

October 2021



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 meetings of one hour or less.

We will notify the congregation via email, website messages, and on our Facebook page if conditions change.

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

October Dates:

Oct. 2: Gateway \$20420 Celebration, 1-6, main parking lot

Oct. 3,10, 17, 24, 31: Front Porch Fellowship, 11:00am, Outside Front Door at PCoC

Oct. 3: CROP Walk, 2 pm

Oct. 4: Higher Ground Breakfast

Oct. 8: Out of the Garden outreach w/ Westminster Pres.

Oct. 10: Pennies 4 Hunger

Oct. 12: Session Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Oct. 27: Rev. Sandlin away thro Nov. 4

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

Oct. 31: Halloween

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Dear PCoC family,

I hope you've been able to make it to some of our Sunday services recently. They truly have been a wonderful experience. In particular, we've had some wonderful musicians. Nancy Pitkin, our former music director, recently joined us and favored us with songs she's recently written.

We have a wonderful group of folks who are helping keep us safe during these COVID times. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at both doors and we all are masking up and practicing social distancing for the safety of all.

We are also limiting ourselves to one service and keeping that service to less than 40 minutes. In an abundance of caution to protect all of our PCoC family as well as visitors, we are not singing any hymns together nor are we having any call/response moments in the service.

I tend to be pretty cautious when it comes to all things COVID, but I have to say, due to the hard work of your Session, our COVID response team, and those involved in the Sunday goings-on, I feel incredibly comfortable being in attendance. We owe them all a very big THANKS!

If you've not been able to make it to a service, I hope this might help you feel more comfortable, but if staying at home is still the best option for you, I certainly understand. There's always our various Facebook and YouTube live broadcasts. Recently we've had a few technical issues; know that we are working to eliminate them.

If you are attending our service or are ready to, starting on Sunday, October 3rd ,we have another thing to look forward to. Weather permitting, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting "Front Porch Fellowship." It will be an outdoor gathering following the service. Individually-wrapped snacks and drinks will be provided. It'll be a great opportunity each week to catch up with each other.

We have so many wonderful folks in our spiritual community! Even in the midst of these strange times, we continue to sort out how to persevere and thrive. Thanks you to you all!

PEACE!
Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2021

Resource Committee report

• Financial report: Parking sticker sales robust. Resource Committee has sent Stewardship Campaign letter this week, with an October 18 deadline for return of pledge cards. Working on 2022 budget, which will reflect 12 months open rather than 6 months open/6 months closed, as in 2020.

Strategic Plan Items:

Building Options Decision Workplan: The Session met regarding a Plan. Janet found a consultant, Dr. Pamela Palmer, who has worked with churches. An Oct. 9th meeting is planned. The Session will hold a planning meeting before then .

OLD BUSINESS

- Reviewed re-opening plans: COVID is still rampant, so no plans to fully re-open yet. Beginning Oct. 3rd, The Fellowship Committee plans to serve wrapped snacks/drinks outside the Mendenhall door after Sunday services.
- Elder Nominating Committee update: Now have a list of names for the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship: No change to worship format. We're adding new Wi-Fi router in Sanctuary to improve livestreams.

Spiritual Formation: The next book will be Karen Armstrong's "12 Steps to a More Compassionate Life." On Oct. 3rd the class will have a special guest lecture by Jim Fisher, who will discuss research on Near Death Experiences.

Building & Grounds: Strategic Plan 2021 Workplan sent to Session members, with highlights of recent work on the buildings. Current rental procedures are going to be reviewed by the Resource and the Buildings/ Grounds Committees and Kate. A recovery group has received approval to reduce their monthly rent due to declining membership and use of the facility.

Interior: Decluttering the church report sent to Session members. List items nearly all done; Kate is getting a junk dealer to clean out the basement and stage areas.

Communications: Working with Kate to distribute Mission and values statements to all church members. She suggested we hire a webmaster to keep our website up to date. Committee will come back to Session when has identified best person/company to do this.

