

June 2020

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

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Sunday Morning Schedule

11:00am Live Stream on
PCoC's Facebook page
(see page 4)

Important Dates ...

PLEASE NOTE : The church will remain closed for the foreseeable future, most probably all of the month of June, 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 Father's Day!

A Congregational Letter from Rev. Sandlin

Dear PCoC family,

I hope this note finds you doing well and handling these unusual times as best as you can. I know I have good and bad days, but I also know that we will pull through this together and be all the wiser for it.

Before stay-at-home orders began, it wasn't all that unusual to hear from pulpits throughout the nation messages about feeling the absence of God. Invoking the Psalms and even Jesus on the cross crying out, "Why have you forsaken me?", they speak of how distant God can sometimes seem. Ultimately, there is always hope, though. Even psalms of lament finish with words of hope.

I can't help but believe we are in such times now. It may not be that God feels distant, but it is certainly the case that the family of God, our church family, can feel distant. A big part of being part of a Christian community is embodying love, which can be difficult when you aren't able to be together in person.

Yet, I see so much hope in our circumstances. As I see folks volunteering for the calling tree to keep us in touch with each other, as the Session continues to do the work of the church, as we gather in virtual rooms and for Sunday messages online, as folks still support the church financially to get us through this, I see a community holding on tight to each other and being supportive in whatever ways we can manage. It is what a loving community looks like in action.

Ironically, it is precisely that love for one another that keeps us from gathering together in the church building. It is precisely that love for one another that is guiding the Session and me as we consider when it will be safe for ALL of our community to gather together.

So, I just want to say "thank you" to each and every one of you. YOU are an important part of our spiritual community. Your love and support of each other and church leadership during these times plays an essential role in pulling us through this in the wisest and safest way possible. So, thank you.

I still look forward to finally gathering together again in the sanctuary of Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, but I must tell you, it is a pure joy seeing the church (that's you) be the church even when we can't gather in the church building. It's a beautiful thing.

PEACE!

June Services Information: Please see Page 4

Financial News as of April 30, 2020

Description	YTD Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Revenues	\$	\$	\$
Contributions	43,662	45,567	(1,805)
Rent	27,755	30,427	(2,672)
Parking lot	4,500	9,525	(5,025)
Investments & other	1,129	248	881
Total Revenues	<u>77,046</u>	<u>85,667</u>	<u>(8,621)</u>
Committee Expenses	<u>90,782</u>	<u>91,213</u>	<u>(431)</u>
Special & unusual projects			
Transfer from restricted funds	-----	-----	-----
Other expenses	-----	-----	-----
Net special & unusual projects	-----	-----	-----
Net excess receipts (expenses)	<u>\$ (13,736)</u>	<u>\$ (5,546)</u>	<u>\$ (8,190)</u>
Committee expenses:			
Personnel	43,098	44,047	(949)
Building & grounds	33,728	32,737	991
Music	3,388	6,033	(2,645)
Administrative	5,343	4,523	820
Benevolence & outreach	1,000	2,453	(1,453)
Spiritual Formation	1,119	667	452
Communications	384	420	(36)
Fellowship & worship	2,722	333	2,389
	<u>\$90,782</u>	<u>\$91,213</u>	<u>\$ (431)</u>

Church Office Hours

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

Monthly Work Day

Work day is still on hold until further notice, but many thanks to Clara Kelly, Barbara North, Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox and any other volunteers who continue to keep our grounds beautiful!

Higher Ground Breakfast

This event is canceled for the month of June.

Weekly Wednesday Night Supper

Dinners will not be held this month. We're looking forward to future get-togethers!

