

March 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

**Mar. 3: Work Day, 9:30am,
Fellowship Hall**

**Mar. 5: In*Spire Meditation
meeting & brown bag
lunch to follow**

**Mar. 8: Out of the Garden
Project**

Mar. 11; SPRING AHEAD!

**Mar. 11: Pennies 4
Hunger Collection**

Mar. 12: Sierra Club

**Mar. 13: Session Mtg.,
6:00pm, Fellowship Hall**

**Mar. 17: Sunday Fellow-
ship Brunch, 12:00pm,
Fellowship Hall**

**Mar. 24: Communion Sun-
day**

Mar. 29: Easter Holiday

Mar. 31: Easter Sunday

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



The Covenant Compendium

A Letter from Reverend Sandlin

Life is full of unforeseen setbacks. The good news is, we get to decide how to navigate those setbacks. We can let them be a bit overwhelming and allow them to pull us down, we can power through them, we can learn from them and move forward in a more informed way, we can even act like they never happened.

Those who were at the last service in February heard that we've had a bit of a setback in the sale of the building. It is certainly not the news any of us wanted to hear, but I have to say I am incredibly proud of the way the Revisioning Committee navigated the news. Obviously, no one was thrilled about the news, but they decided to learn what they could from it and continue to move forward.

Perseverance is a spiritual gift. It's talked about far too little in churches. Trusting in yourself and the well-informed decisions you have made to set you on the path you are on is a key to a healthy life. At the same time, accepting new information and making adjustments based on it is essential for continuing forward.

Our Revisioning Committee did exactly that. Within weeks of receiving the news we've been able to revision the path forward and have already made adjustments to insure our success and the way forward for Church of the Covenant. That, my friends, is the kind of spiritual community we should all be proud to be a part of.

PEACE!

Mark

Sunday Service Information, March 2024

March 3:

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Usher: Cecelia Starling

March 17: *Fellowship Lunch*

Music: Stephanie Lindley, Betsy Bevan
Ushers: Clara Kelly

March 31: *Easter Sunday*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Ushers: Clara Kelly



March 10: *Pennies 4 Hunger AND Spring Ahead!*

Music: Stephanie Lindley, Brian Blauch
Usher: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox

March 24: *Communion Sunday*

Music: Stephanie Lindley
Usher: Celia Starling



Session Meeting Minutes, February 13, 2024

NEW BUSINESS:

Committee Leadership Review: Margaret has agreed to head the Personnel Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Revising Update: One of the 4 groups that sent the original LOI, Beauwright, has said it cannot be part of the process for this year, so a search is on for a replacement investor. The Committee is working on several possible replacements, but this means that the beginning of the reconstruction process will probably be pushed back several months. The other groups are still interested, and Flywheel is still helping with this process also.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Resource Committee: Income is down, as expected.

Spiritual Formation: The Sunday Morning Study Group is reading Neale Donald Walsch's Tomorrow's God. The group meets on Zoom so all are invited to participate.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Cable ordered a part to fix the heating system, but this may not solve the continual problem of overheating of some buildings.

Grounds: We're preparing for the mowing season and working on the grounds.

Interior: The Preservation Committee is on hold due to the uncertainty about when we'll need to move.

Fellowship: Monthly congregational lunches continue.

Outreach: The letter-writing campaign regarding legislation for stopping hunger was a tremendous success, due to Nancy's good work in designing the letters and cards and in providing clear instructions. The letters were mailed in February. A congregational survey is taking place to form ideas for other outreach projects. Ongoing projects continue (Vandalia's food pantry and the Out of the Garden Project). We will provide Habitat for Humanity luncheons for dates in May and September of this year.

Congregational Care report: In January, 7 providers made 63 contacts.

The monthly Presbytery meeting was attended by Mark via Zoom. There were no big votes, but he thought the important part was the beginning of the leadership by Tony De La Rosa, an openly gay man, as General Presbyter. His leadership and work has been so outstanding that even conservative members of the Presbytery voted to welcome him during the search process.

The installation of Class of 2026 Session members Margaret Foley and Barbara North will take place during the Sunday service soon.

In*Spire Meditation March 5th Meeting and Brown Bag Lunch

Join our mediation group at Noon on Mar. 5th in the Sanctuary for a guided 20 minute meditation, followed by a brown bag lunch gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshment for the spirit and the body!

Spring Ahead on March 10th!

It's that wonderful time of year again; time to set the clocks forward one hour. While we hate time changes, it's still the way we welcome and acknowledge the coming of Spring. We'll enjoy more evening daylight and warmer temperatures and blooming trees and flowers. So rejoice!

March 17th Fellowship Meal Following the Service

.The Fellowship Committee invites you to the March monthly fellowship meal following our Sunday service on Sunday, March 17th. Please bring an entrée, side, salad, or dessert to share with the group. Drinks will be provided. Contact Ralph Cauthen for more information: rbcauthen@aol.com

March 24th is Communion Sunday

.This year we are observing Communion Sundays once every quarter; it will be served on Sunday, March 24th during the service and everyone is welcome to take part, especially visitors and guests.

Monthly Work Day on Saturday, March 30th

Donate a morning of your time, 9:30am to 12:00pm, to help us keep the building and grounds in top condition and attractive to our congregation, tenants, and visitors. Meet in the Fellowship Hall (coffee provided!) to check the monthly chore list; could be indoors, outdoors (weather permitting), and you go at your own pace according to your abilities. Volunteers always welcome! Contact Clara Kelly for more information or to volunteer: clerkelly@gmail.com

News, Notes, Events, & Outreaches

The Outreach Committee wants to hear from YOU! What initiatives are you interested in seeing PCoC undertake through outreach in 2024: What projects would you get involved in? We are a Hunger Action Congregation and focus a lot of our efforts there, but know that there are other needs and issued. Please share your ideas with us! A survey will be a available on the back table in the Sanctuary-please take one, fill it out, and return it to the designated box. Thanks in advance for your participation! Ongoing monthly outreaches: donate plastic grocery bags for Vandalia Presbyterian's food pantry; there's a donation box at the back of the Sanctuary. PCoC volunteer day at Out of The Garden Project is Mar. 9th. Contact Charlie Finch: tarheelcolonel@gmail.com. On Mar. 11th, we collect donations for to the PCUSA hunger initiative, Pennies for Hunger Please designate P4H on the memo line of your checks; cash contributions are also welcome.

Reminder: Inclement Weather Procedures

Service cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced via email, posted on our Facebook site, and will be listed on WFMY (Channel 2, CBS) and WXII (Channel 12, NBC). If county schools are closed, the church office will likely be closed; email the office or leave a voicemail message.

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)

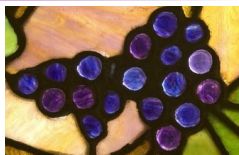


SCAN ME



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Check us out online!
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