

August 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 month of August, 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. They will also be in the office, Kate on Mondays and Fridays at 10:00am; Rev. Sandlin will be in on Mondays at 10:00am.

We hope to see you all again very soon; in the meantime, stay home, wash your hands,



## A Congregational Letter from Rev. Sandlin

Hello, PCoC Family!

I'm excited to tell you about something new we are currently putting together. We'll be doing a "One Book, One Church" study on the topic of racism. We've narrowed our choices down to a couple of books and should be able to announce the book we are going with sometime the first week of August. We'll hold the studies using Zoom. When we announce the book, we will also let everyone know the dates and time for the study.

Personally, I'm really looking forward to this, particularly given the amazing energy of the Black Lives Matter movement in the U.S. right now.

I also wanted to let you know that our COVID-19 Health Team has started the difficult task of providing the Session with a list of "Best Health Practices" for when we are finally able to come back together in the building. I need to tell you, at our very first meeting, we all quickly realized what an immense task this will be. Not only that, the committee is very dedicated to being as thorough as possible in order to protect the health and safety of our community. That being said, this may take a while, so please be patient with us as we work to protect us all. Also, please know that once it has been approved by the Session, everyone will receive a full report on what we will be doing to keep us all safe.

We all recognize how unusual life is for each of us. It really is a whole new way of going about life. It is also a whole new way about doing church. There's so much to learn. The good news is that while our Sunday worship broadcasts have been a work-in-progress up to now, I feel like we've reached the right combination of content and technology to provide a meaningful experience. We have between 10,000 and 20,000 viewers from around the world every week now and some of them have begun to contribute to PCoC as well. Most importantly, our progressive, thoughtful approach to spirituality is connecting with a lot of people, some of which had basically given up on "The Church."

Finally, please keep in mind that your church is here for you. Besides the fact that Kate and I are available to help you throughout the week, we also have folks who can run errands for you or help in other ways. Then there's our wonderful calling tree volunteers helping keep us all connected. Bottom line, if you need something please do not hesitate to reach out to Kate, your Session members, or me. We are here for you and each other.

PEACE!  
Mark Sandlin

## ***A Note From Betty Allen***

Betty Allen would like to express her thanks to everyone who has contacted her or reached out since the death of her husband, Jim Allen. She has very much appreciated all the support and love.

## ***The Calling Tree***

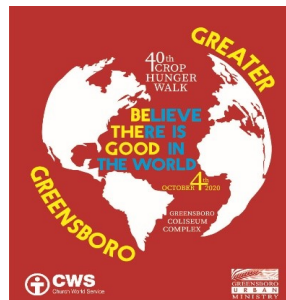
We continue to be grateful for all twenty-two (22) folks who have volunteered to be a part of The Calling Tree. The result is that around 70-plus members and attendees have continued to have contact with Covenant. Several folks have shared what a gratifying experience it is to provide a conversation or a listening ear. One of our goals through this project has been to maintain the community that we experience at Covenant. That includes sharing, rapport, exchange, give-and-take, closeness, communication, harmony, fellowship, and real caring that prepares us for sharing with others beyond our own community. May all of the volunteers and those contacted be blessed during these challenging days.

## ***Bringing Us Together***

In this time of strange separation, Vance Arnold has initiated and implemented a personal touch to communicate caring by recognizing our birthdays with a card from Covenant. With the blessing of the Session and assistance from Kate Baird, birthday cards began to be sent out in June. Thank you, Vance and Kate! If you have no objection to a birthday recognition, add your name to the list by calling or emailing the church office: (336) 275-6403 or pcoc2010@gmail.com

## ***Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk 2020***

The 2020 date for the Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 4th. This will be the **40th** anniversary of the CROP Walk! Because of COVID-19, organizers of the walk are closely following CDC guidelines, and this year's walk will be a VIRTUAL event. If you are interested in being a member of the PCoC Team, please contact Clara Kelly at: [clerkelly@gmail.com](mailto:clerkelly@gmail.com) or Kate Baird: [pcoc2010@gmail.com](mailto:pcoc2010@gmail.com). We'll have further details in the next few weeks!



## ***Monthly Work Day***

Work day has switched to the last Saturday of each month. The next work day will be on Saturday, August 29th. Our wonderful volunteers continue to keep our building and grounds beautiful, and we appreciate them very much. Contact Clara Kelly to volunteer: [clerkelly@gmail.com](mailto:clerkelly@gmail.com)

## ***Higher Ground Breakfast***

This event is canceled for the month of August.

## ***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 August

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Tenants:** Session requested a report on tenant status; Mark had an updated list to share. Gateway requested installation of a washer and dryer and were granted permission to install these in a church-approved space, so long as codes are met and they incur costs. Awaiting their decision.
- **Building closure:** We will continue building closure for groups.  
Question regarding liability of church for illnesses due to COVID was responded to by our insurance carrier. It would need to be proved that any illness was contracted at church, as a result of operations of the Church. In practice this will be virtually impossible to prove.
- **Strategic Planning:** We are still missing some mission descriptions for Fellowship (Ralph), and Pastoral Care/Counseling (Mark). Don has sent out a compendium of what he has, is waiting for rest before does final compilation.
- **COVID Health Team:** We will invite members of other groups that share space in our building to be part of this Team.
- **BLM Response:** BLM banner on church building was torn down and a replacement banner moved higher up to prevent removal. Work is being done on creating a letter to the News & Record Editor regarding this issue. We are seeking other concrete steps to take. Decided to make this part of the Strategic Planning process. A “**One Church, One Book**” discussion was proposed. A subcommittee was formed to research and recommend a book for this purpose.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Session Training and Committee Chairs:** We have books with information to train Session members, but this process was derailed by the COVID shutdown. There is also a general preference to have each major church committee have a Session member as part of it, but this is not considered mandatory. A subcommittee will work on this set of issues.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Resource:** The six-month financial summary was reviewed. Generally we are doing OK financially.

**Parking permits:** The committee recommends future parking permits purchases NOT be refundable.

**Expenditures:** Future expenditures exceeding \$500 must be cleared by the Resource Committee.

**Stewardship Campaign:** Committee will send a letter about this in early October; the campaign may take place without a Congregational Meeting as kickoff.

We are awaiting estimates on repair costs for the building. The Session must ultimately decide on all major expenditures.

Next month the Committee will give a report on status of funds, such as the loan for repairs, and the pledges for 2020. The loan for repair of the boiler has been paid off.

**Worship:** We now have musicians participating in the Pastor’s Sunday services.

**Building & Grounds: Structural subcommittee:** leak in sanctuary roof being investigated, evaluated and repaired as necessary; this will be added to list of needed repairs for all roofs.

**Engineering:** The control air compressor continues to act up periodically, causing cooling issues during the summer and heating issues during heating season. Engineering will research purchase and installation of a new control air compressor

**Communications :** Contributions to the church via a PayPal link on our website are being made by a growing numbers of viewers of the Sunday service.

**Fellowship:** Vance Arnold is continuing to get out birthday cards.

**Spiritual Formation:** Book group still active, will be looking for new book in September. (See also under BLM Response above.)

**Personnel:** Congregational care for last month saw 22 volunteers who contacted 53 people, and coordinator contacted 15 people. This service continues to expand.

**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>

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](mailto: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>

**Black Lives Matter**

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