



# The Covenant Compendium

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## Sunday Morning Schedule

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

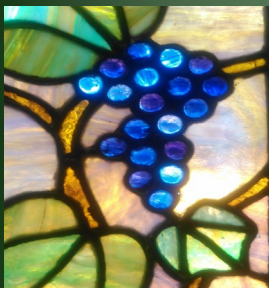
### Important Dates ...

**PLEASE NOTE :** The church will remain closed for the month of January, due to the ongoing health crisis. The church office will be closed on Friday, January 1st, and Monday, January 18th.

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

Hello PCoC Family!

This is certainly an unusual new year. It does feel more hopeful than recent new years, but that hope feels like it is further in the future than we would like. From putting COVID-19 behind us to positive change from our new leadership, there are few of us who believe either will happen quickly. Yet, there is hope because both are clearly on the horizon.

That said, the reality is that we probably won't be gathering for worship in the sanctuary any time soon. Distribution of the vaccine has been much slower than anticipated while COVID-19 numbers are skyrocketing. Ultimately, the decision is up to your Session, but I don't see us gathering for a least several more months. During that time, I'd like to remind each of us that faith is about holding on to hope. Much of the Hebrew texts and even Revelations are ultimately about holding on to hope during difficult times. The book of Romans even tells us, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

So, while we all miss gathering together, let's recognize this opportunity to live out our faith like never before. While we work through these times together (even though we are apart), I'd like to remind you of virtual opportunities to gather on Sunday. We have Zoom gatherings for both our Sunday Study Group and for our Sunday Morning Gathering. I have to say, Zoom gatherings have made holding on to the hope of gathering in person again much easier for me. Sometimes, technology is a blessing.

Peace, goodwill, and hope to us all... and I hope to "see" you Sunday.

PEACE, Mark

## ***Session Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2020***

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Building will remain closed until February, when Session will apprise. Individual tenants to access their rooms, with one additional person, if masked.
- Building Options Decision Workplan submitted by Don, who will revise the workplan with new deadlines, since more information is needed before decisions can be made.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Setting church-wide vote for Elder class of 2023. A protocol to elect new elders using a combination of mail and email ballots was approved.
- Tenant groups wishing to hold meetings in the parking lot will be provided with space heaters.
- November 2021 Presbytery meeting will be at PCoC. Planning to begin in 2021 Session meetings.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Resource:** 2021 draft Budget for the next year was sent back for a redo before a future vote. Christmas gifts for employees and a bonus for Nancy Pitkin were approved.

**Worship:** Mark continues to hold worship services online, with music by local musicians. A Christmas Eve broadcast at 5 PM is planned and will be promoted soon.

**Spiritual Formation:** The Sunday Study group discussed a lecture by David Brooks and plans a study of Amy-Jill Levine's "Light of the World" book for Advent.

**Building & Grounds:** Necessary maintenance is being done. The Saturday Work Group continues to clear out the yard.

**Interior:** Decluttering the church continues, a little bit at a time. Elsie is clearing out the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor music room. Projects are planned for the monthly workdays in January and February. Barbara and Clara placed exterior door wreaths.

**Outreach:** Committee has requested donations and/or offering to selected charities, including Second Harvest Food Bank, People to People Liaison, Higher Ground, and Pennies for Hunger. PCoC is also

in the middle of a food drive for Spartan Open Pantry, with an article about this in the December 11<sup>th</sup> *News and Record*. We are also collecting backpacks and gym bags for foster children.

**Personnel:** All employee reviews are complete.

## ***Zoom Book Study Every Wednesday at 4:00pm***

We have finished reading "How To Be An Anti-Racist" by Ibram X. Kendi and are in the process of selecting our next book. Look for an email in the near future announcing details. When we resume, 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

Dial by your location : 1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown, MD)

## ***Yay, You! A Suggested Read to Cheer Your New Year***

Joyce Powers has recommended the following article from Yes! Weekly to cheer our way into the new year!

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/opinion/2020/12/17/covid-lockdown-cheer/>

## *Scenes from the 2020 Holiday Outreach for Spartan Open Pantry*

Greetings all from the 2020 Spartan Open Pantry food drive folks. All is finished...for this year. Nearly \$200 and over 3500 items of food and personal hygiene items were donated during the first three weeks in December. All was delivered to the SOP on December 28th by many busy hands and a couple of pick up trucks. The response on the part of volunteers and people donating was heart-warming. Thank you all. Joyce Powers, coordinator.



## *Reminder: Inclement Weather Procedures*

Service cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced via email, posted on our Facebook site and our website ([www.athinkingchurch.org](http://www.athinkingchurch.org)) and will be listed on WFMY (Channel 2, CBS) and WXII (Channel 12, NBC). If county schools are closed, the church office will likely be closed; email the office or leave a voicemail message.

## *2021 Outreach Efforts!*

The committee decided to support People to People Liaison, Higher Ground, Second Harvest Food Bank and the Presbytery's Pennies for Hunger with our 2020 budgeted amount. Also, we usually support After Gateway and Thriving At Three. This year we would encourage folks to look for the wish lists for these organizations. Both can be found at Amazon.



## 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>

## PCoC is 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.



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COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.