



# The Covenant Compendium

## 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 April, due to the ongoing health crisis.

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

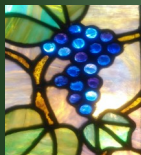
Rev. Sandlin and the church office manager, Kate Baird, will both work from home during this time and are available for emails and phone calls.

Office hours will be:  
Kate , Mondays, Wednesdays  
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!

Office Closed: Friday, April 2 for Good Friday observance

Monthly Work Day:  
Saturday, April 24th, 9:30am—12:00pm



## A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello PCoC Family!

About a year ago, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, your Session decided to temporarily close the building to ensure the safety of the congregation and those in our community. At that time, we decided that 2 weeks would probably do the job just fine.

A year later, we have learned so much and much has changed. We've had to learn new ways to do everything from shopping for groceries to handling business meetings to gathering with loved ones. We've learned to be more comfortable with not knowing what will happen next than we ever have before. Most of us are living more in the moment than ever before, if for no other reason than we have no idea what tomorrow might or might not bring.

The good news is that we seem to be getting COVID-19 under control and it would not surprise me if we are back in our church building before summer.

Last year, when we thought we were coming back in 2 weeks or even in a month or so, the Session envisioned having an Easter-like service as our first gathering (even though we would miss doing it on the actual date of Easter). Little did we know at that point that we wouldn't be gathering in person this year for Easter either.

Just as we have learned and adopted new outlooks and behaviors through the challenges of this past year, Easter has much to teach us about paradigm shifts and who we are called to be during strange times. Just as many of us have continued to step up our advocacy for those who are impacted the most by COVID, Easter calls us to do everything we can to help those most in need. It's a call to love.

I hope you'll be able to join our live service on Easter as we look at the message of love bringing new life. I particularly hope you might be able to join us on the Zoom broadcast. After the service is over we all stay online, catch up with each other, and frequently find ourselves in very interesting conversation. There'd be nothing better than to have you with us this Easter.

COVID-19 is a reminder that difficult things do happen in life. Sometimes difficult choices have to be made. It's a reminder that even in all of that, we will be ok. A reminder that there is always the opportunity for new life after those difficult times. It's a reminder that, in the end, everything will be just fine because we have love and we have each other.

PEACE!  
Mark

## ***Session Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2021***

### **Resource Committee report**

- Financial report indicated we are basically holding the line on expenses, that March should be better financially. Will contact Salem Presbytery re: request for “per capita” pledges.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Building Closure: The building will be closed for the next month. Ann Finch’s ad hoc committee on reopening will meet before the April Session meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Becoming a Hunger Action Congregation: Nancy Schaefer and Charlie Finch are in charge of the steps needed to make PCoC a Hunger Action Congregation, according to the guidelines from the Presbytery.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Worship:** Members are filling out the Strategic Plan development information.

**Spiritual Formation:** Sunday study group is still reading Brooks’ *The Road to Character*.

### **Building & Grounds: Interior**

Decluttering the church: Barbara North sent a report on work completed to Session members. Preservation Greensboro has taken some discarded materials. Some decluttering: Old paints and dangerous chemicals were taken to EcoFlow; a dumpster was hired for the February work day and was filled in under 3 hours (and will be hired for the March 27<sup>th</sup> work day); Barbara has made several trips to the Barnabas Network, Goodwill, and Reconsidered Goods to donate items; Elsie Hutchens has led the ongoing effort to consolidate over 100 years’ worth of sheet music and hymn books, with items donated to ministries and UNCG.

**Fellowship:** Assistance with meals and other needs is being provided to members.

**Outreach:** The congregation has been emailed re: the “Happy Meals Fund.” This fund will purchase McDonald’s gift cards to help feed children in transition in the social service system, who frequently need meals. These are currently out-of-pocket expenses for the county or state social service agency workers who assist these kids. Thriving at Three received donated funds. We received a thank you note from [Anchor Hope Home](#) for duffle bags/backpacks donated for foster children. The congregation will receive info about the Styrofoam collection site in Greensboro, the need for duffle bags/backpacks, and the Spartan Open Pantry’s need for financial support. After COVID restrictions are lifted, the committee will consider collecting gift cards for Kate to distribute for people in need.

**Personnel:** Congregational Care report from Jane Cauthen, who made contacts with nine members and attendees. Five regular Providers made eleven contacts,



## *From The Outreach Committee*

The Presbyterian Church USA sponsors a program that encourages congregations to acknowledge and celebrate the work of folks around the world to alleviate hunger and end its causes. This will require a covenant from the church to do work in six areas in order to be certified as a Hunger Action Congregation. Once the completed covenant is submitted, the church will be certified for three years as a Certified Hunger Action Congregation and will be recognized on the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) website.

The activities necessary for certification focus on ending hunger and its causes and include the following areas:

- Hunger Alleviation** – providing or sharing food with an eye to long-term structural solutions.
- Development assistance** - addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through sustainable development.
- Hunger education** – learning about systemic causes of hunger, including racial and economic injustices.
- Lifestyle integrity** – adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect God's creation.
- Corporate and public policy witness** – advocating for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes.
- Worship** – incorporating prayer, education and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship.

The Outreach Committee is looking for two or three people to help the Hunger Action Team to devise and implement a plan for the Church to become certified as a Hunger Action Congregation. If you are passionate about working to solve the problems hunger and food insecurity inflict on Greensboro and other communities and would like to join in this effort, please contact either Charlie Finch ([tarheelcolonel@gmail.com](mailto:tarheelcolonel@gmail.com)) or Nancy Schaefer ([njane914@att.net](mailto:njane914@att.net)). We hope to have our application submitted before World Food Day in September.

## *Higher Ground Breakfast Outreach Resumes on April 45th!*

You've heard about opportunities to participate in the PCoC outreach to **Higher Ground**, a day center for persons infected or in any way affected by HIV/AIDS. We provide breakfast, and the guests there provide one of the most welcoming atmospheres you'll ever find.

Our next monthly breakfast is Monday, April 5, at 10:00am. You can participate by volunteering, contributing food/supplies, or just stopping by (210 E Bessemer Ave) to hang out.

Please contact Sarah Sills for information:  
[SarahBSills@gmail.com](mailto:SarahBSills@gmail.com) or (336)314-1940.



## *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 sure to write "Farrell Scholarship" on the memo line of your check.

## 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>

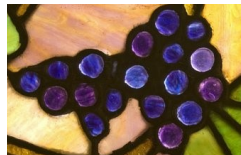


## PCoC is on MeetUp.com

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.