed to the development of the church and what lessons they have for our adventures with Christ. Suggestions for reading will be in the weekly email.

For questions about adult classes, feel free to contact Judy Grieve, Steve Bell, or Kathy Ordelt.

NEW SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY!

Ladies - Tired of the rain? Anxious to dip your feet in the ocean? What about W.A.D.I.N.G. –

Women after dinner in need of God?



WADING is a new evening time for Bible study and fellowship for women who cannot always attend daytime gatherings. We'll meet on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall where we can spread out. This will be a time to walk through God's Word with each other, building eternal and earthly relationships. Please join us for our first Meet and Greet for WADING on Monday, May 3, 2021. Please call or text to RSVP to Mary McCarter at 812-229-1368 or by email at mary.mccarter@ferrerausa.com.



GRADUATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 16, we'll celebrate Covenant members who are graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this year! If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please take a moment to let us know by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/covgrad2021> or by calling the church office by May 10. Thank you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo 12:30 PM Worship Ministry Team, Zoom 3:00 PM Youth Fellowship, Mini Golf	26 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor	27 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	28 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM Matthew 25 Task Force, Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	29 4:00 PM Open the Gates Task Force, Zoom 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	30	1 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
2 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* 3:00 PM Youth Bible Study, Zoom	3 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	4 2:00 PM Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting, Zoom 7:00 PM Stated Session Meeting, Zoom	5 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	6 National Day of Prayer 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	7	8 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
9 Mother's Day Special Offering: Presbyterian Homes of Georgia Youth Service to Others: Serving our Moms 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo*	10 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 5:30 PM Congregational Life Ministry Team, Zoom 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	11 11:30 AM Ladies for Lunch, Bodega Ultima, 353 Highland Ave., Augusta 6:00 PM Education Ministry Team	12 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	13 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	14  Last Day of Preschool 10:00 AM Kindergarten Graduation 11:30 AM Early Release and Last Day of Covenant Preschool 5:00 PM Food Truck Friday	15 9:00 AM Covenant Work Day 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
16  Graduation Sunday 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* 2:00 PM Children's Ministry Gathering, Zoom 3:00 PM Youth Bible Study, Zoom	17 COVENANT CHIMES DEADLINE 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	18 2:00 PM Deborah and Faith Circles, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Sustainability Ministry Team, Zoom	19 6:00 PM Matthew 25 Task Force, Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	20 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal 7:00 PM Young Adult Gathering, Zoom	21	22 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
23 Pentecost Special Offering: Pentecost 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo* 12:30 PM Worship Ministry Team, Zoom 3:00 PM Youth Sunday Fellowship: Game Day, Picnic Tables Outside Sanctuary	24 5:00 PM Companions in Christ, Parlor 7:00 PM WADING Bible Study, Fellowship Hall	25 6:00 PM Mission Ministry Team, Zoom	26 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study, Zoom 1:30 PM Covenant Staff Meeting, Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM Covenant Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	27 4:00 PM Open the Gates Task Force, Zoom 6:00 PM Pandemic Ringers Rehearsal	28	29 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104
30 Trinity Sunday 9:45 AM Adult Sunday School Class, Zoom and Fellowship Hall 11:00 AM Stage 2 Worship Service and Live Stream on Vimeo*	31 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	1 7:00 PM Stated Session Meeting, Zoom	2	3	4 5:00 PM Food Truck Friday	5 10:00 AM Meals on Wheels 1:30 PM Overeaters Anonymous, Room 104

LADIES FOR LUNCH

Ladies for Lunch will meet Tuesday, **May 11, at 11:30 a.m.** Women and friends of Covenant will gather at Bodega Ultima, 353 Highland Ave, Augusta for outdoor dining. Contact Phoebe Crimmins at 706-738-7820 or by email at phoebebeach30@hotmail.com to make your reservation for this gathering so that we may have space for you.

FAMILY * FOOD * FRIENDS!



FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY

Mark your calendars for the next Food Truck Friday!

Friday, May 14
5:00-7:30 p.m.
Playground Parking Lot

Creation Corner

Tropical rainforests are essential for the Earth



Tropical forests have suffered tremendous destruction over recent decades. Tropical forests are carbon sinks for the Earth.

