

June 2021



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Important Dates ...

PLEASE NOTE : The church building will remain closed for the month of June, 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.

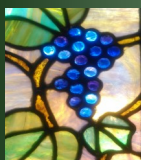
Rev. Sandlin and the church office manager, Kate Baird, will be at the office and will work from home during this time and are available for emails and phone calls.

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: Monday, June 31 for Memorial Day

Monthly Work Day: Saturday, June 26th, 9:30am—12:00pm



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello, PCoC family!

You know, it's difficult to know how each of us will think about 2020 several years from now, but I do know I will recall that, even in our mandated separation, our spiritual community lived into its sense of connection. It's a beautiful thing to see.

From weekly phone calls, to the Outreach Team's steady efforts in the community, to all of our care providers who helped ensure the most vulnerable in our community were cared for, it has been a vision of what a healthy community looks like and how it functions. Having previously served as your Interim Minister, I cannot tell you how proud I am of us all!

I bring all of this up because, particularly with the news that the vaccines are working against even the newer variations, I imagine it won't be long until we begin gathering again inside the building. Your Session will determine when that will happen and the stages we do it in to ensure safety, but it certainly won't be long. In our excitement to see each other and celebrate our connectedness, let's all be sure to respect that some folks will be more ready for it than others. Even if you feel comfortable without a mask on, if you are around those wearing them, considering putting yours on as well. As much as some of us are going to want to hug everyone in sight, let's all be cautious in approaching folks and understanding where their current comfort levels are. Keep in mind, for some, this is still a life and death issue.

Most importantly, as Romans 12:10 reminds us, let us love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. And, as for me, I'll take all the hugs and fist bumps you want to offer.

PEACE!

Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, May 12, 2021

Resource Committee report

- Financial report: Income exceeded anticipation. have paid 2020 pledge to Presbytery.

Strategic Plan Items:

- Building Options Decision Workplan. Don commented on items highlighted in the text:

OLD BUSINESS

- Building Closure: We will meet outdoors as of 16 May and may decide on returning to indoor meetings soon. Consensus decision: do one more month of outdoor services but then let COVID team make recommendations for procedures needed to reopen the building.
- Actions needed to do a safe outdoors worship service were reviewed.
- Becoming a Hunger Action Congregation: Charlie has joined the Community Task Force on Hunger, and the Outreach Committee will talk about this issue at its May meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Spiritual Formation: the Sunday Study Group has finished *The Last Week*.

Building & Grounds: The A/C has had the highest number of maintenance requests. Grass is being cut every other week; a lot of the grounds work being done by Clara.

Interior: Decluttering the church: Barbara shared a spreadsheet indicating what work has been done.

Outreach: The committee has met to discuss future plans. The Happy Meals Fund has now received a total of \$1,145 and Ann will buy gift cards and distribute to Health and Human Services for use by social workers.

Personnel: Janet. Congregational Care Report from Jane Cauthen was presented; 15 contacts with members and attendees (visits and phone calls); also calls and contacts by other providers. Mark, Kate, and Jane sent an E-mail to our Calling Tree volunteers thanking them for keeping our congregation connected during the Pandemic and the closing of our services and other programs. We encouraged them to stay in touch with those on their lists, and to let us know of any needs. This project has indicated the dedicated, caring members of our Covenant community. Please pass along your thanks when you have the opportunity.

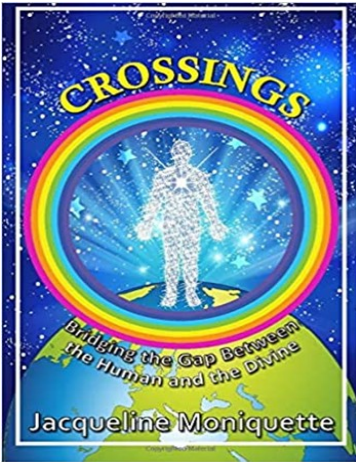
Farrell Scholarship News

The Farrell Scholarship Committee will accept applications for the Fall 2021 semester beginning June 1st and ending on July 31st. Friends and family of Covenant members and attendees are welcome to apply. The 2020 scholarship recipients are required to submit their end-of-year summary report to the church office before June 15th in order to submit a new application. Reports may be emailed to the church office at: pcoc2010@gmail.com. Please email the church to receive an application.

Monthly Work Day Minutes and Reminder

Thanks to the our dedicated and hardworking volunteers who worked hard on the grounds on Saturday, May 29th. Many flowers are blooming and the grounds are providing lots of pretty spots. The grass and weeds just keep on coming, so join us next month on the next work day, Saturday, June 29th, from 9:30am to 12:00pm. We'll be gardening, weather permitting! There may still be a few indoor chores, too!

Sunday Book Study Group Chooses Next Book



The Sunday Book Study Group meets every Sunday morning at 9:00am via Zoom, and you're invited to join the discussion group. Study of their new selection begins on June 13th, "Crossings: Bridging the Gap Between the Human and the Divine", by Jacqueline Moniquette. The book "is about wholeness. It provides a framework within which to examine various aspects of our existence by looking at the universe as a field of all-encompassing energy in which everything is inextricably connected and interacting with everything else. Part 1 presents scientific, literary, philosophic, and spiritual underpinnings of the main themes presented, while Part 2 demonstrates how these ideas can be applied in selected contexts in our everyday lives". Please contact Jim North by Monday, June 7th, to reserve your copy of the book (woodnotes2004@yahoo.com, or (336) 643-0985). Participants pay "what you can" toward the \$30 cost of the book.

In*Spire Meditation Celebrates Its 5th Anniversary

In June 2016 we began a weekly meditation practice in the PCoC Sanctuary, which we named In*Spire Meditation. We share 20 minutes of silence every Tuesday at noon, led by a different group member each week. On the first Tuesday of each month, we follow up with a brown bag lunch in the Fellowship Hall, open to everyone. In 2020, the group began meeting via Zoom, due to COVID, and is still doing so. Contact the church office for a link to the weekly meeting and join us to share peace, gratitude and the spiritual gifts the practice brings.



Outreach Update

Thanks to donations from our PCoC family, we have raised \$1,145.00 to purchase Happy Meals gift cards for foster children in transition. Many thanks to all! We're still accepting canned/dried foods for the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry; leave contributions in the box outside the church office. We still fund and make monthly breakfasts for the clients and staff of Higher Ground. To contribute, write a check with "Higher

After Gateway Fundraising Efforts



Did you know that this year, the Human Race can be a virtual run? There's still an actual fundraising race on Saturday, June 5th. For details, click on www.VolunteerCenterTriad.org and click on the Human Race banner. One of the organizations you can support through this effort is After Gateway, which would greatly welcome donations and contributions. And please remember After Gateway's ongoing fundraising effort, the \$20for20 Campaign. Their goal is for 1,000 people to contribute a dollar for each year of AGI's operations, or \$20.00. Donate online 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.

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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