If the world confuses you,

# Lord, let us listen.

Lent with Covenant Presbyterian www.covpresatl.org

This Lenten season, our focus will be on the power of listening. In a confusing world filled with distractions and demands, we often overlook the profound impact that listening has on our relationships, our lives, and our understanding of God. Through our Lenten sermon series, we will explore the possibilities of listening, both to one another and to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. Our special services and Cantata will provide sacred spaces to listen for God. We will also open intentional space to hear from experts with perspectives on current events. Our small groups are great places to engage with scripture and voices of fellow disciples. I invite you to join us on this Lenten journey of discovery and transformation as we learn to truly listen and open ourselves to the wisdom and guidance that awaits us.

# Lenten Services

The special services of Lent have not always been celebrated in the Presbyterian Church (USA). But more and more congregations are choosing to mark the season in this way. Often at night and with smaller crowds, we worship in a more creative and contemplative manner. While we often think of the penitence of Lent as a personal or inward matter, the special services remind us that we enter this journey as a community of faith. That we pray as one, confess as a community, and take the

imposition of ashes in public.

#### Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season with the sacrament of communion and the imposition of ashes. The ashes remind us of our humanity and our need for repentance. Pastors make the sign of the cross on your forehead (or hand) with ashes from last year's Palm Sunday palms. We wear the ashes collectively as well as individually. We gather in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with a light supper beginning in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

#### Cantata, March 3, 11:00 a.m.

Dr. James Kohler and the Covenant Presbyterian Choir lead us in worship on the third Sunday of Lent. Moving away from the traditional order, this service will be seeped in song and present Louis Vierne's Messe solennelle (Solemn Mass), Op. 16. Vierne was organist and composer of Notre-Dame de Paris from 1900 until his death. It has been 5 years since Notre Dame Cathedral suffered a terrible fire. Vierne's work features all the colors of the mighty organ and choir.

#### Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Holy Week is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. It was named "Holy Week" because it was the church's week - a special time to remember Jesus's journey to the cross. The word Maundy comes from the latin, *'mandatum'*, or'command' which refers to the instructions Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper. We'll gather in congregants' homes to celebrate the sacrament in an intimate setting.

#### Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

We will join with Morningside and Central Presbyterian churches for our Good Friday service this year. Join us for this solemn gathering at Central, across from the Capitol Building.







Palm Junday

March 24

<u>Easter Junday</u>

March 31 Coffee & Donuts on the Plaza

### VOLUNTEER/ NEEDED FOR HOLY WEEK

For Maundy Thursday's Communion Service, we'll be gathering in members' home for an intimate experience of the sacrament. **We need three people to host about 15 people each on Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m.** The meal is potluck and pastoral staff will officiate communion.

Are you able to **transport our members who don't drive at night** to our evening worship services during Holy Week? Let us know if you can help those with more limited mobility. Also, reach out if you know you will need a ride.

Contact Shanita Evans, office@covpresatl.org to volunteer.

## SEEK WITH COVENANT

#### The Lenten Season is a great time to get involved with faith formation. Come and see these outstanding speakers who spark conversations.

Beginning January 21, Covenant Member, Dr. Will Simson will explore Presbyterian Mission through the years. Come learn Presbyterians responded to communities in need through the years. January 21, 28, February 4 and 11. Fellowship Hall at 9:30.

On February 18, join Pastoral Resident, Justin Fannon, for a presentation on Faith Formation at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

On Sunday, February 25 and March 3 at 9:30 a.m., we will host Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio from Candler School of Theology for a session titled, "The Land of Israel: History, People, and Promise." This session will delve into the relationship between the people of Israel and the land of Israel throughout biblical history. Along the way, we'll raise important questions about the nature of the promise of land to God's people and what the Old Testament has to say about ancient Israel's ethical responsibilities toward non-Israelites who reside with them.

On March 10 and 17 at 9:30 a.m., Dr. James Kohler, our Director of Music and Organist will offer a selection for the Lenten Season. Don't miss it!

There will be no Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday Join us for Fellowship and Treats both Sundays!



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1:30 - 3:30 P.M. & MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL



Mr. Murphy has been a history teacher for 30 years at Marist School. Recent awards in education Brendan has received include the Outstanding Educator Award from the Anne Frank Center in New York; the Anti-Defamation League's Abe Goldstein Human Relations Award and Unsung Hero Award; Marist School's Goizueta Chair of Excellence Award, Faber-McKinley-Stadler Award, and the Frank Hagan Memorial Award; the Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Independent School Association; the Educator of the Year by the University of Notre Dame; and in 2009 and 2016 the Georgia Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. Brendan is also a Museum Teacher Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and a Lerner Fellow at the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous in New York.

# **CELEBRATE WITH COVENANT**

#### Annual Congregational Meeting & Light Lunch, February 4, 12:05 p.m.

Join us for our annual meeting to receive the annual report for 2023. Read about the wonderful ways this congregation has participated in the ministry of Christ. Members will also vote to approve the nominees for Session and Nominating Committee and receive the budget for 2024. Followed by a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall, it's a fun and meaningful day for Covenant members and friends. No RSVPS required.

#### Spring Handbell Choir, February-March. 9:00 a.m.

All interested ringers are invited to join Dr. James Kohler in the choir room suite Sunday mornings for 30 mins of handbell/handchime exploration and rehearsals with opportunities to participate in upcoming worship services during Lent.

#### Fox Theatre Tour! February 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Step back in time to the golden era of this Atlanta landmark. Your tour will take you through Ancient Egypt and the Middle East while you learn about the history of the Shriner Organization and movie mogul William Fox. See why the city of Atlanta cried out to "Save the Fox!" from the wrecking ball in the 1970s and fall in love with the theatre under a canopy of stars. This tour will be led by Beth Price. Tickets are \$15 each. Please email office@covpresatl.org to make your reservations. The tour is scheduled for February 19 at 11:00 a.m.

#### Covenant Small Groups

Interested in learning more about connections at Covenant? There are great ways to get involved. We have women's spirituality groups, men's Bible study and dinner groups that meet weekly and monthly. We also have a youth group which will head to an escape room in March, and a new Grief Group beginning after Easter.

Covenant will host two guest preachers in the coming months. Please be ready to welcome Rev. Nicole Locke on Sunday, February 18 and Rev. Jody Andrade on Sunday, April 7. We will also enjoy our guest organist for March 3's Cantata, Mr. Mauro Ronca.

# SERVE WITH COVENANT



#### SUNDAY, MARCH 10 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. Contribute financially or join a walking group to stop food insecurity in Atlanta.

#### Serve our neighbors in need with Central Presbyterian.

#### Sunday breakfast service needs volunteers

#### 4-6 people, April 14, 8:40-9:45 AM

We bring 6 dozen pieces of fruit, 6 dozen wrapped muffins, 12 dozen boiled eggs. Contact Rena Marroquin or Jim Ingvolstad if you are interested in volunteering.

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas collection for Memorial Drive Ministries. On Monday, January 15 Fran Pughsley, Mary Alllen and Sue Colussy delivered 2 very full carloads of paper towels, paper napkins, toilet paper,diapers, tissues and cleaning wipes to their campus in Clarkston where we joined nearly 100 volunteers working on the campus grounds.



