

January 2024



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 ...

2024 Office hours:

Rev. Dr. Sandlin:
M appt. only
W, Th., 9-3
Kate Baird: M-F, 9-3

Jan. 1: New Year's Day,
office closed

Jan. 4—9, Rev. Sandlin va-
cation

Jan. 6: Work Day, 9:30am

Jan. 6: Unity Memorial Ser-
vice, Fellowship Hall, 4pm

Jan. 9: Sierra Club, 6-8pm

Jan. 10: Session Mtg.,
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Jan. 12: Out of the Garden
Project

Jan. 14: Pennies 4
Hunger Collection

Jan. 21: Sunday Fellowship
Brunch, 12:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

Jan. 27: Work Day, 9:30am,
Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter from Reverend Sandlin

Happy New Year!

It's a New Year and, for me, a new year always brings to mind new beginnings.

As you know, new beginnings can be both exciting and daunting. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown. In other words, it's not always for the faint of heart.

2024 will certainly be a year of new beginnings for us at Church of the Covenant. At some point, we'll be temporarily moving out of the building while the new owners upgrade the place and bring a bit of new life to it. That's certainly the beginning of something new for us – exciting and daunting, for sure.

The great news is that the building is not the church, we are. And we will have each other, the church, throughout the whole process. For me, that makes the whole thing seem just a bit less daunting. I hope it does for you as well, because if so, we get to lean into the exciting part and that is one of the best things about new beginnings!

PEACE!

Mark

Sunday Service Information, January 2024

January 7:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Usher: Clara Kelly

January 21:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

January 14: *Pennies 4 Hunger*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Usher: Celia Starling

January 28:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Usher: Clara Kelly



Session Meeting Minutes, December 12, 2023

NEW BUSINESS:

New Member Candidate: Tekiera Shane Key; Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Elder Nominating Committee: Committee still working on process, hope to have candidate list by end of month.

OLD BUSINESS

Revisoning Update/offer on buildings: LOI was sent to Beauwright, heard back from them with questions. David Kolosieke will meet with them regarding this. Still expecting that process will be completed around middle of 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resource Committee: No surprises in the summary, reserves continue to are dwindle. Committee presented "Budget Worksheet" giving best guesstimates for figures for next year. Good news is that pledges are up - people have stepped up! Motion to accept Budget Worksheet as next year's Budget passed unanimously.

Worship: Communion on Dec. 17th. A new round table was purchased for this event.

Spiritual Formation: Sunday Study Group still meeting via Zoom, reading Amy-Jill Levine's *The Bible with and Without Jesus*.

Buildings and Grounds: December 30th workday planned for grounds; an interior work day is planned for Jan. 6th, 2024, to take down holiday decorations.

Fellowship: Committee proposes a monthly covered dish meal following the Sunday service on the 3rd Sunday of each month (while we are still in the building). Will be sure to coordinate with Unity.

Outreach: Committee has been busy: Out of The Garden Project; Pennies for Hunger (over \$600); Vandalia Presbyterian help; raised money for 6 goats to be provided through Presbyterian program; served 40+ lunches for Habitat workers; provided funds for People to People Liaison; SOP drive; selling Habitat Honor Cards. Ralph reported that support to Higher Ground continues by PCoC members.

Personnel: Met with music director Stephanie Lindley.

Congregational Care Report: In November, 9 providers made 59 contacts.

Spartan Open Pantry Food Drive



Thanks again to all the donors who gave food and toiletries for the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry in December. Over 1,700 items were contributed. This effort was the brain child of Marcia Rhodes several years ago, and we thank you, Marcia! And many thanks to the marvelous volunteers, headed by Joyce Powers, who braved the elements to collect and organize donations, and who'll deliver them all. Nancy Schaefer, Clara Kelly, Michael

Monthly Brunch & Lunch To Begin in January

In this coming year of transformation for PCoC, the Fellowship Committee felt that keeping up personal contact with each other is important, so a program of monthly covered-dish lunches is being born, to begin this January 21st following the 11:00am service., They'll take place every month on the third Sunday of the month. We'll begin with a Brunch menu; a sign-up sheet is on the rear table in the Sanctuary so you can plan what to make/bring for everyone to enjoy. We plan to continue the brunches/lunches as long as we're in the building, and continual creation of a supportive community will help in achieving other goals. Suggestion on ways and means to accomplish this fellowship in 2024 are welcome and can be emailed to the church office or to Fellowship Committee members Joy Saleeby, Joyce Powers, Charlene Holler, or Ralph Cauthen. Jan. 21st!

News & Notes, Events & Outreaches



Thanks to Barbara North, Jim North, Clara Kelly, and the volunteers who transformed our building and Sanctuary with holiday decorations. We enjoyed the beauty and appreciate your hard work. Volunteers are needed on Saturday, Jan. 6th at 9:30 to help remove the decorations and store them for next Christmas. Contact Barbara North: woodnotes2004@yahoo.com Thanks, also, to our awesome music director Stephanie Lindley, who worked long and hard to give us such lovely music throughout

the year and especially on Christmas Eve, with the handbell choir, the singers, and the guest musicians. Rev. Sandlin will be on vacation from Jan. 4-9; guest speaker Rev. Katie Todd will officiate at the Jan. 7th Sunday service.

Ongoing outreaches: plastic grocery bags for Vandalia Presbyterian's food pantry; there's a donation box at the back of the Sanctuary. This month's volunteer day at the Out of The Garden Project is Jan. 12th. Contact Charlie Finch: tarheelcolonel@gmail.com. Our monthly collection for Pennies for Hunger is Sunday, Jan. 14th. And don't forget our new Fellowship Brunch on Sunday, Jan. 21st!



And congratulations once again to member Rebekah Chandler, who's earned her Master's Degree from UNCG! Many folks have supported Rebekah on this journey, and we're proud of you.



A Message from People to People Liaison

People to People Liaison wishes to thanks the staff, Session leadership, and the congregation of PCoC for its years of support to children and families of war-torn Congo through PTPL. Most recently, your support has been though a financial contribution to support one high-school student for an academic year, and furnishing a site for board meetings. In the past, PTPL outreach celebrations have been held in the PCoC fellowship hall to widen community support for the school tuition program, the vocational training efforts, and PTPL's small microcredit program. PCoC members Marcia Rhodes and Ralph Cauthen currently serve on the PTPL board; other members have become individual supporters. Thank all of you for this relationship. Ralph Cauthen, Vice-Chair of PTPL.

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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