

December 2022

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

See Page 4 for
livestream sites

Important Dates ...

Office hours:

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

Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17:
Spartan Open Pantry Food
Drive, main parking lot,
10:00am—12:00pm

Dec. 9: Out of The
Garden Project

Dec. 9: Fiddle & Bow Con-
cert, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Dec. 11: Pennies 4 Hunger

Dec. 13: Session Mtg.,
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Dec. 16: Unity holiday party,
Fellowship Hall, 6pm

Dec. 21: Wed. Night Dinner,
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Dec. 23 & Dec. 26: Federal
Holidays!

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

Dec. 25: Christmas Day
Joint Service with Unity,
11:00am, Sanctuary



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter from Reverend Sandlin

My Grown Up Christmas List:

I want everyone to be loved deeply by someone and I want them to know they are, with no doubt. Life is hard enough without that.

I want the childhood lesson of sharing to carry over into adulthood. It could solve homelessness, hunger, and poverty in an instant.

I want the love of money and power to be overcome with love for each other and a recognition of the value of every life.

I want us each to see we are much more alike than different and, because of it, always focus on the similarities.

I want there never to be another child who is made to feel forgotten, unwanted, unloved.

I want it to be impossible to hide heartache behind a smile, so that we can always know who to embrace.

I want us all to see that life is the gift itself. Not the stuff wrapped in pretty paper this season. Not the money we earn. Not the job we do. Not the lifestyle we lead. Not the treasures we store up.

Life – each minute – each second – each moment – is a gift. I want peace. For me. For you. For our communities. For the world.

I know it's unrealistic, but it is also beautiful. I happen to believe that something that beautiful is worth wishing for, working towards, and believing in.

PEACE!

Mark

Sunday Service Information, December 2022

December 4:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch

December 11: *Pennies 4 Hunger*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling



December 18:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

December 25: *Christmas Day—Joint Service w/ Unity!*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber

News & Notes

The December PCoC Fellowship Monthly Dinner will be served on Wednesday, Dec. 21st, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us to celebrate the fun! Dinner will be followed by a joint choir and handbell rehearsal at 7:00pm in Room 206, in preparation for our annual Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm on Dec. 24th. Our Christmas Day service will be shared with Unity, in the Sanctuary at 11:00am. There will be no monthly Work Day in December. And Barbara North would like to thank all the volunteers who helped decorate the building for the holidays (hint: more elves will be needed to store it all after the holidays, date TBA).

Session Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2022

David Kolosiekie gave a Re-Visioning Committee report: the Request For Proposals brochure was mailed to selected people and organizations; we are following up on with emails and phone calls. Will also be news articles going out; advertising is under consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

Elder Nominating Committee: A committee has been formed and is working on nominations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource Committee: We are over budget in several area; working on 2023 budget. Committees need to contact Nancy regarding their 2023 budgets.

Worship: Planning a joint worship service with Unity on Christmas Day, 11:00am in our sanctuary.

Spiritual Formation: Sunday Study Group continues to read Gary Zukav's Soul Stories.

Building & Grounds: Work plan contains updates on continuing building work. Lawn maintenance by Michael continues through December. Donny Kelly will make HVAC repairs.

Bonus Request: A special bonus request is being reviewed by the Resource Committee.

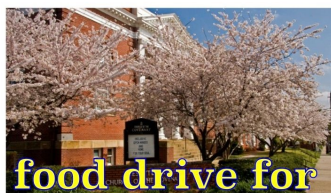
Interior: The committee plans future clean-up projects and set Sunday, Nov. 20th as the date for holiday decorating. Poinsettias will arrive in mid-December.

Fellowship: Longtime member Jim McKenzie passed away on Nov. 10th and a memorial service was held on Nov. 19th at 3:00pm. Nov 20th was a joint lunch with Unity.

Outreach: CROP Walk raised \$1,450; Pennies for Hunger has raised nearly \$1,000. Nancy has retained the services of a stuffed cow (a Holy Cow) to promote the PCUSA fund supplying cows to needy people in poor countries.

Personnel: Personnel evaluations are still ongoing.

Spartan Open Pantry Food Drive



Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
501 S. Mendenhall St.
and The College Hill
Neighborhood Association

food drive for

**Spartan Open Pantry
serving UNCG students in need**

Saturdays, December 3, 10 & 17, 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

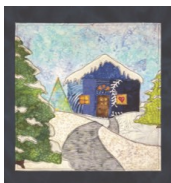


Help make Christmas merry for UNCG students in need with your donations of shelf-stable canned and dried foods; see the suggested list at left. Bring them by on Saturdays in Dec. to the main parking lot between 10:00am—12:00pm where our volunteers will be waiting to receive them. They'll have candy canes to share and will toast you a marshmallow or two at their fire pit.



2021 Collection Event!

Honor Cards and Poinsettias Available Now



Honor Cards are available in the Sanctuary after each service. This year, we're featuring the Habitat for Humanity card, with artwork by Joyce Powers' talented daughter! Poinsettias are also available to purchase for \$10 each; sign-up sheets are in the back of the Sanctuary. They'll be available to take home after the Christmas Day service. Get yours now!



Revisioning Committee Update

The Revisioning Committee is hosting building tours for prospective buyers; one took place in November, with several more scheduled in December. Contact the church office for more information.

Unwrapped Gifts, by Joyce Powers

As a child growing up in Michigan when chilly October rolled around my entire self focused on Christmas, body and soul. The first snowfall would occur and the air became crisp and clear. AND the Sears Christmas Catalog would arrive. OH JOY!!!! To peruse the pages and select my heart's desire. I still remembering the most cherished items: a very tall doll and a rhinestone bracelet! Well, as you can imagine, I spent the months of October, November, and December almost vibrating with excitement. I never received those desired gifts. But as a lifelong Pollyanna I was nevertheless thrilled with the gifts, unknowable until unwrapped, that I opened up on Christmas morning. The thrill and hope of Christmastime continues with me to this day, realizing that Christmas is more than the gifts I desire, and more about what I can give to others. So, here I am, in the midst of our Revisioning Project at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in 2022, feeling those Christmas time feelings; a frisson present with me during all my waking hours. The feeling at this moment has little to do with any date on the calendar, and everything to do with the excitement I feel about our future and the possibilities, still unwrapped, of what our gift to the City of Greensboro and to the College Hill community will be. Unwrapped gifts can be so very exciting.

Concert(s) in December!

The 'Boro Sessions and Fiddle & Bow Society present Randal Bays with guitarist Don Penzien on Friday, Dec. 9th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. Randal Bays is an American-born Irish style fiddler and plays around the world. Don Penzien has long been a top-flight performer of traditional Irish music. Advance tickets are available on [Evenbrite.com](https://www.evenbrite.com), or can be purchased at the door.



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>

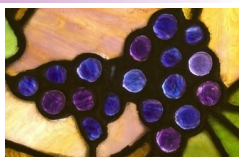
And see us on Meetup.com at: [Meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant](https://www.meetup.com/Presbyterian-Church-of-the-Covenant)



SCAN ME

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

www.athinkingchurch.org



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