

August 2022



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:
Also see Page 4 for
livestream sites

Important Dates ...

Office hours:

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

Aug. 9: Session Mtg., 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

August 12: Out of The
Garden Project

August 14: Pennies 4 Hunger

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

August ?? : Wed. Night
Dinner, 6:00pm, Date TBA

Aug. 28: Ice Cream Social
following Sunday Service



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter from Reverend Sandlin

Dear PCoC family,

I've said it before and I'll say it again, we are living in very unusual times. Not just unusual, but also difficult. It makes me very glad we have a community like PCoC.

I believe that a big part of what makes these times difficult is change. I'm sure that you, like me, hear people talk about the “new normal.” Sometimes they even follow it up with “whatever that is” (I know I do). Like some of you, I actually tend to like change. I see it as full of possibilities for learning new things and creativity. Other folks, understandably, aren't the biggest fans of change.

Imagine the difficulties of remaining in healthy relationships in the midst of change when the relationships are a mixed bag of emotions when it comes to change. Then, imagine needing to go through even more big change – like possibly selling a church building so that we can actually remain in it. (It sounds oxymoronic doesn't it?)

One of the big issues that pops up in situations like that is anxiety. Not just for the folks who aren't the biggest fans of change, but for everyone in relationship with each other – like in a church. Anxiety has an interesting impact on people and organizations. Without acknowledging the anxiety and working to overcome it, it can lead to all sorts of undesirable things like rumors, “closed door” conversations, hurt relationships, and even the end of what the organization once was (which brings in even more change).

I'm glad that in times like these we have each other. We are a community that cares for and trusts each other and we are working together to make a healthy path for all of us through all of this change. A community that is more than capable of recognizing the anxiety in a way that doesn't lead to all those undesirable things.

One key element to reduce (or at least manage) the anxiety is open communication, such as the update you will find in this newsletter about where the “Revisioning Team” is in the process you set us on when you voted to investigate the possibility of selling the property and remaining in the building as a church body. We also will be calling regular Congregational Meetings to keep you updated on the process and to provide opportunities for questions. Trust this, no decision will be made without a vote from the congregation. That is our healthiest way forward.

I'm excited to be on this journey with you and am thankful to be with so many caring and capable folks as we do this together.

PEACE! Mark

Sunday Service Information, August 2022

August 7 :

Music: Joel Landau
Ushers: Clara Kelly & Barry Barber

August 21:

Music: David Cray
Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling

August 14: *Pennies 4 Hunger*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling

August 28: *Ice Cream Social*

Music: Sandie Blocker
Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

Revisioning Committee Update on Building Sale Progress

Members and Friends of PCOC:

We will share monthly updates here in the PCoC Newsletter and will also provide regular updates on Sunday mornings at the Announcement portion of the service.

Our goal is sell the property with concessions to our expectations re: use of the building. Primary is that we will lease back space to carry on our functions as a Presbyterian church. Secondary is that it be a positive meeting place for the community in ways that respect the neighborhood and the history of the area.

As to process, as that is the key: we have been meeting with direction from both David Kolosieke and Dennis Quaintance, and are currently working in small groups to create the Request for Proposals that will be directed at potential developers.

We have taken a few developers through the building to see what they think about the uses and potential for the property. Favorable comments and interest were expressed.

We are working to determine a basic value for the property and are planning to recommend a set of our ideas about potential uses for the building organized as “desirable”, “acceptable” and “unacceptable”.

We are working with Presbytery to understand the process for transferring the property from them to PCOC, for sale purposes. They are very interested in our project and see it as favorable.

The College Hill Neighborhood Association has met with us to discuss the future of the property.

We are close to meeting with serious potential developers. One will be chosen. A contract will be written with the assist of a special attorney advocating for our interests.

All will be shared with this congregation and with Salem Presbytery before anything is settled.

Outreach Committee Update

The Outreach Committee continues to work to keep PCOC moving forward as a Hunger Action Congregation. Two monthly efforts - Out of the Garden and Pennies for Hunger provide much needed help in relieving food insecurity. A donation of \$300 has been made to Green for Greens, which increases SNAP buying power at Corner Market or the Greensboro Farmers Market. In August we will be kicking off the school year by holding a school supplies drive and a Spartan Open Pantry food/toiletry drive. Boxes will be placed in the back of the sanctuary to receive donations for each group. Thanks to all for your generosity!

Session Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2022

Special Report by Joyce Powers on status of negotiations regarding church buildings:

The Visioning group is working with David Kolosieke and others and usually meets once a week. Some highlights of the “to-do” list:

- * The Presbytery supports this process and will provide a letter of support when we have a contract.
- * We need to prepare a list of our wants before meeting with a contractor with possible uses of the property and whether we consider them desirable or undesirable.
- *We will deal with the City of Greensboro at the appropriate time.
- *Get local people involved in the process.
- *Get a loan from the congregation for \$50 - \$100K to pay a professional to help us with the paperwork and planning and to keep PCoC open during the transition. Nancy said she would keep separate accounts for this so will not confuse the church money with the loan money.
- *Provide building/grounds tours for interested parties.
- *Will have Attorney General of NC involved at appropriate time.
- *Take property photos before, during, and after as documentation; get both stills and videos so we can make a video of the activity and as part of our celebration of the process.
- *David K. will help prepare a RFP (Request for Proposals) to be shared with interested developers.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Open/COVID Review: The COVID Team recommends we continue to wear masks indoors and for vaccinations to be kept up to date. Will revisit this policy in September.

Homeless persons policy: Nancy, Janet, Clara, Kate, Mark, and Martha worked on this. We'll need to reconsider this policy when we sell the buildings, so this is a short-term policy. The Policy was accepted. (Please contact the church office to view a copy.)

Mark's report on Sabbatical: Mark's manuscript of Progressive Prayers is with the publisher.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource Committee: The committee is accepting applications for the Farrell scholarship.

Worship: Still working on getting a Music Director position.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Study group is reading AJ Levine's *Sermon on the Mount*.

Building & Grounds: Strategic Work Plan progress noted; Tara's memorial is underway.

Fellowship: Ralph & Joy. Ice Cream Social planned for 28 August; Vance held a Wednesday Night Potluck on July 13 and hopes to make them a monthly feature. We may restart the Music on Mendenhall series, to be led by Beth Sheffield.

Outreach: The Faith Action ID drive on 18 June was a success with 50+ IDs made. Pennies for Hunger campaign raised \$153 in June.

Personnel: Sexton position on hold. Staff evaluations ongoing. Proposal for Music Director position. Congregational Care Report from Fred: 9 providers and 31 contacts.

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/>

<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>

And see us on Meetup.com at: [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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