

May 2020

*Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*



## The Covenant Compendium

### Inside this issue:

Services, Schedules, 2

PCoC Updates 3

Other News 4

### Sunday Morning Schedule

11:00am Live Stream on  
PCoC's Facebook page  
(see page 2)

### Important Dates ...

**PLEASE NOTE :** The church will remain closed for the foreseeable future, most probably all of the month of May, per the NC governor's mandate, due to the ongoing health crisis.

We will notify the congregation via email and via posts on the church's website and Facebook page of the status of operations on an ongoing basis.

Rev. Sandlin and the church office manager, Kate Baird, will both work from home during this time and are available for emails and phone calls.

We hope to see you all again very soon; in the meantime, stay home, wash your hands, and love one another!

*Happy Mother's Day!*

## ***A Congregational Letter from Rev. Sandlin***

Hello PCoC Family,

I have to admit that nowadays, I spend a lot of time looking forward to our first Sunday back together. Undoubtedly, it will be different, with social distancing and various forms of personal protection, but it will be a joyous kind of "different."

As to when that day will be, that is very difficult to say. The Presbytery is asking us to continue to "suspend live worship for the foreseeable future, at least through the month of May." Ultimately, Governor Cooper and our Session will have the final say as to when we gather again, but we certainly give heavy weight to the Presbytery's recommendations.

With that in mind, I'm working on being able to broadcast our Sunday message via Zoom in addition to the Facebook and YouTube broadcasts we already do. The Zoom broadcast will only be available to PCoC folks and will give us a chance to "see" each other during worship. It also should give us the ability to have a little taste of the Sanctuary during our Sunday broadcasts as well. Once it's up and running (probably next week), we'll send out an email with all of the details on how you can access it.

As you might imagine, this is a financially difficult time for most churches and we certainly are not an exception to the rule. Giving is considerably down for the month of April. Admittedly, that's not such a big surprise, being that we haven't been able to gather together for over a month, but it is a big deal in terms of our budget. Please, remember to send in your pledges and donations. They are essential so that we have a financially healthy community when we return.

And lastly, I miss you! I know you miss each other. Once I have worship worked out on Zoom, we'll probably try a weekly social Zoom gathering as well. Just a small way to remain connected. So, if you don't have Zoom on your computer, you might want to look into it.

Remember: Stay home. Wash your hands. Love one another.

PEACE!

Mark Sandlin

## ***May Services Information***

**Please watch our weekly Sunday service at 11:00am on the church's Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant-Greensboro-NC-126775507367137/>

**All services in the month of May will be held online.**

Book study is now on Zoom; contact Ann Finch to participate: [ann.mcintosh.finch@gmail.com](mailto:ann.mcintosh.finch@gmail.com)

## ***Church Office Hours***

**Rev. Mark Sandlin and Kate Baird will work from home in May. Kate is in the church office on Mondays and Fridays and other days as needed. Please email the office before coming by .**

## ***Every Week ...***

All meetings or groups are canceled for May.

## ***Monthly Work Day***

The May work day is canceled. We hope there will be one in June, but we'll keep you posted.

## ***Higher Ground Breakfast***

This event is canceled for the month of May.

## ***Weekly Wednesday Night Supper***

Dinners will not be held this month. We're looking forward to the next get-together!

## ***May Choir Rehearsals***

There will be no choir rehearsals for the month of May.

## ***In\*Spire Meditation Each Tuesday***

In\*Spire Meditation is meeting online for the month of May. Email Lora Farlow to be included and to receive messages: [lora.farlow@gmail.com](mailto:lora.farlow@gmail.com)

## ***Session Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2020***

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Revisit decisions made during called meeting of March 25th:

Adjustment of rents for building tenants. Decision: Mark (with input from Kate) to make decisions on rent adjustments on case by case basis, and will ask each tenant to do the best they can making their rent.

Closure of church office during virus pandemic. Decision: will continue to keep office closed, but have periodic checks on building from Pastor Mark, Kate, Mark Cable, Clara Kelly, Lem Cox. Kate checks phone messages and email several times daily. When authorities open the city up to pre-virus movement of people, will revisit the closure.

Scheduling a post-Easter church service. Decision: "Easter" service will be held on the first Sunday after restrictions on meetings are lifted, we can again meet in the building and there is sufficient time to plan the service. We will be flexible about details of the joint service. Will plan to publicize this service in the community.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Resource:** Financial report from Nancy Schaefer (sent to Session members by Nancy), report by Tom Taylor. We plan to postpone making unnecessary expenditures. We are concerned about fall-off in pledges; discussion about sending, after restrictions are lifted, a reminder to each member about what they pledged and what they actually paid.

**Worship: Mark;** discussion on suggestions for enhancing his Sunday broadcast.

**Spiritual Formation:** Marcia; book study group is continuing via conference calls and is discussing chapters in the Neal Walsch book started before movement restrictions began.

**Building & Grounds: Don;** has done walk-arounds in and out of the buildings and they look good; continuing to get quotes on needed work.

**Interior: Barbara;** decision on all buildings and grounds work: hold off on spending on nonessential work until future reevaluation of financial status.

**Communication: Tom;** working to enhance church website.

**Fellowship:** no report.

**Outreach: Ann;** has not met, but Joyce Powers took supplies of donated toilet paper collected before the virus to the UNCG Spartan pantry.

**Personnel: Ralph;** posting of search for Music Director has been delayed but will be done soon so that we'll have a pool of applicants to interview operations resume.

**Congregational Care:** have had 3 deaths in the congregation this year. We plan to set up a phone tree to reach each member during the quarantine period.

**Long Range Plan** discussion: The Session plans to set up a series of meetings for visioning and planning, but this needs to be done in person, so will take place when operations resume. In the meantime, Don and Mark will discuss how we can pre-load the process.

David Johnson, Clerk of The Session

## *We're thankful for you!*

Many thanks to all the volunteers who signed up to check in on congregation members; you've been a touch of warmth and caring. We appreciate your efforts. Thanks also to all those who've asked how they can help. Thanks to Elsie Hutchens for so generously making and donating face masks to anyone who asked for them; she's still providing them if you need one: [elsiehutchens@gmail.com](mailto:elsiehutchens@gmail.com). Thanks to Joyce Powers for transporting much needed supplies donated by PCoC members for the UNCG Spartan pantry. Thanks to Nancy Schaefer for taking care of the indoor plants and the many who have continued to care for the building and grounds: Mark Cable, Clara Kelly, Lem Cox, Nancy Schaefer, Tara Brown, Joyce Powers, Barbara North and Don Jensen. Thanks to our Session members for steering PCoC through this unusual time: Mark Sandlin, Ralph Cauthen, Lem Cox, Martha Emrey, Ann Finch, Don Jensen, David Johnson, Barbara North, Marcia Rhodes, and Tom Taylor. And special thanks to our pastor, Rev. Mark Sandlin, for his leadership, not just in the face of this challenge, but in every circumstance we face.



## *Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*

501 S. Mendenhall Street  
Greensboro NC 27403  
Phone: 336-275-6403  
E-mail: [pcoc2010@gmail.com](mailto:pcoc2010@gmail.com)



Check us out online!  
[www.athinkingchurch.org](http://www.athinkingchurch.org)

