



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 November, 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 Letter From Rev. Sandlin

In March, we had to close our building because of COVID-19. At that point, we were expecting it to last a few months at the most. Here we are more than 7 months later and we still find ourselves hoping we can get back together in the building in a few months.

I was sharing with a couple of church members the other day, how strange it is to deliver my messages on Sunday to an empty room. I literally picture your faces and you sitting in your favorite spot (yes, almost everyone has a favorite spot) when I broadcast on Sundays. I cannot tell you how much I want to see each of you in person, but I ALSO want to ensure that it is as safe as possible when we do. I can only imagine that the same is true for you. The difficult and saddening reality is that as we continue to see the infection rates and hospitalizations increase, we have to acknowledge that we probably have at least a few more months (if not more) before we can safely gather again.

The good news is that your COVID-19 Health Team has completed its study and recommendations to the Session. So, once we can gather together again, we will already have a plan in place to make it as safe as possible. This means that services over the holidays will most likely be virtual. I'm working on some ways to make them a bit festive, nevertheless. This will include a musical celebration featuring some of our favorite local musicians who have lost most of their venues for making money because of the COVID shutdown. I'd like to be offer them each \$50 for a pre-recorded song. If you'd like to contribute to this effort just send your donations to the church and earmarks them for "Christmas Music." Thanks!

Finally, I encourage you to join us for our Wednesday book study as well as our live broadcasts on Sunday mornings. Once the live feed on Sundays is over, several of us remain in the Zoom room for a bit of catching up on our weeks. Its a great way to stay connected with each other.

Please know, Kate and I are still available if you need anything during these unusual times. Just leave a message at the church or email us.

PEACE! Mark

Time Change on Sunday, November 1st!

DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK !

Session Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2020

OLD BUSINESS

- **Open building: Decision:** continue to keep building closed.
- **COVID Health Team:** Findings and recommendations by the Team were sent to Session members along with Mark's executive summary. The plan will not be implemented until the building is open.
- **Strategic Plan:** Don sent out documents regarding the draft plan with updates from the September Session planning meetings, including (1) Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints (SWOC) analysis, and (2) mission area analysis with grades. The draft plan and development of a Session Workplan for 2021 will be held after the new Session forms in January. The Draft Mission and Vision Statements will be in the November newsletter for review and comments by the congregation.
- **Building Future:** Options for the building were summarized in a document Don sent out before the meeting. Involvement of the Presbytery Session's decision-making can't be determined until the new Interim Presbyter has been formally installed and contacted. Buildings options decision workplan was reviewed, with focus on finding Session members to be responsible for gathering necessary data for each option. Mark Sandlin agreed to coordinate the Building Future effort.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Elder Nominating Committee:** The committee members are : Ralph Cauthen, Marcia Rhodes, Tom Taylor, Clara Kelly, Gratia Wright, Jim North, and Judy Lockhart. They plan to present a slate of candidates at the November Session meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource: Financial report by Nancy reviewed; contributions have kept up and so far income has exceeded outgo. 2021 pledges are down from last year.

Spiritual Formation: Sunday Study group is discussing the Morgan Freeman videos "The Story of God," and the Wednesday book study is still discussing "How To Be An Anti-Racist".

Building & Grounds: Don reviewed the recently implemented maintenance/repair process flow chart. The boiler room was cleaned out in preparation for the biennial insurance inspection in October. 8 containers of unused hazardous water treatment chemicals stored in the boiler room for the past 15-20 years have been taken to EcoFlo for proper disposal. The bubbling and flaking on the walls of the first floor women's restroom has been inspected and the source is not a roof leak or obvious pipe leak. Mark Cable will continue to monitor to determine the source of moisture in the block wall causing the wall deterioration. Don has contacted Duke Energy to determine the reason for their upcoming increase in our electricity costs. The rate is based on the church's demand; it is reviewed annually and adjusted if necessary. The installed legacy HVAC control system requires the system (either heating or cooling) to run 24/7. An upgraded control system that would reduce our energy costs and wear and tear on system components is cost prohibitive (\$35K) now. The source of water intrusion in the wall inside the north Mendenhall St. entrance has been corrected; repairs/repainting of the damaged walls is proceeding.

