



A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

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 4)

Important Dates ...

PLEASE NOTE : The church will remain closed for the month of December, 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!



Dear PCoC Family,

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Sure, it has its negatives, like a focus on consumerism and an all-too-pronounced focus on a Bible story which scholars tell us is, at the least, partly untrue, and may even be completely fabricated. On the other hand, Christmas is a time when folks seem to appreciate each other more than other times of the year. We tend to look at the positives more and feel a bit more hopeful in general. And, while I know there are those who don't care for Christmas music, I'm certainly not one of them. I find it a complete joy to hear it ringing out wherever I may go.

I also love being a part of this community, where saying the Christmas story may not be true doesn't completely shock most of us. We are happy to inspect the story and find its redeeming qualities, true or not. When we do, we can learn many things. One of those is the importance of playing a part in liberating those whom society marginalizes. (I'll talk more about that in my December 20th message.)

Today, I want to share with you a story that some of you are aware of, but some may not be. It's a modern story of Christmas, of sorts. It's a story of doing your part in helping liberate those whom society marginalizes. Not only that, it's a story that will play a role in changing the world for the better. And it's about someone many of our members know very well: Jeff Farlow.

You may not know that Jeff is the owner of InfraPros, a company that specializes in heating and air conditioning services. Well, he did own it. Let me explain. A former client of Jeff's, Kevin Cooper, asked to work for the company. Jeff was surprised to say the least. Kevin was successful at his job and, according to Jeff, smarter than him "on a bunch of stuff."

After some thought, Jeff sorted out what was going on. Kevin was having a problem getting into the mechanical contracting business. Why? Because he was black and the industry is primarily run by white men. And so, Jeff is no longer the owner. Here's why. Jeff clearly saw the racial disparity in his industry and the barriers it created. He didn't like what he saw and decided to be part of the solution. He told Kevin, "Man, I don't know that I'd hire you, but I'll sell you part of the business." Ultimately, Kevin took him up on his offer and now is the primary owner of the company. The two of them are working together to change the white-dominated industry.

That, my friends, is a Christmas story. It is wrapped in and completely consumed with the true spirit of the season. So, thank you, Jeff for being such a wonderful example of what humanity should strive to be.

Merry Christmas! Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, November 10, 2020

SPECIAL REPORT on Budget gave two projections for average monthly budgets, one if the church remains closed, and the other if the church is open. They'll be reviewed at next Session meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Strategic Plan: Draft mission and vision statements printed in the newsletter (see below).
- Building Future: The Workplan was reviewed. Tasks were assigned, due dates were revised.

NEW BUSINESS

- Elder Nominating Committee: working on a slate of nominees; a congregational vote will be held in December or January. Mark asked the Session members rotating off in January to continue to participate with the Session even after the new slate is elected to keep their knowledge of ongoing discussions available.
- Nov. Presbytery meeting had 200 participants via Zoom. The Presbytery has asked PCoC to host the November 16, 2021 Presbytery meeting and requested support for the "Pennies for Hunger" program, as well as the 'cash bail' problem for low income people who run afoul of the legal system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource: Financial report shows that contributions are holding up; rents are down, but less than anticipated.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Study group continues discussion of Morgan Freeman's video series "The Story of God." Next, the group will read an article by David Brooks.

Building & Grounds: Boiler inspection was successful. We have a new tenant in room 301. Working to make profit centers out of each rental by correlating income with expenses. **Grounds:** Grounds cleanup took place on the monthly work day, October 31st.

Interior: A report on "Decluttering the Church" outlined spaces and items to declutter. In 2021, will begin to start cleaning up and clearing out the church. The church will be deep-cleaned 7 days before the first indoor service, following CDC and COVID19 health team recommendations.

Communications: Tom. put a notice in Newsletter about meetup groups.

Outreach: Our food drive for Spartan Open Pantry will be held Saturday mornings in December in church parking lot. Information will be posted on Next Door and other media (see next page).

Personnel: Congregational care taking place and calling tree still at work. Employee reviews are underway.

David Johnson, Clerk of Session

PCoC Strategic Plan

The draft PCoC Strategic Plans are below. The Session would like feedback; 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

Zoom Book Study Every Wednesday at 4:00pm

We're reading "How To Be An Anti-Racist" by Ibram X. Kendi. Join us every Wednesday on Zoom at 4:00pm. To join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630496763> Meeting ID: 816 3049 6763

Donate to the PCoC Food Drive for UNCG Spartan Open Pantry



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
501 S. Mendenhall St.
and The College Hill
Neighborhood Association

food drive for Spartan Open Pantry serving UNCG students in need

Saturdays, December 5, 12 & 19, from 10am-12noon

Drop off in the parking lot across Mendenhall Street from the church



We plan on toasting marshmallows around a fire pit and sharing candy canes with all who stop by.

Especially needed

- Breakfast cereals
- Snacks like chips, cookies, crackers
- Canned fruits and meats
- Rice, Soups
- Hygiene and toiletry items (small sizes)
 - toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash,
 - lotions, shampoos, conditioners,
 - deodorants for men and women
- Laundry products (small sizes)
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Feminine hygiene products
- Razors for men and women



More Outreach Efforts!

The Outreach Committee is also collecting duffle/gym bags to be used to assist children in foster care. They can be brought to the church parking lot during the same hours as the food drive. Also, please check online at Amazon.com for the Wish Lists of other organizations we support, such as After Gateway, Inc. and Thriving at Three.

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>

Special Christmas Eve Zoom Service! Details Soon!

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>

PCoC is on MeetUp.com

PCoC is now on Meetup.com! Go to: Meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant
This site provides event reminders and gives us another place to connect with each other.

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!
www.athinkingchurch.org



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