



The Covenant Compendium

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Sunday Morning Schedule

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

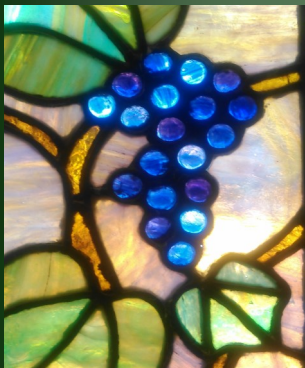
Important Dates ...

PLEASE NOTE : The church will remain closed for the month of September, 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, and love one another!



A Congregational Letter from Rev. Sandlin

Hello, PCoC Family!

A few months ago, 75 local faith leaders and I made a unified public statement on racism. In light of the recent current events in our nation, our spiritual community's upcoming book study, my sermon from this past weekend, and the all too prevalent horrific treatment of people of color since our nation's founding, I'd like to share part of that statement with you.

"We are far beyond 'enough is enough'. In the wake of more examples of police and vigilante violence in the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, along with countless others: we urgently pray for a new heart of compassion and a new order of justice. The sin of white supremacy in all its many forms has long infected the life of our nation.

Courageous acts in Greensboro in February of 1960 inspired our nation to question its practices and make changes.

But all is far from well. Deep changes are still necessary, not only by others but by each of us, especially in white communities. We agree with religious leaders from across our land when we state that our country simply cannot achieve the values of 'justice for all' to which it aspires until we address ongoing racism in all sectors and at all levels of society. In particular, we call upon predominantly-white faith communities to seriously engage with the issue of white supremacy in ways that result in transformation and justice."

PCoC will continue on the long, sometimes difficult, yet necessary road to educate ourselves so that we can constantly become a more knowledgeable, understanding, and active advocate for people of color. We will continue to strengthen our relationship with The Beloved Community Center in their efforts in the betterment of our community particularly in the areas of justice, equality, and dignity.

As we do so, let us recognize that the road we are on has been long, is long, and will continue to be long. Far too frequently on this journey, we have let our attention stray from the path. I know that, at times, we have not put the work in that was needed. However, I also know, the heart and spirit of this community. I also know the focus and hard work that we *have* put into these issues. I feel blessed to be a part of the community.

Yes, we have work to do, but the Good News is that not only are we capable of doing it, but equality and justice for all people is the noblest of all spiritual pursuits.

PEACE!
Mark Sandlin

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 or Kate Baird: pcoc2010@gmail.com.

One Book, One Church Begins September 2 @ 2:00pm on Zoom

The first week we will look at the Introduction and Chapter 1, then will cover two chapters a week until we complete the book. The book discussions will be via Zoom every Wednesday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630496763> Meeting ID: 816 3049 6763

One tap mobile
+19292056099,,81630496763# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown, MD) Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630496763>

Donations for UNCG Spartan Open Pantry

The Spartan Open Pantry has nearly-empty shelves! We are again collecting good for the free pantry, which operated out of College Place UMC. These goods are available to needy UNCG students. These items are in high demand: instant potatoes, black beans, baked beans, tuna, peas, ketchup; also personal sizes of deodorant and toothpaste. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Bring donations to PCoC at the office entrance courtyard, Sept. 8—11 from 10:00am—12:00pm. A church member will be on hand to receive them. We will transport donations to College Place UMC.

Higher Ground Breakfast

Since 2016, PCOC has supported Higher Ground, a communal retreat and resource center for people living with or affected by HIV. Pre-pandemic, Higher Ground provided not only meals, but also support groups, educational programs, recreational activities, and artistic, spiritual, and therapeutic workshops. It provided a sense of family encouragement through rough times. The doors were never locked.

On the first Monday of the month, a group from PCOC led morning inspirational activities, provided and shared brunch and cleaned up together. Like other groups who provided meals, we placed leftovers in the fridge, so they would be available to those who showed up hungry later in the day. Regular Monday participants included Ralph Cauthen, Jim North, Lora Farlow, Jane Walter, Sarah Sills, Naomi Galbreath, and Sue Stinson. The last brunch we served was March 2. Within a few days, Higher Ground had discontinued all group meals, and instead provided boxed to-go meals that guests could pick up from the front porch.

