

March 2021

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



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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 March, due to the ongoing health crisis.

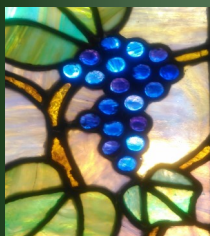
We will notify the congregation via email and via posts on the church's website and Facebook page of the status of operations on an ongoing basis.

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.

Office hours will be: Kate, 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!

Monthly Work Day:
Saturday, March 27th,
9:30am—12:00pm



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello PCoC Family!

There's no doubt that most of us have missed gathering together during this unusual time in history. And while it is true that we are a spiritual community who are somewhat physically disconnected for the time being, it's important to keep in mind that we are not spiritually disconnected from each other. Our support for each other, particularly those going through difficult times, has never stopped. Once we are back together, I imagine there are going to be many heartwarming tales to tell.

Please know that your Session has continued to provide outstanding leadership during these extraordinary times. Their thoughtful leadership, kindness, and concern have been part of the glue that has not only held us together, but has continued to move us forward as we move into the future. I could hardly be more impressed with a leadership team. Every month, the Session looks at where we are in terms of COVID-19. Every month, we look at whether it is safe to open the church for gathering together again. Thus far, we have not felt like we could do that without possibly putting members at risk. We simply aren't willing to do that. The good news is that some members are getting their vaccination shots already and COVID infection rates are dropping as well.

We are hopeful that in the coming months we will be able to safely meet together again. As I mentioned earlier, there will likely be many stories to tell in the future. I look forward to having all this behind us and getting to hear people say, "Remember when we weren't able to have church because of a virus that affected the world?"

I believe that day is not very far away and I cannot wait to be able to gather with you once again.

PEACE!
Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2021

Strategic Plan Items:

- **Building Options Decision Workplan:** Discussion continued on this plan.
- **Resource Committee reports:** Budget report for January submitted. Farrell Scholarship Fund has given two scholarships.
- **Strategic Plan 2021 Workplan Development:** Don asked Session members to fill in information on the church's mission areas that they are responsible for; then he updated the plan. Some areas are still empty since no Session members volunteered.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Building Closure** will continue; no Session members were in favor of reopening any time soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Status of committee leadership:** Janet will take charge of Personnel. Ruth will be liaison to Fellowship. Jim will work with Worship, Fellowship and Interior. Mark and Jane Cauthen will continue with Pastoral care. Music will be shared between Personnel and Worship.
- **Report on Presbytery Meeting:** Virtual worship services recommended through May at the earliest. Presbytery officers are working from home and the Presbytery has sold its building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship: Live broadcasts of services resumed on February 14th.

Spiritual Formation: Sunday Study Group is discussing David Brooks' *The Road to Character*.

Building & Grounds: Thompson Roofing repaired some leaks. One room HVAC fan motor was replaced. Repairs needed in a few rooms.

Interior: Decluttering the church continues; volunteers began decluttering work on the January 30th workday, and continues:

1. The room at the back of the sanctuary has been cleared, cleaned, reorganized. All florals were disassembled and moved to the second floor balcony room. Music equipment was organized
2. The second floor balcony room was cleared and cleaned and floral arrangements relocated here, along with florals in the third floor Christmas storage closet. A table and chair were set up for use. Floral containers have been consolidated and organized on bookcases. Florals have been sorted, organized into storage boxes, and labeled. The "warming" Christmas tree and several Christmas stands have been relocated here. The plant stands used at Christmas are now here also.
3. The Christmas storage room on the third floor is cleaner but could still use better organization. Tasks remaining: floral arrangements and containers from the above areas to be donated or disposed.
4. Significant progress has been made in the basement. 50+ accumulated paint cans accumulated were sorted; those identified as currently in use were stowed in a locker. A car trunk load of old paints and cans were taken to EcoFlo on Patterson St. Items for potential donation to Architectural Salvage on Huffman St. and sale for scrap were identified. Unity of Greensboro removed many of their items stored in the basement; all remaining items are tagged and consolidated. After Gateway is still cleaning out their stored items. A large open top construction dumpster will be rented to dispose of larger debris.

Grounds: We're getting estimates on groundskeeping.

Fellowship: Joyce Powers and Ann Finch led an effort to assist member needs for temporary meals.

Spring Ahead on March 14th!

That's right, it's that wonderful time of year again, time to set the clocks forward one hour. While we hate time changes, it's still the way we welcome and acknowledge the coming of Spring. We'll enjoy more evening daylight and warmer temperatures and blooming trees and flowers. So rejoice!

2021 Outreach Efforts Continue

This year, PCOC outreach efforts will focus on support for: People to People Liaison, Higher Ground, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Presbytery's Pennies for Hunger. We also support After Gateway and Thriving At Three; look for their wish lists on Amazon.com (and see below for information on After Gateway's current fundraising effort). In addition, this spring we are asking for donations of duffle bags or small suitcases for foster children, which are being given to Anchor Hope Homes (the county is not accepting donations during the COVID pandemic). Often children being moved from one living situation to another have no means by which to carry their belongings, and rely on donated bags or luggage to do so. Donations may be brought to the church office, or left on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

We are also beginning a new effort, called the Happy Meal Fund; this will also be used to help feed foster children, who, as they are removed from poor living conditions, are also frequently hungry. Often, social workers will treat the children to fast food and pay for it themselves. Our Happy Meal Fund will provide social workers with gift cards to McDonald's so children may be fed without expense to the social workers. Make checks out to PCoC and mark the memo line "Happy Meal Fund". Our wonderful Outreach Committee will do the rest!

And we continue to support the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry with contributions of dried/canned foods and with personal care products, as well as financial donations. There's a box for donations outside the Church Office, and checks are always accepted.

If you are donating to any of our efforts, please make checks payable to PCoC and mark what group effort you're supporting in the memo line of your check. Thanks to your support in the past, we've been able to provide assistance in many areas, and we're so glad to continue in this effort.

Farrell Scholarship Fund

Did you know Church of the Covenant has a scholarship fund? Created in 1994 by the family of William and Nell Farrell, the fund helps members or friends of the congregation with grants to finance their college education. Applications are accepted during the summer months. The awards are given annually with no expectation of repayment. The principal of the fund remains intact as only the income from the investment of the principal is used. The dollar amount of the scholarship is determined by the Farrell Scholarship committee and given to financially needy individuals to be used for the completion of a college or theological degree. Funds may be added to the principal of the scholarship fund. If you want to make a donation to the fund, be

After Gateway 20th Anniversary "\$20 for 20 Campaign"

After Gateway is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a fundraising effort to raise \$20,000. Their goal is for 1,000 people to each contribute \$1.00 for every year Gateway's been in business, or \$20.00. That will help Gateway continue on its mission to make a difference in the lives of its participants and their families with the wonderful care provided by Gateway. Make secure donations on the AGI website at www.aftergateway.org.



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>

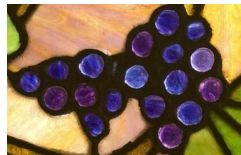


PCoC is on MeetUp.com

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.

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.