

September 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, and 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

September Dates:

Sept. 6: Labor Day, office closed

Sept. 8-9: Unity World Day of Prayer

Sept. 14th: Session Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Sept. 17: Out of the Garden outreach w/ Westminster Pres.

Sept. 19: GSO Pride Day

Sept. 22: Autumn Equinox

Sept. 25: Monthly Work Day: 9:30am—12:00pm



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello PCoC Family,

I wanted to take a minute to let you know about a Sermon series that I'll be doing the last three Sundays of September. It is a look at an emerging theology that truly resonates with me. Not only that, I believe that it will be something that resonates with you, too.

The thing is, it's described with a word that many of us grew up thinking of as a bad word – at least I know I did. I hated the word. The word is “queer.” Much like the gay community reclaimed the word “gay”, the community has also reclaimed the word “queer.” I have to say, I've now learned to LOVE the word. Some of that comes from queer friends and some of it comes from what this series will be talking about, “Queer Theology.” While Queer Theology is rooted in questions around sex and sexuality, it has developed into a much broader perspective (which, as we will see during this series, is exactly what you'd expect Queer Theology to do).

The reality is that Queer Theology speaks to the zeitgeist of Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and I couldn't be more excited to be sharing its inclusive perspectives with you.

PEACE! Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2021

Resource Committee report

- Financial report: July budget reflects income from tenants. Parking sales are beginning. Building expenses were down as electric bill went down; we're now on Duke Energy's EPP. Expect cleaning expenses to increase since building use has increased. Overall we are in good shape.
- Resource Committee: Decision to do Stewardship outreach by mail this year and hope to do big actual luncheon in 2022. The Farrell Committee awarded two Farrell Scholarship awards for a total of \$3500. New elders need to be elected to the corporation, which will occur with 2022 Elders elections.

Strategic Plan Items:

- Adoption of Strategic Plan: A motion was passed as follows: That the Strategic Plan developed by the Session during the 2020 planning process be approved and adopted; that the Communications Committee distribute the Mission, Vision, and Values Statement portions of the plan to all PCoC members and congregants and make available to prospective members and visitors; and that the plan be reviewed and revised as appropriate during an early meeting each calendar year by the incoming Session.

OLD BUSINESS

- Review plans for re-opening: Considerable concern was expressed over the flare in COVID variants and noncompliance of some members with current masking/distancing recommendations during recent in-person Sunday morning worship meetings. Nancy volunteered to make a strong statement about the need for compliance at the next Sunday service; the Ushers will be tasked with moving people outdoors after the service.
- Outdoor banners: the Communication Committee will revisit this idea when funds are available and the pandemic has abated further.

NEW BUSINESS

- Elder Nominating Committee formation: Class of 2021 will be the core of this, with an additional member to be chosen. An email will be sent to congregation members to get this process started.
- New Member: Katrina Collins was presented as a potential new member; she was unanimously accepted.
- No Session member volunteered to represent PCoC at the online August Presbytery meeting, so Rev. Sandlin will.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Worship: The 11:00am Sunday format will continue. We're resolving overlap issues with Unity.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Study Group is continuing with its reading of *Crossings*.

Building & Grounds: Repairs are being made to Room 208 and to several other rooms.

Grounds: Continuing to work on keeping the weeds cut!

Interior: Barbara is meeting with Kate regarding cleaning services.

Communications: Ongoing projects include improving the website SEO (Search Engine Optimization) and improving exterior church signage for greater street visibility.

Fellowship: Annie and Chuck Oakley now have 24/7 care.

Outreach: PCoC's Hunger Action Congregation application is ready to be submitted; on 8/13 a group from the Committee joined with Westminster Presbyterian to help with "Out of the Garden" food distribution.

Personnel: Jane Cauthen's Congregational Care report: I made 11 contacts with members and attendees (visits, phone calls, and a funeral). 13 members made 22 contacts (visits, phone calls, and a funeral). The numbers probably don't reflect all that supportive community has done.

Other News

A special account at Habitat for Humanity, Greater Greensboro, has been set up to receive donations for a building lot to be dedicated in Palmer Shelburne's name. He was a dedicated volunteer with HHGG for 20 years. Make donations by check to PCoC with "Palmer Shelburne Memorial Lot" on the memo line.

Support Mustard Seed Community Health: donations are needed to help feed clients and provide transportation to the facility. Make checks out to PCoC and write "Mustard Seed" on the memo line .

SAVE THE DATE: Oct. 1, After Gateway parking lot fundraiser; Oct. 3, CROP Walk, 2:00pm ; join the PCOC Team by emailing Clara Kelly at: clerkelly@gmail.com

Financial Summary as of July 31, 2021

Category	Amount Spent or Received	Amount Budgeted	(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 94,458	\$ 74,130	\$ 20,328
Rent	36,289	39,183	(2,894)
Parking lot	1,050	14,875	(13,825)
Interest & dividends	4	12	(8)
Other	1,300	-	1,300
Total Revenues	<u>133,101</u>	<u>128,200</u>	<u>4,901</u>
EXPENSES			
COMMITTEES			
Personnel	74,013	75,682	(1,669)
Building expense	47,343	54,790	(7,447)
Grounds	706	1,400	(694)
Music	2,830	1,399	1,431
Administrative	5,632	7,029	(1,397)
Benevolences	1,000	1,750	(750)
Outreach	1,545	1,925	(380)
Spiritual formation	(620)	298	(918)
C Care & communications	99	350	(251)
Fellowship & worship	693	554	139
Total Committee Expenses	<u>133,241</u>	<u>145,177</u>	<u>(11,936)</u>
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ (140)</u>	<u>\$ (16,977)</u>	<u>\$ 16,837</u>
SPECIAL & UNUSUAL ITEMS			
EXPENSES			
Outdoor space heaters	758		
Appraisal	4,500	-	4,500
SPECIAL & UNUSUAL EXPENSE	<u>5,258</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,258</u>
NET EXCESS RECEIPTS/ (EXPENSES)	<u>\$ (5,398)</u>	<u>\$ (16,977)</u>	<u>\$ 22,095</u>

Contributions are above the budgeted amount due to several annual pledges paid in full earlier this year. Parking lot income is less than expected, but revenues expected to be much higher after parking sticker sales resume in August..

Our building expenses are much less than budgeted; however, costs will increase significantly as the building is re-opened and deferred repairs are made.

PCoC to Partner with Westminster Pres. on Hunger Initiative

Westminster Presbyterian has invited us to join their outreach ministry supporting the Out of the Garden Project. Our PCOC Outreach Committee recently participated in one two-hour project session and found it to be a worthwhile, accomplishable endeavor for a congregation of our size and age. We won't be expected to provide a large number of volunteers (perhaps 4-6) when we participate; however, more are welcome. We spent two hours in the warehouse sorting donated produce, salvaging the best and packing it in family-size boxes. The work was easy; the warehouse was much cooler than the air temperature and there was good fellowship. Everyone was masked, but we weren't always able to totally maintain social distancing. We were on our feet most of the time, but could have taken breaks. We packed 46 boxes of produce, to provide one per family. Those boxes were destined to go out by truck the very next day on their Fresh Mobile Markets going to areas having the greatest need. Our next date to participate is Friday, September 17, 3-5 PM. The work location is near the intersection of NC Hwy 68 and Interstate 40. Contact Charlie Finch (336-686-7344) for additional information or to sign up.

Join us Online for Services and Fellowship

On Sundays at 11:00am, Rev. Sandlin's Sunday message is broadcast live at these sites:

<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)



SCAN ME

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Check us out online!

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