PCOC members who have donated to this effort in the past have written a check to the church with "Higher Ground" on the memo line. Higher Ground is not covered by our Outreach funds. The last \$135 was delivered last week. The need for support remains. Please remember Higher Ground in your giving.

Communicate With Congress

Concerned with pressing issues facing our country: the pandemic, economic crisis, racial discrimination, social injustice, women's rights, inequality, police reform and many others? Want a fast, easy way to voice your opinions to our elected members of Congress? Upload the [free](#) App 5 Calls from the App Store. It displays a list of national concerns, gives some comments you might want to use, shows your specific members in Congress based on your address, plus more. With just a few clicks of the mouse and virtually no typing, your opinions can be sent to the highest levels of our Government. Problems? Google "How to use App 5 Calls" or call Charlie Finch at 336-288-9268.

Session Meeting Minutes, August 11, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

- **Tenants:** most are up to date on rent, most not using the building currently.
- **Building closure:**
 1. Mark permitted After Gateway to readmit two clients; we agreed to support Mark in this. Mark will meet with After Gateway to get specifics on the request from the State to allow this.
 2. **Session agreed that there will be no open worship in the building until the Governor has moved the state into Phase 3.**
 3. Session voted to allow two musician tenants to bring students into building for lessons on an individual basis, observing sanitary procedures.
 4. Session voted no on a motion to allow Down & Dirty AA group to use building while following CDC guidelines.
- **Strategic Planning:** No change in this until the Session can meet in person.
- **COVID Health Team:** The team now has representatives from several tenants, and is working to put together a list of sanitizing procedures to reopen the building, and for ongoing efforts thereafter.
- **BLM Response:**
 1. Ralph is still attempting to connect with the Greensboro News and Record.
 2. One Church, One Book: a subcommittee has chosen Ibram X Kendi's *How to be an Antiracist* for the study, which will be held via Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 2 PM starting in September.
 3. Mark invited anyone interested to join the BLM gathering on Mondays at 12PM downtown.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Delegate to August Presbytery meeting via Zoom:** Mark asked for a volunteer to this; no one stepped up. Therefore the church had no representative for the meeting.
- **Vote on Session members:** The procedure for nominating congregation members for the next Session class assumes that the congregation meets in person so that outgoing Session members can talk to prospective volunteers. Since we are not meeting in person, alternative ideas for this process will be presented at the next Session meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource: Financial and other reports from Nancy Schaefer were discussed. A donation of \$10K from an anonymous donor has helped the finances. We have resumed selling parking passes. Currently we are breaking even financially for the year.

UKirk does not pay rent for the parking spaces it uses in the PCoC lot; this will be investigated further. Apparently this decision was made originally by the Easts.

There are several special funds, such as the R. Murphy Williams Fund, which have money in them, but cannot currently be used for other purposes unless voted on by the congregation.

We discussed the need for a procedure to let congregation members know when they have not been keeping up with their pledges. Currently the computer software used for finances does not allow for this kind of cross-checking to be done.

Worship: Presently, Mark's Sunday presentations include videos from local musicians, which have generated positive feedback. Usually get 10,000 – 20,000 views for his presentations, and have received contributions from viewers outside the church.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday study group is about to choose a new book for its program.

Building & Grounds: The latest roof leak has been fixed. Suggestions were made for a general purpose handy person. Still working on issue of washer and dryer for After Gateway.

Grounds: Barbara North, Clara Kelly, Nancy Schaefer, Tara Brown and others have weeded and trimmed plants and bushes, which is an ongoing effort, and Nancy repainted some parking lot lines

Personnel: Martha Emrey met with Fred Wallace, who said that as we reopen for worship, we will then make decisions on hiring a music director and other personnel. Currently some 22 volunteers are contacting congregation members by phone, with some 70+ people contacted.

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>

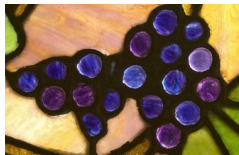
Thursdays at 3:00pm Rev. Sandlin does a live Facebook broadcast called "Question Mark." It begins with a devotion, then he answers three questions on a variety of topics, and concludes with a prayer. Submit your questions on Facebook or email them to MarkPCoC@gmail.com. The live broadcast is on the church's 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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Check us out online!
www.athinkingchurch.org



COVENANT
Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.