

March 2022



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 is limiting use for services or meetings to 90 minutes or less, with masks mandatory, observing social distancing .

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

Office hours:

Kate Baird M-F, 9-3

Every Sunday: Weekly Service in the Sanctuary at 11:00am (livestreamed on Facebook)

Mar. 1: Mardi Gras

Mar. 2: Ash Wednesday

Mar. 7: Higher Ground, 10:00am , 210 E. Bessemer

Mar. 7-11 UNCG Spring Break

Mar. 8: Session Meeting, 6:00pm, via Zoom

Mar. 11: Out of The Garden

Mar. 13: Pennies 4 Hunger

Mar.13: SPRING AHEAD

Mar.17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar. 20: Spring Equinox

Mar. 26: Monthly Work Day: 9:30am—12:00pm

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

Covenant Community Caring Jane Cauthen

“After every storm there’s a rainbow, no matter how long it takes to show up”. At Covenant, we don’t have to wait for rainbows. Our members and attendees are dedicated to providing their inward lights and having the desire to befriend and strengthen the life in one another, one heart at a time.

The COVID pandemic increased the need to organize some additional caring, so The Calling Tree was formed to maintain the community that we experience. Twenty-two members and attendees volunteered to make calls with around seventy other congregation members, to enable them to continue contact with PCoC. It also prepared volunteers for sharing with others beyond our own community. Jane Cauthen, Mark Sandlin, and Kate Baird were very involved with the initial organizing and provided support for the effort.

One of the volunteer callers shared the following about taking part: “It has turned out to be a most gratifying experience. A one-on-one conversation gives the opportunity to take the time to really hear what the other person is saying. Thanks for this opportunity to better know and be supportive of each other during this time of concern and isolation.”

Covenant has had, for several years, volunteers referred to as “Providers”. They have been providing a sense of empathy, caring, and love for those in crisis situations, convalescence, and in setting which include hospitals (when permitted), nursing homes, and to those home-bound. During 2021, there was a monthly average of seven to eight providers responding to various needs.

At one point, Providers were referred to as “Angels” and the entire congregation was invited to accept the title, also. They were told that the reward would be “Stars in their Crowns”, if they had space for additional ones. John Calvin has given us a definition of angels: “The dispensers and administrators of the Divine beneficence toward us”.

A big thank you goes to everyone who has provided light to Covenant’s people, and beyond, so that we can celebrate the maintenance of our community. This means that we celebrate the Creation and the Creator of us all.

Sunday Service Information, March 2022

March 6:

Host: Ralph Cauthen
Music: Joel Landau
Guest Speaker: Lynice Pinkard
Ushers: Celia & Frank Starling

March 13: *Spring Ahead! Time Change!*

Host: Ralph Cauthen
Music: Emily Stewart
Guest Speaker: Lynice Pinkard
Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

March 20: *Spring Equinox*

Host: Ralph Cauthen
Music: Nancy Pitkin
Guest Speaker: Kate Guthrie
Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber

March 27:

Host: Ralph Cauthen
Music: Jim Sharkey
Guest Speaker: Reggie Weaver
Ushers: Celia & Frank Starling

Sunday Study Group

The group is holding weekly discussions on topics introduced by members at it researches the next book to study. Join the group each week at 9:15am via Zoom. Dial: 1 (301) 715-8592. Meeting ID: 81475781407; Passcode : 895894

Higher Ground Breakfast, Mar. 7th

Join our volunteers at 10:00am on March 3rd at Higher Ground, 210 East Bessemer Ave., to make and serve breakfast to this community group for those with HIV/AIDS. Contact Sue Stinson to volunteer: suestinson1968@yahoo.com.

In*Spire Meditation Each Tuesday

In*Spire Meditation meets every Tuesday at noon via Zoom for 20 minutes of meditation. It's free, for the community, and led by members. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79010991300?pwd=YTJpWm9WZWZHVENKdoFHbHh5U3Zxdzo9>

Out of the Garden Project

Join our volunteers this month on March 11th to help prepare food boxes for this community outreach to needy families in our area. Contact Charlie Finch to volunteer at : tarheelcolonel@gmail.com. Donations welcome!

Outreach Donations Needed!

The Outreach Committee needs donation of items in short supply at the center that stocks good for the Afghan Resettlement Program. A PCoC collection effort will take place in March for colanders and cutting boards of all sizes; there's a box on the back table in the Sanctuary to receive donations of new or gently used items. They will be delivered to New Garden Friends' Meeting at the end of the month. The Outreach Committee thanks all donors in advance for your support and generosity!

Wednesday Night Meditation

PCoC's tenant The Ahava Collective, led by Nichol Walters, is beginning a new meditation group here in Room 203 on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. There are featured guest speakers and leaders. The group is free, but does welcome donations to support the effort. On Wednesday, March 2nd, the guest speaker will be a representative from the Triad Health Project. All are invited to join!

Monthly Work Day, Mar. 26th

It's 9:30 to noon on Saturday, Mar. 26th; meet in the Fellowship Hall. This month's efforts will focus on cleaning and sprucing up the interior and grounds. Many hands will make light work.

Session Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2022

OLD BUSINESS

Building Open/COVID Review: Sierra Club requested a 90–120-minute meeting time frame. The Session voted to change meeting guidelines to allow a 90 minute limit on indoor meetings, with other protocols (masking, distancing) kept in place.

The Session voted to re-establish the COVID task force, to be headed by Ann Finch.

Strategic Work Plan: A date for a meeting on this will be set at the March Session meeting.

Building Decision Update: Janet expected a draft proposal by Dr. Palmer by Feb. 17th. Bryan scheduled a called Session (Zoom) meeting to discuss the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

Homeless Policy: Martha circulated a draft policy on handling church interactions with homeless people. A Task Force will refine the policy, with Nancy as convenor, and Janet, Kate and Clara as members. Pastor Mark Sandlin will also take part on his return from sabbatical.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource Committee: Nancy reported a budget error from December which changed our loss for the year from \$26K to \$38K. The Session approved compensation to Rev. Pinkard for the two cancelled services in January.

Worship: Ralph was thanked for his masterful leading of the service in February, when we awaited the arrival of the speaker.

Spiritual Formation: the Sunday Study group continues under Ann's leadership and is deciding on its next book.

Building & Grounds: Don sent an updated version of the Strategic Work Plan with updates on roof repairs and on fan coil repairs on the HVAC units.

Interior: Workday was scheduled for 26 February; March workday is March 26th.

Communications: Ruth shared brochure changes, noting that the brochure would be updated and disseminated as changes are made to the scheduling.

Fellowship: the Committee has been re-formed, with Joyce as chair, and Joy as co-chair. Memorial service for Bobbie Cox is scheduled for 2:00pm on April 30th.

Outreach: the Committee set a workplan for the year, focusing on Afghan refugees.

Personnel: Pastor Mark's evaluation will take place after he returns in April. The committee is working on drafting a description for the Sexton position, with advice from Don Jensen.

Congregational Care Report for January, 2022: Jane Cauthen made 10 contacts (visits, phone called) with members and attendees. Six Providers made 15 contacts. We continue to have a very caring and dedicated community as meaningful responses are provided to our members and attendees.

Join us Online for Services and Fellowship

On Sundays at 11:00am, our service is broadcast live at these sites:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar8ZVg434DF1uTtL86JEhg> (YouTube)

<https://www.facebook.com/PCoC.GSO/>

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



Sunday, March 13th!



Sunday, March 20th!

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



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