Trees are highly efficient at absorbing atmospheric carbon and converting it to oxygen. When trees are cut down, not only is their carbon absorbing capacity lost, but also the carbon they are storing is released into the atmosphere, often through burning in order to quickly clear land. Tropical rainforests are especially important because they trap larger amounts of carbon dioxide than more temperate forests and because they evaporate more water, which produces cloud cover that reflects sunlight back into space. Not only that, but deforestation destroys the habitats of thousands of plant and animal species, contributing to increasing rates of extinction and loss of biodiversity. We are in the midst of what scientists are calling the Earth's sixth mass extinction of animals, plants and insects, primarily driven by climate change and loss of habitat. Rainforest Foundation Norway recently published an analysis of data from Global Forest Watch and reported that 34% of the Earth's tropical rainforest is completely gone, while another 30% is degraded. Only 36% remains intact.

Rainforests in the Amazon are destroyed primarily for cattle ranching and for farming, especially soybeans, a large percentage of which is turned into animal feed. Rainforests in Malaysia and Indonesia are primarily destroyed in order to produce palm oil, which can be found in everything from your shampoo to your crackers. The loss of these rain forests is directly threatening orangutans with extinction. Logging, including illegal logging, is also a driver of deforestation.

What can you do? 1) Eating a plant-based diet and reducing or eliminating beef consumption is one action that actually can reduce deforestation by reducing demand for beef and animal products. 2) Read labels on your packaged foods and cosmetic products and try to avoid those containing palm oil. 3) Reduce your use of paper and use recycled paper products when possible. 4) Seek out products that have been certified by the Rainforest Alliance as not contributing to deforestation. 5) Finally, consider supporting these organizations that are working to protect and restore rainforest habitats:

- rainforest-alliance.org
- rainforesttrust.org
- rainforestfoundation.org

Amy House
Chair, Creation Care Task Force

ELIZA ROBINSON

I was born on April 2002, in Atlanta and moved to Augusta to be closer to family in 2008; within that first year, my family joined Covenant. I immediately joined the theatre scene in Augusta, by joining the Art Factory in the 2nd grade. It led me to attend John S. Davidson Fine Arts School for two years of high school, where I performed and designed costumes for multiple productions.

I graduated with honors from North Augusta High School in June of 2020. I am currently attending the University of South Carolina – Aiken as a nursing major with a passion for history.

This is the first church I have ever attended, and I could not be more thankful to have joined such a lovely church with the kindest and most loving church family. The congregation here has watched me grow up from a tiny 7-year-old to a young adult. I am so grateful for all the love our family has received; through all the rough times the church has been there for me and my family.

What I am most appreciative of is the youth group at Covenant. They have always been so compassionate, and I had so much fun at Montreat youth conferences and being a counselor at GAP Camp and Vacation Bible School.

I cannot wait to physically attend church again! I miss everyone dearly, and I know that wherever I end up in life, I can call Covenant Presbyterian Church my Home.

Eliza Robinson



WHAT IS SYSTEMIC POVERTY?



There are structures in our society that all but guarantee that people living in poverty will stay that way. Systemic poverty refers to the economic

exploitation of people who are poor through laws, policies, practices and systems that perpetuate their impoverished status.

Poverty is complex and overlaps with many other social ills and oppressive structures in our society.

- Disproportionate numbers of families are headed by women who have little net worth and constitute the largest number in poverty.
- Homelessness is one of the most egregious signs of poverty.
- Guaranteed minimum wages, full employment, addressing pockets of high unemployment as disaster areas, welfare reform that does not require workfare or other policies that punish the poor, and support for programs that support the needs of women, infants and children.
- Acute inequality, declining lifespans and higher infant mortality rates have continued to trend upward — while at the same time, taxes for the wealthy have been lowered and medical care costs have increased over the past two years.
- High debt loads and retirement insecurity are also characteristics of poverty in the U.S., a unique situation among developed nations.
- Disenfranchisement of people, including mass incarceration, leads to poverty.

- Conflict, violence and militarism also contribute to rising rates of poverty.
- Poverty, climate change and ecological injustice are interlocking issues in which environmental ills disproportionately fall on individuals and communities already experiencing poverty, hunger and other forms of social oppression.
- Determining acceptable minimum standards of living and poverty rates is influenced by moral forces in a society.
- Poverty often results from wealth and resource accumulation — and hoarding — by those in power.

