

August 2021

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Important Dates ...

PLEASE NOTE : The church has resumed use of the PCoC Sanctuary and building , but is restricting use to those wearing masks, observing social distancing, and to groups meeting for one hour or less.

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

Office hours: Rev. Sandlin M-Th, 9-3 Kate Baird M-F, 9-3

Monthly Work Day: Saturday, August 328th9:30am—12:00pm



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Dear PCoC family,

You are such an amazing spiritual community. We are going through a period of time unlike any that the Christian Church in America has ever seen. Churches continue to have to make difficult choices about how to gather (if at all). Across almost all generations, fewer and fewer folks are even interested in being part of the typical church.

Pre-COVID, churches were having to close their doors at an alarming rate and that has only increased after a year or more of not being able to safely gather. You, however, are bucking that trend. While many churches have deeply felt the negative financial impact of COVID-19, you have made certain that PCoC did not. Not only that, during a time when outsiders speak of the hypocrisy in the church in terms of saying it believes one thing but practices their faith differently, you have put your money when your mouth is.

Joyce Powers has put together a list of all the organizations that have received support from our church members over the last year. Over 175 organizations long! Over the next few Sundays, we'll be sharing more about this list and everyone's efforts. So, this is simply a note to say "thank you" and "well done!" Like I said, you are such an amazing spiritual community who make a positive impact in the world that is much larger than our congregational size might suggest. You are living out your faith in a way that changes lives!

PEACE!

Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2021

Resource Committee report

Financial report: First 6 months of 2021: Contributions are up, but parking lot income down. Need to budget money for a Music Director in 2022. Farrell Scholarships are available to PCoC families.

Strategic Plan Items:

A meeting to work on the church's Strategic Plan will be held before the next Session meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Covid Task Force is pleased with the congregational compliance with social distancing and mask wearing at the in-person Sunday services. Going forward, groups meeting in the church building will be asked to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. Group size no issue. We prefer that groups meet for one hour, but they may meet up to 90 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

- List of Session Committees and members was reviewed; awaiting descriptions of committee tasks.
- Vance Arnold sent out birthday cards during the last year. The Session sent a letter of thanks.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Spiritual Formation: Growth of the Church: The Session is working on this, with Janet, Lem, Ruth, Nancy, and Mark doing so under the aegis of the Spiritual Formation Committee.

Building & Grounds: Work on downstairs women's bathroom still ongoing, also working on an A/C leak. Many of the individual HVAC need replacement, a major expense. Mowing is being done every other week.

Interior

Decluttering the church: Barbara said the group is nearing the end of the major projects, and got a lot done during last workday. All Session members present expressed their amazement at the amount that the group has done and gave the group thanks for its work.

Communications: Have had some people join the church Meetup group.

Fellowship: We discussed holding a Fellowship Lunch outdoors in September.

Outreach: We delivered a check for \$1,145 to grateful staff at the DSS, who will use the money for Happy Meal gift cards for social workers who need to feed young clients. Joyce Powers presented a 4-page list compiling all the groups and organizations that church members are supporting on their own.

Personnel: Congregational Care report for June 2021: 12 contacts with members and attendees via visits and phone calls; 4 of our regular Providers made 19 contacts (visits and phone calls). Many among us, including Mark Sandlin, have been responsive to the needs of the Oakleys. Our thanks to Ruth Metheny, who designed a Meal Train page to provide meals and funds. Please keep Chuck and Annie in your thoughts.

Pennies for Hunger Campaign to Begin!

In our continuing efforts to focus on hunger issues in our community and around the world, the Outreach Committee will begin taking up an offering for the Presbyterian Food Program by asking for contributions to "Pennies for Hunger". We will have a basket on the table in the back of the Sanctuary for donations **every second Sunday** of the month (in **August**, that's the **8th** and the **27th**). While pennies are appreciated, we will gladly accept paper money and even checks!

Alleviating hunger and eliminating its causes is at the core of our lives as people of faith. There are deep injustices in our food system that we are called on to address. The root—or systemic causes—of hunger are poverty, exploitation, social and political marginalization, and structures that reinforce these historic injustices. To address the root causes of hunger, power and wealth must be shared, so that all are fed and can live fully. The committee hopes to expand our program and participate more fully with the Presbyterian Mission Agency during this year's Food Week of Action in October.

PCoC Members Support Charities During the Pandemic

ACLU
 Actuarial Foundation
 Adult Center for Enrichment
 After Gateway
 American Cancer Society
 American Red Cross
 Amnesty International
 Animal Foster and Rescue
 Arbor Acres
 Arbor Day Foundation
 A Simple Gesture

 Backpack Beginnings
 Barnabus Network
 Bartimaeus Cooperative (Cal) Ministries
 Beloved Community Center
 Bennet College
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Black Child Development
 Break the Chain Kennel

 Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care (Lenoir)
 Camp Carefree
 Center for Education, Imagination & the Natural World
 Center for Purposeful Living
 Church of Redeemer
 Church of the Beloved Community
 Church World Service
 Civil Rights Museum
 College Alumni Scholarship Fund
 Committee to Protect Healthcare
 Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro
 Community Housing Solutions
 Cone Elementary School, school supplies
 Crop Walk