Grounds: The Grounds Committee continues to maintain the grounds with weekly upkeep.

Communications: Church website and Meetup group information will be in the November newsletter.

Outreach: The 2019 Spartan Open Pantry drive netted 178 pounds of food and \$1K dollars. We will hold another outdoor food drive on December 5, 12, 19; info will be in the November newsletter.

Personnel : Jane Cauthen, Congregational Care Assistant, contacted 9 members and attendees during September. Visits were by phone, to a home, and back porch visits at Jane's home. The Calling Tree continues with 22 volunteers contacting around 70 members and attendees. The Personnel Committee is preparing for upcoming personnel evaluations and is revising the necessary forms.

David Johnson, Clerk of Session

PCoC Strategic Plan

The PCoC Strategic Plan is being updated and rewritten. The draft plan was formulated by Session members working at home and during the Strategic Planning Meetings held in September at PCoC for the Session. Included here are the drafts of the revised Statement and Vision Statement. The Session would like feedback on these; please email comments to Don Jensen at: donsjensen@triad.rr.com

Mission: Presbyterian Church of the Covenant is an open and accepting, progressive Christian congregation that respects and learns from a wide range of understandings of God, worship, and mission. We value social justice and seek ways to minister by advocating, teaching, and practicing fair, peaceful, and loving treatment of all people and the environment. The church provides an alternative approach to traditional Christianity, updating traditional beliefs and practices to meet the spiritual needs of people today. We invite all to join us for spiritual celebration and growth, fellowship, study, and outreach.

Vision: Presbyterian Church of the Covenant is known throughout Greensboro and beyond as “a thinking church”, a vibrant, active, progressive Christian center providing spiritual and intellectual leadership and services to a diverse community.

PCoC to Hold Food Drive for UNCG Spartan Open Panty

Once again this December PCoC and co-sponsor College Hill Neighborhood Association will hold a food and toiletries drive for the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry. Last year, UNCG characterized about a third of its students as “food insecure”. We can help! Walk up or drive up donations will be accepted outdoors at the PCoC Mendenhall St. parking lot, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, on Saturdays in December (the 5th, 12th, and 19th). Financial donations are also accepted; make checks out to either Spartan Open Pantry (we’ll deliver) or PCoC, with “Spartans” in the memo line. Some items needed are: breakfast cereals, snacks, canned fruit, canned meat, rice, soups, hygiene/toiletry items, laundry products (small sizes), toilet paper, and paper towels. Help us to help others in our community who need assistance. Let’s make it a happy holiday for them! To volunteer to help collect goods on Saturdays, please contact Joyce Powers at: jkpowers42@gmail.com

Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk A Success

Thanks to everyone who donated to this year’s CROP Walk. We met our goal even before the walk, and have raised even more since that date. Many thanks to our walkers, who planned their own walk



PCoC on MeetUp.com

PCoC is now on Meetup.com! Go to: [Meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant](https://www.meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant/); this site provides event reminders and gives us another place to connect with each other.

Farrell Scholarship Application Now Being Accepted

PCoC is now accepting applications for the Spring 2021 semester. If you know a deserving student in need of financial assistance, contact the church office for an application at pcoc2010@gmail.com or (336)275-6403

Zoom Book Study Every Wednesday at 4:00pm

We’re reading and discussing “How To Be An Anti-Racist” by Ibram X. Kendi. Join us for thoughtful discussions and sharing, every Wednesday on Zoom from 4:00pm to 5:00pm. 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>

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>



**TIME CHANGE:
SUNDAY, NOV. 1ST!**

Thursdays at 3:00pm Rev. Sandlin has a live Facebook broadcast called "Question Mark." After an opening devotion, 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 Facebook writer page, and 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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FAITH ★ *not* FEAR
HOPE ★ *not* HATE
LOVE ★ *not* LIES

votecommongood.com

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!
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Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.