According to the 2019-20 Augusta Partnership for Children Annual Report, 21.9 percent of Richmond County's children under 6 live in poverty with a median household income of \$40,168 as opposed to 14.5 percent and \$58,634 median household income for the state of Georgia. These families lack sufficient income to meet basic needs for nourishment, clothing, shelter, health care and stable family life. As alarming as this statistic is, what is even worse is the fact that poverty is the greatest threat to the healthy development of children and its long-lasting, negative consequences: inadequate quality and quantity of food, exposure to violence, underfunded schools and lack of early childhood educational opportunities, frequent housing mobility, and exposure to pollution and other health risks, as well as other measures of dignity, freedom and participation in communal life. To learn more about Covenant's efforts as a Matthew 25 Church, please contact Elaine Lea (leaje81@gmail.com)

Special Offerings

2021 CARING HANDS

Sunday, May 9, Mothers' Day

Our church joins with more than 200 Presbyterian congregations throughout Georgia as we remember our older sisters and brothers who are residents at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia with our gifts to the *Caring Hands Fund*. This fund provides nursing care and other support for more than 400 of this ministry's most vulnerable residents who have outlived their financial resources and now depend on us for a significant portion of their care. For 71 years, the generosity of our churches has enabled Presbyterian Homes of Georgia to keep its promise to never turn away any of their residents because they have outlived their financial resources.

PENTECOST OFFERING

Pentecost Sunday, May 23

Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church. Your gifts join with others to shape the education provided at public schools, through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* national initiative. As Presbyterians, we believe that every child deserves access to high-quality education.

Your gift will support participants in the Young Adult Volunteer program who engage in a year of service while discerning how best to love God and neighbor. As Presbyterians, we believe that serving others is more than just something good to do, it is foundational to our faith formation and teaches us about God and about ourselves.

Your gift makes it possible for more than 5,000 youth to gather at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium to worship, learn, and serve together. As Presbyterians, we believe that the Holy Spirit moves among us when we gather together. The Holy Spirit draws us into meaningful relationships and powerful understandings of what God is doing in the world.

Mission

A/V TEAM

We are live streaming our worship services on Sunday mornings, the AV team is currently in need of new volunteers. High school youth interested in video productions and streaming are welcome as are anyone in the adult church family with video streaming capabilities interest

If you would like to join the team, then please contact John Ealick at john.ealick@gmail.com.

GAP ITEM OF THE MONTH

The items of the month for May are toothbrushes and toothpaste. These items will be a welcome addition to our Food Pantry shelves.

GAP Ministries continues to serve the hungry through its food pantry, and our supplies are running low. We appreciate all that Golden Harvest does to keep us stocked, but their inventory is down, too. When you are at the store, remember that we especially need bar soap, canned meat, and canned vegetables. If you are sewing face masks, please donate some for our homeless clients. A donation box is outside the church on the landing beside the office door.

Mary Beachum

ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAILS?

If you are not receiving our emails, then please visit

www.covenantaugusta.org and sign up. This is the best way to find out what is happening in our congregation each week. If you are having trouble signing up, then you may contact Judy Strogonoff at jstrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org. Our emails are also posted to our Facebook page.



GOODIES FOR GAP 2021

GAP continues to see large numbers of people in need of



food assistance, generally well over 150. Most of the food they give out consists of meats, vegetables, fruit and other basic dietary needs. Our goodie bags add a special touch of love for those who are struggling.

We will collect Goodies for GAP on the **first and third Wednesdays** of each month to be distributed on the following Thursday morning. This months collection dates are Wednesdays, April 7 and 21. As usual Mary Beachum and Martha Bertrand are available to pick up your goodies from your home or you can drop them by our house, 651 Canterbury Dr. in Augusta. Some people leave them at the church for us to pick up.

As a general rule, baked goods should be unwrapped so that we can put together sandwich sized ziplock bags with a variety of goodies. If you have baked something that you feel needs to be separately bagged, iced cupcakes for example, feel free to put one or two of them in a bag and we will add them into bags with other goodies. Putting together so many bags is quite a project. I'd really appreciate receiving your baked offerings before 5:30 if at all possible.

If you have questions, contact Martha Bertrand at mbertrand651@gmail.com

TROUBLE WITH LIVESTREAMING?

If you are experiencing difficulties streaming the service on a Sunday morning, then you may want to return to our website on Sunday afternoons. We always record the service and post it there later in the day. You may also wish to watch past services that you may have missed. Please visit www.covenantaugusta.org and click on the worship tab to learn more.

