

November 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 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

Nov. 1: Higher Ground Breakfast

Nov. 7: TIME CHANGE! Fall Back one hour

Nov. 9: Session Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Nov. 12: Out of the Garden outreach w/ Westminster Pres.

Nov. 14: Pennies 4 Hunger

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving ! Office Closed Nov. 24—29

Nov. 27: Monthly Work Day: 9:30am—12:00pm

Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello PCoC Family!

As we enter into November, a month that wraps up with Thanksgiving, I thought I'd share my prayer of giving thanks with you. I hope it connects with you in some way.

Good and gracious God,
There is a tension that comes with giving thanks.

Even as we recognize and are grateful for the blessings in our lives, we are confronted with enjoying our abundance as we recognize the reality that there are those who have far too little.

Even as we look forward to celebrating a holiday with roots which reach back to the beginnings of our nation, we are confronted with the reality of the genocide and slavery upon which it was founded.

We do not forget these things. We do not celebrate them. We do not give thanks for them. Our pride, our arrogance and our pursuit of possessions have constantly stood alongside of our blessings as a reminder.

They remind us why we give thanks. They remind us that life is sacred and fragile and that we are its biggest threats.

They remind us that we do not want to be those people again, people who lord it over others, who are self-absorbed and self-important.

They remind us to appreciate what we do have.

So, we give thanks. We give thanks for this moment. We give thanks for the things that are right about the world right now, in this moment.

We give thanks for family and friends.

We give thanks for love and laughter.

We give thanks for grace and good company.

We give thanks for the tension we find in a day like today because it provides us the insight and the motivation to create better tomorrows, not just for ourselves, not just for our families, not just for our friends, but for the world.

So, today and every day, we give thanks and we work to create a world that gives more reasons for which to be thankful.

Amen
PEACE!
Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2021

Resource Committee report

• **Financial report:** PCoC has some excess income. Though parking permit revenues are down from projections, we expect further sales in the Spring 2022 semester. Stewardship letters have been sent, and pledge cards are still being returned. So far, 2022 pledges are down from last year's figures.

Strategic Plan Items:

• **Building Options Decision Workplan:** We discussed the early October workshop held with Dr. Palmer and the need for the Session to secure assistance in finding outside investors willing to invest in the buildings. Dr. Palmer pointed out that we already have enough information in our reports on costs and issues involved in selling the property and moving, so do not need to revisit that research. [A motion was passed to approach Dr. Palmer about exploring what services she can provide that will allow us to stay in the building and the cost.](#) We hope to have this done before next Session meeting so we can vote at that time on what step to take next.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Review plans for re-opening:** After discussion, it was decided that no changes will be made to current practices and protocols; we hope that November will be a better time to make changes.

• **Elder Nominating Committee update:** The process is continuing and potential candidates are being asked about willingness to serve on the Session.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Sabbatical for Rev. Sandlin:** Mark announced that he will take a sabbatical in 2022 from January through March. He has lined up others to step into his tasks for that duration. Rev. Brian McFarland will oversee the church during that time. The Personnel Committee will create an announcement to the congregation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship: We continue to livestream Sunday services and are continually working to upgrade equipment and correct broadcast issues.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Study group has just begun a book on compassion by Karen Armstrong; they had a guest lecture by Jim Fisher in late October.

Building & Grounds: Strategic Plan 2021 Workplan: Don noted changes since last Session meeting. He has a quote from Thompson Roofing on fixing known leaks. Donnie Kelly is performing inspections on the HVAC units in the 1965 wing and reports that 25% of the units are out of service. We will need to do repairs and preventive maintenance on these. Don also discussed the need to trim some trees on our property and to resurface the parking lot.

Interior: Decluttering the church is almost finished, and we're planning to dispose of old appliances and heavy items.

Communications: We have listed PCoC on the Progressive Christianity website. The committee has requested funds be designated in the 2022 church budget for a webmaster. The Mission and Values part of the strategic plan is being put into brochure format by Kate.

Fellowship: Mark mentioned that the "Front Porch Fellowship" time, held outside after Sunday services, has been a big success.

Outreach: The committee wants PCoC to support the Mustard Seed Clinic and invited a guest speaker from the clinic for October 17th. The committee will begin collecting kitchen items for refugees in January 2022.

Personnel: Referenced Mark's sabbatical, and read the Congregational Care report, which included twenty contacts serving ten members. Providers continue to make contact with the Oakleys.



CROP Walk A Big Success!

A heartfelt thank you to the PCoC family from the CROP Walk Team: Clara Kelly, Nancy Schaefer, Katrina Collins, Ralph Cauthen, Lem Cox, Don Jensen and Jim North. With your help, we raised \$1,935.00 to fight hunger at home and around the world. Many thanks again to Clara for organizing the PCoC effort, and to the walking team.

Thanks from the Resource Committee

The Resource Committee thanks everyone who took the time to fill out and return your 2022 Estimate of Giving card. These cards greatly assist the Resource Committee in setting financial budgets for next year. We appreciate your responses and commitment to PCoC.

Outreach News!

We have several ongoing efforts to remind you of; the first Monday of each month, PCoC volunteers take and make breakfast for the staff and clients of Higher Ground, which serves community members with AIDS or HIV. To volunteer, contact Sue Stinson: suestinson1968@yahoo.com

Thanks to everyone who contributed food items to our "When We Eat, They Eat" food drive in honor of Chuck Oakley. Donations were given to Greensboro Urban Ministry.

We will collect Pennies for Hunger on the second Sunday of each month; the next collection is November 14th. Bring your change!

The Out of the Garden packing of food continues; PCOC participates in this project on the second Friday each month; November 12th is the next event. Contact Charlie Finch to volunteer: tarheel-colonel@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. Begin collecting nonperishable food items and individual personal care items now!

We continue to support The Mustard Seed Clinic (mustardseedclinic.org) Make checks to PCoC, with "Mustard Seed" in the memo line.

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.

We have an ongoing need for contributions to the Pastor's Fund, which supports not only church members, but local community members in times of need. Please write "Pastor's Fund" in the memo line of checks.



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)



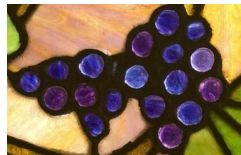
NOVEMBER 7th!



NOVEMBER 25th!

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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