Outreach: We have begun support for Mustard Seed Community Health. As part of the Hunger Action Congregation process, PCoC members will work at the Out of The Garden Project on Sept. 17th. Ann thanked Mark for allowing time at the end of the Sunday service for announcements. We have a group formed to participate in the Oct. 3rd CROP Hunger Walk.

Personnel: Committee has official documents to be updated and annual reviews due, so will meet with Fred Wallace to get his help on this. Congregational Care for August included 29 contacts with members, attendees (visits, phone calls, two funerals and a funeral home visit). August saw the unexpected loss of member Tara Brown, which was a grief experience for members and staff.

Reminder: Please Return Your "Estimate of Giving" Cards!

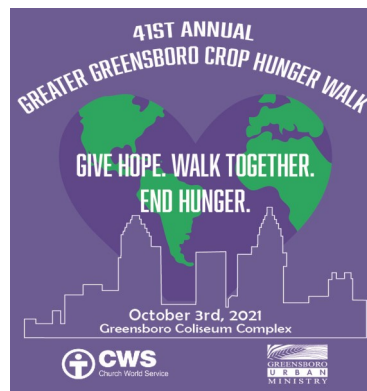
A reminder from the Resource Committee: If you haven't already done so, please return the Estimate of Giving card to the church office **before October 16th**. These estimates help the committee to develop a budget for the coming year. Your contributions are very much appreciated!

Special Presentation on Oct. 3rd, Sunday Study Group

The study of NDEs has been an important component of speaker Jim Fisher's evolving spiritual journey. A member of the International Association for Near Death Studies, he'll speak on the evidence that NDEs are real phenomena that support the hypothesis that consciousness survives death. To participate via Zoom, contact Ann Finch: ann.mcintosh.finch@gmail.com

2021 Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk , Oct. 3rd

October is here, and so is the 2021 CROP Walk. Clara Kelly helms the PCoC team, and we have a team of walkers and virtual walkers, including Clara, Nancy Schaefer, Katrina Collins, Ralph Cauthen, Lem Cox, Don Jensen and Jim North. Make a donation via check to CWS and drop it in the offering basket, or donate online at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/presbyterian-church-of-the-covenant> This year's goal is \$1,500.00. Help us raise that and help our community! Many thanks to Clara for once again organizing the PCoC effort, and to the walking team.



Outreach News!

PCOC's application to be a PCUSA Hunger Action Congregation has been accepted. Thanks to Nancy Schaefer, Charlie Finch, and Martha Emery for their work on this project.

On Oct. 3rd, 10th, and 17th, we will hold a food drive in honor of Chuck Oakley and his program "When We Eat, They Eat." Bring canned or dry foods to the Sanctuary; donations go to GSO Urban Ministry.

On Oct. 4th, PCoC's volunteer group will take a monthly breakfast to Higher Ground, which serves community members with AIDS or HIV. To volunteer, contact Sue Stinson: suestinson1968@yahoo.com

We will collect Pennies for Hunger on the second Sunday of each month; the next collection is 10/10/21. The Out of the Garden packing of food was held on 9/17, with 5 volunteers filling 60 boxes. PCOC will continue this project on the second Friday each month; Oct.8th is the next event. Contact Charlie Finch to volunteer: tarheelcolonel@gmail.com

PCOC's annual Spartan Open Pantry food/toiletries drive will be December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Contact Joyce Powers to volunteer: jkpowers42@gmail.com

The Mustard Seed Clinic (mustardseedclinic.org) will hold a virtual fund-raiser on Oct. 21st. The Outreach Committee will have a virtual table. Outreach will make a contribution as a committee; individual contributions are welcome. Make checks to PCoC, with "Mustard Seed" in the memo line.

Also, 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.



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>



SCAN ME

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

SAVE THE DATE

*Celebrate with us!
music - food - fun*

**Sat. October 2nd
1 - 6 p.m**

501 S. Mendenhall St



aftergateway.org



STEEL STRING BREWER'S!
CARRBORO & NORTH CAROLINA

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Check us out online!
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