May Worship Schedule

USHERS

5/2: Hugh Dobbins, Dave Lapp,
Lucyle Ferris,
Fidelis Ndingwan
5/9: Judy Grieve, Chris Henry,
Ruth Mayhall,
Buddy Simpson, Bill Usry
5/16: Steve Bell, Dalton Cooper,
John Ealick, Angela Hobby
5/23: Jim Buckalew,
Jim Crimmins, Jimmy Lea,
Johnny Lowe, Jim Wade
5/30: Hugh Dobbins, Dave Lapp,
Lucyle Ferris,
Fidelis Ndingwan

LITURGIST/READER AT 11:00 AM SERVICE

5/2: Charlie Terry
5/9: Gail Kouame
5/16: Steve Bell
5/23: Lindsay Kircher
5/30: LJ Jay

PREACHER

5/3: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
5/9: Andy Cooke
5/16: Karla Conditt Daniels
5/23: Katelyn Gordon Cooke
5/30: Andy Cooke

GREETERS

5/3: Sabina Widner
5/9: Lindsay Kircher
5/16: Mary Beachum and
Martha Bertrand
5/23: Sarah Colborn
5/30: Jim Crmmins

SUNDAY NURSERY

5/2: Deb Pittman
5/9: Lucyle Ferris
5/16: Maatsi Ndingwan
5/23: Gail Baker
5/30: Judy Grieve

A/V TEAM

May

Steve Bell, Terry Bowers, John
Ealick, Owen Gillies, Emma Raider

Lindsay Kircher, *Greeter
Coordinator*

John Ealick, *A/V Team Coordinator*
Chris Henry, *Usher Coordinator*
Kaye Petkas, *Liturgist/Reader
Coordinator*



Prayer Concerns



New Prayer Concerns

David Kent (father of Sarah Colborn's daughter-in-law) – In Hospital (0413)
Gail Roat – Surgery, At home (0416)
Julie Usry – Fractured bone in her foot, At home (0414)

Continued Prayer Concerns

All of Covenant's **Missionaries**
All who serve in the **U.S. Military**
Garrett Grice (brother of Melissa Grice Tyler) – hospitalized with brain aneurysm (1005)
Nancy Holloway (Polly Williams' sister-in-law) – Columbus, GA (1118)
Anne Huff – Broken femur, Brandon Wilde (0403)
LJ Jay (0319)

Gail Kouame – At home (1004)
Harvey Lapp (Dave Lapp's brother) – Bluebell, PA (0115)
Jay Morrison (Lyn Patterson's friend) (0331)
David Rhoades – At home (1120)
Ruben Rosa-Rivera and Family – At home (0215)
Elaine Sanders Jackson (Joslyn Fields' sister) – Orangeburg, SC (0107)
Jennifer Shook (Elaine Lea's sister) – Bandon, Oregon (0115)
Samantha Smith (Becky DeLecuona's cousin) – Pascagoula, MS (1123)
Debbie van Tuyl – At home (0525)

Enduring Concerns

Dorris Andrews (Elaine Lea's mother) – Brandon Wilde
Phyllis Daniels – Brandon Wilde
Lois Davis – Kentwood
Anne Degrazia – Alpharetta, GA
Priscilla Gilman – Washington Commons
Betty Johnston – Brandon Wilde
Malcolm Kling – Brandon Wilde

Larry Lutcher – Brandon Wilde
Leah Mannel – Brandon Wilde
Jocelyn Martin-Moses (Karell Moses' mother) – At home
Carol Paulson – At home
Lois Reynolds – Morning Side
Elizabeth Swink – At home
Jane Terry (Chris Terry's mother) – Lake Wales, FL
Barbara Williams – Brandon Wilde

**And for all those whose names we
hold in our hearts.**

The prayer ministry is led by deacons Lindsay Kircher, Sabina Widner, and Dana Johnson. To add a prayer concern, please contact the church office at jestrogonoff@covenantaugusta.org.

Covenant Chimes

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3131 WALTON WAY AT AUMOND ROAD

AUGUSTA, GA 30909-3266

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 81

Youth Sunday, April 18, 2021



Food Truck Friday,
April 23, 2021



Food Truck Friday, April 23, 2021



Food Truck Friday, April 23, 2021