

December 2021

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

Inside this issue:

Services, Schedules, 2

PCoC Updates 3

Other News 4

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

Every Sunday: Fellowship Time, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Dec. 4, Dec. 11, Dec. 18: Spartan Open Pantry Collections, main parking lot, 10:00—12:00

Dec. 6: Higher Ground Breakfast

Dec. 10: Out of the Garden outreach

Dec. 12: Pennies 4 Hunger

Dec. 14: Session Meeting, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm, Sanctuary

Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!

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



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter From Rev. Sandlin

Hello PCoC Family,

I don't know about you, but for me, Christmas can be a difficult time to navigate theologically. I suspect that's true for most folks who consider themselves progressive Christians. Honestly, I also think the earliest Christians would probably feel the same way about our modern celebration of Christmas.

Back then, the biblical stories about the birth of Jesus were told by a people who were under the shadow of a dominate culture and governance. Not surprisingly, the stories were meant to communicate things like finding hope in difficult times and restoring justice to those who are marginalized.

It really doesn't matter if you believe those birth narratives are literal or not. Beginning with Mary's song, we are told what the point of this birth is. She says it is about God's desire to "scatter the proud", bring down "the powerful from their thrones", "lift up the lowly", and to fill "the hungry with good things".

This Christmas season, along with the more cleaned-up version of the Christmas story that we will all hear, let's hold in our hearts the original meaning and seek out ways, even small ones, to keep some of the comeuppance sensibilities in it.

PEACE!
Mark

Session Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2021

Resource Committee report

- Financial report: Income deficit in October largely due to decreased parking revenue. Building costs down because less cleaning, electric bill has been lower. 2022 Budget presented for information purposes, will be voted on in December. Mark has organized other pastors to handle duties and services while he is on sabbatical; they are volunteers.

Strategic Plan Items:

- Building Options Decision Workplan: considerable discussion on the urgency of movement on making a decision about the building. Jim and Ralph are seeking contacts who might have ideas for the building.

OLD BUSINESS

- Review plans for re-opening: discussion about COVID trending upwards again, so decision was to make no change in procedures for using the building for the coming month.
- Elder Nominating Committee: There are 2 nominees, hope to have the 3rd by the Dec. Session meeting.
- Sabbatical update: Brian McFarland will moderate the Session meetings, there will be guest speakers each Sunday, and people to provide pastoral care.
- The December Session meeting will be via Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

- Establish Maintenance Coordinator (Sexton) position: Don motioned that Session approve establishing a new Maintenance Coordinator position. The motion did NOT pass, but will be discussed in December.
- Ralph volunteered to serve as the PCoC representative for the November Presbytery meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship: The committee will meet soon to work on future plans. Mark bought mic covers to use for the feedback time following the Sunday messages. Ann agreed to research if there can be transmission of COVID when people sing through masks (so that we might be able to restart the choir).

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Study Group is reading Karen Armstrong's book on Compassion.

Building & Grounds: Strategic Plan 2021 Workplan Development: Don mentioned changes since last month. There is a new tenant in room 203, and Thompson Roofing is working on roof leaks. All of the HVAC units have been checked and defective ones noted.

Interior: Decluttering tasks are nearly complete. Holiday decorating will take place on November 21st.

Communications: The church brochure has been revised, with a copy sent to all Session members. The brochure includes information from the Church's official Mission and Vision statements but does not include the statements in their entirety. Mark wants to have flags sited in front of the church. Committee members are being polled on selections.

Fellowship: Joyce Powers submitted a committee proposal continue Front Porch Fellowship indoors in the Fellowship Hall. The Session supported the proposal, provided that the Committee assign the jobs of setup and take-down, locking up, and providing prepackaged foods and beverages.

Outreach: Several outreaches are continuing, and we'll hold the food drive for the Spartan Open Pantry on December 4, 11, and 18, in the main parking lot, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Personnel: The Committee voted for raises for all staff. Staff evaluations will be made in December after the evaluation form is revised.

Congregational Care report from Jane Cauthen: In October, the volunteers and I made 26 contacts serving 17 members and attendees via visits, phone calls, and other contacts. We grieved to learn of the passing of Suzanne Jordan on October 23rd; she had been a part of Covenant until she and husband George moved to California a few years ago.

Spartan Open Pantry Food/Toiletries Collection News

When: Saturdays Dec 4, 11, and 18, 10:00 to noon,

Where: The parking lot across from Presbyterian Church of the Covenant (501 S. Mendenhall St),

What: Volunteers from the church and from the College Hill Neighborhood will be receiving shelf - stable food and personal hygiene items for the Spartan Open Pantry.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

The Spartan Open Pantry serves college students in need.

This is a neighborhood effort with as many as ten faith communities, After Gateway, and at least two Greensboro neighborhoods taking part.

This is the third year that we have sponsored this event.

We will be toasting marshmallows and passing out candy canes.

Sponsors: Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and College Hill Neighborhood.

Contact: Joyce Powers. 3365450463, 3363370510 (cell), jkpowers42@gmail.com.



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

501 S. Mendenhall St.

and The College Hill

Neighborhood Association

Spartan Open Pantry serving UNCG students in need

Saturdays, December 4, 11 & 18, from 10am-12noon

Drop off in the parking lot across Mendenhall Street from the church



We plan on toasting marshmallows around a fire pit and sharing candy canes with all who stop by.

Especially needed

- Breakfast cereals
- Snacks like chips, cookies, crackers
- Canned fruits and meats
- Rice, Soups
- Hygiene and toiletry items (small sizes)
 - toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash,
 - lotions, shampoos, conditioners,
 - deodorants for men and women
- Laundry products (small sizes)
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Feminine hygiene products
- Razors for men and women



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/ProgressiveChristianity.org>

<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



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

501 S. Mendenhall Street
Greensboro NC 27403
Phone: 336-275-6403
E-mail: pcoc2010@gmail.com



Check us out online!
www.athinkingchurch.org



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.