 Dan River Basin Association
 Democracy Now
 Duffle Bags for Foster Children

 Environment NC
 Environmental Defense Fund

 Faith Action International House
 Faith Community Church
 Family Service of Greensboro
 Family Services of the Piedmont
 Feeding America
 Fellowship Hall
 Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch
 4 Ocean
 Freedom House
 Friends Committee on National Legislation
 Friendship Force

 Goodwill
 Greater Chicago Food Depository
 Greensboro Animal Shelter
 Greensboro Housing Coalition
 Greensboro Urban Ministry
 Guilford Battleground Company
 Guilford College Fund
 Guilford Education Alliance

 Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro

 Inequity Media
 Interfaith Alliance Foundation
 Interactive Resource Center (IRC)
 International Wolf Center

 Joseph Campbell Foundation
 Jubilee Housing

 Legal Aid of NC
 Lisa's Kids

 Make a Difference Christian Ministries
 Malachi House
 March of Dimes
 Marine Toys for Tots Foundation
 McDonalds Happy Meal Gift Cards for Foster Children
 Millions Against Monsanto
 Music for a Great Space
 Mustard Seed Clinic

NAACP Legal Defense Fund
 National Wildlife Federation
 National Women's Law Center
 NCCJ
 NC Council of Churches
 NC Global Ties
 NC Zoological Society
 Network4Good
 Northampton Free Library (Nassawadox, VA)
 North Carolina Dance Project
 North Carolina Nature Conservancy
 Oasis, Inc. (Boone NC)

 One Step Further
 Operation Santa Claus
 Out of The Garden
 Oxfam

 Paralyzed Vets
 Partners In Health
 Pathways (children's books for library)
 PBS
 PBSNC
 Peacehaven Farm
 PEO
 People To People
 PetSmart (homeless pets)
 Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers (PATH)
 Piedmont Environmental Center
 Piedmont Land Conservancy
 Pineview Rehabilitation and Education Center
 Planned Parenthood
 Political Entities (various)
 Population Connection
 Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (PCOC)
 ...various endeavors
 Progressive Christianity

 Rails to Trails
 Reconsidered Goods
 Restless Legs Foundation
 Roosevelt Warm Springs

 Saint Judes Hospital
 Salvation Army
 Santa Fe Institute
 Saul Valley Food Bank
 Say Yes Guilford
 Second Harvest Food Bank
 Settler's Museum
 Sheets Animal Clinic
 Shepherds Center of Greensboro
 ShepNet
 Shriner's Children Hospital
 Sierra Club
 Simply Grace UMC
 Southern Poverty Law
 Spartan Open Pantry
 SPCA of the Triad
 Special Olympics
 St Vincent DePaul

 Team Trees
 The Carter Center
 The Center for Food Safety
 The Threshold Retreat Center
 Thriving at Three
 Touring Theatre of NC
 Toys for Tots
 Trevor Project
 Triad Golden Rescue
 Triad Health Project
 Triad Stage
 Tserlings Fund (Nepal)

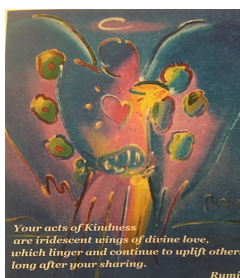
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 Tserlings Fund (Nepal)
 Tunnels to Towers

 UMC, 5th Ave.
 UNC, Chapel Hill
 UNC-TV
 UNCG
 UNICEF
 United Way of Greensboro
 University of Richmond
 Wayne State University
 WCPE
 WFDD
 Wikimidia
 Winston Salem Rescue Mission
 Winston Salem Symphony
 Women Impacting Greensboro
 WUNC

 Yadkin River Keeper

Additional Efforts:

People reached out to PCOC members via phone, notes, visits and email to check on them and maintain connection. People also reached out to friends, family members and to strangers in need, providing food, transportation, wellness checks. Supported a Vaccination Clinic. Supported an individual's College Fund. Worked with Greensboro Beautiful to clean up trash around Smith High School and High Point Lake. Established a garden for native pollinators & native plants. Volunteered with the Greensboro Astronomy Club. Replaced a co-worker who was concerned about being in their workplace while COVID outbreak occurred, and did their own job at the same time. Provided people who were homeless with cash, clothing, food and medicines. Donated bags of groceries at local supermarkets. Volunteered with AuthoraCare Collective, sewing masks, delivering flowers, designing and printing "We're Thinking Of You" cards for hospice nurses (to give to patients' families), Thank You cards for staff, calls to families, creating prayer flags for KidsPath at AuthoraCare. Volunteered to drive Beacon Place staff to work in case of a big snow storm. Generous tips to waitstaff once restaurants reopened. Donated to local and national support and relief efforts. Donated to two international charities helping war-stricken animals in Syria (abandoned pets, zoo animals, and local wildlife, sometimes rescued at peril of volunteers' lives). Worked at the polls during national election. Spent much time and energy with the local Sierra Club - the Piedmont Plateau Group Supported organizations focused on the environment. AND...too many other acts of kindness to quantify.



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>

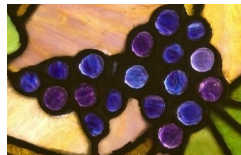
<https://www.facebook.com/thegodarticle>

PCoC is now on Meetup.com! Go to: [Meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant](https://www.meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant)



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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