In*Spire Meditation Each Tuesday

In*Spire Meditation is meeting online for the month of June. Email Lora Farlow to be included and to receive messages: lora.farlow@gmail.com

Session Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

- ♦ **rents for tenants:** current closure situation will continue for the indefinite future.
- ♦ **building closure:** current closure situation will continue for the indefinite future.
- ♦ **Easter service:** Mark shared several articles about the virus pandemic for Session review, and one clear message from them was that having people confined in a small space for a period of time is a great way to spread the virus. Decision about when to open the building for in-building worship meetings will be decided by the Session, perhaps after the Governor starts Phase 3 and the Presbytery gives the go-ahead.

Strategic Planning: Don referred to several documents sent to Session members.

- ♦ The outline was given in a Tentative Schedule of what can be done for the Planning meetings once everything opens. To prepare for this, Session members were requested to fill out two documents sent before the meeting.
- ♦ First was the "SWOC Analysis" whereby each member is to brainstorm about the church's strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and constraints.
- ♦ Second was a "PCOC Mission Areas/Products/Services" with names of Session members attached to areas (Worship, Education, etc.) for which we need descriptions of these responsibilities and what members do to fulfill the mission. One change to this list was to clarify that David is officially the Session representative to the Worship Committee.
- ♦ Once these documents are complete, they will be used for the next phase of the planning.

Parking fees from the spring semester: Lem will contact UNCG and another church that has parking to see how they are dealing with this decision. Mark will talk with Kate and Nancy about the specifics of how the church would contact those who purchased the spaces and the financial implications of refunding unused fees.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource: Tom

Financial report submitted by Nancy Schaefer, reported on by Tom, who said receipts were down about \$6K from budgeted amounts.

Worship: Mark is getting more technically involved with Zoom as a way to get more church members participating in activities.

Spiritual Formation: Marcia thanked Ann for taking charge of the Zoom meetings by the book study group.

Building & Grounds: Don is still getting roof repair estimates.

Interiors: Barbara, with help from Joyce Powers, has worked on the courtyard, including repotting of plants, adding new plants, and installing new "Church Office" sign.

Communications: Tom. Working on update to church website to allow online donations, while the newsletter is still going out.

Fellowship: Mark is creating a "virtual hangout" on Zoom. Discussion about permitting church members to have small meetings in the playground. **Decision:** Session does not want individuals to meet in the playground until all restrictions are lifted.

Outreach: committee has not met.

Personnel: So far only one applicant for music director position. **Decision:** to postpone filling the position until we are back open without restrictions. Nancy Pitkin has agreed to work on music direction for first service after opening. Ralph reported that the telephone tree is continuing to contact members.

David Johnson, Clerk of The Session

Join us Online for Services and Fellowship

On Sundays at 11:00am, Rev. Sandlin's Sunday message is broadcast live at these sites:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86895217729> (Zoom webinar)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar8ZVg434DF1uTtL86JEhg> (YouTube)
<https://www.facebook.com/PCoC.GSO/>
<https://www.facebook.com/revmarksandlin>
<https://www.facebook.com/marksandlin>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheChristianLeft>
<https://www.facebook.com/christiansmisrepresented>
<https://www.facebook.com/thegodarticle>

On Wednesdays at 1:00pm, PCoC has Zoom Hangouts. There's no agenda, just to spend some "face" time with each other and catch up on how folks are doing. Here's the Zoom information for joining us:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5239022713?pwd=R3BkYSsrZUZOa1Z4ZVlranB5T3BOUT09>

Meeting ID: 523 902 2713 Password: 8N38tb

Thursdays at 3:00pm Rev. Sandlin does a live Facebook broadcast called "Question Mark." It begins with a devotion, then he answers three questions on a variety of topics, and concludes with a prayer. Submit your questions on Facebook or email them to MarkPCoC@gmail.com. The live broadcast is on the church's Facebook page, on Rev. Sandlin's writer page on Facebook, and on his personal Facebook page. Here's the links to those pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/PCoC.GSO/>
<https://www.facebook.com/revmarksandlin>
<https://www.facebook.com/marksandlin>

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Check us out online!
www.athinkingchurch.org



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.