

April 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

Apr. 8: ECLIPSE!

Apr. 9: In\*Spire Meditation  
meeting & brown bag  
lunch to follow

Apr. 9: Sierra Club

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

Apr. 12: Out of the Garden  
Project

Apr. 14: Pennies 4  
Hunger Collection

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

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

*Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*



The Covenant Compendium

***A Letter from Reverend Sandlin***

Spring is a time of renewal. It reminds us of the new life that is on the other side of what seemed like an ending and it reminds us of how beautiful that is. In this time of endings, transitions, and renewal for Church of the Covenant, I hope we will continue to love and support each other on this new adventure.

For some reason Spring almost always causes me to turn to poetry. So, for inspiration this season...

When April Comes            By Virna Sheard

When April comes with softly shining eyes,  
And daffodils bound in her wind-blown hair,  
Oh, she will coax all clouds from out the skies,  
And every day will bring some sweet surprise, --  
The swallows will come swinging through the air  
When April comes!

When April comes with tender smile and tear,  
Dear dandelions will gild the common ways,  
And at the break of morning we will hear  
The piping of the robins crystal clear --  
While bobolinks will whistle through the days,  
When April comes!

When April comes, the world so wise and old,  
Will half forget that it is worn and grey;  
Winter will seem but as a tale long told --  
Its bitter winds with all its frost and cold  
Will be the by-gone things of yesterday,  
When April comes!

PEACE! Mark

## ***Sunday Service Information, April 2024***

**April 7:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Cecelia Starling

**April 21: *Fellowship Lunch***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Ushers: Clara Kelly

**April 14: *Pennies 4 Hunger***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Nancy Schaefer

**April 28:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Celia Starling

## ***Session Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2024***

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Locking up church:** Nancy will set up a schedule for Session members to assist in the weekly lock-up of the building after Sunday services.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Revisioning Update/offer on buildings:** Flywheel is talking to two potential investors; the church is talking with another investor who would be interested if the first is not. A Timeline for obtaining the Letter of Intent (LOI) will be clearer after these meetings.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Resource Committee:** The 2024 budget was based on a timeline of PCoC being in the building for 6 months and then out for 6 months, so the delay in getting the LOI is making the budget process difficult. Income is down; the Mennonite church will move out at end of March after 22 years here. After Gateway and Unity are still looking for locations.

**Worship:** Committee met in March; ideas for enhancing the worship service were discussed. Looking forward to adjustments to music program. Discussed possibilities related to space use of the Sanctuary post-sale/renovation.

**Spiritual Formation:** Sunday Study Zoom group is still reading *Tomorrow's God*.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Mark Cable is working on heating issues and investigating why the water bill has suddenly doubled; the assumption is that there is a leak somewhere. **Grounds:** Michael is mowing again. Tara's garden has gotten a major expansion and looks great.

**Communications:** Still no leader for this, looking for suggestions.

**Fellowship:** Working on a fellowship meal list for the year; have the leaders set for the March and April Fellowship meals. Ralph has been in touch with members of the Muslim community and there is a possibility of a visit in April on the luncheon date.

**Outreach:** 10 people helped at Out of the Garden in March; 3 at Vandalia. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, reps from A Simple Gesture presented a program during the service. In April, we will collect donations for Presbyterian Giving. Have received survey responses on ideas for other outreach projects. Guidelines for being a Hunger Action Congregation have changed so we do not have to reply periodically. Had "thank you" letters from Out of the Garden Project and Habitat for Humanity. Will provide lunches to Habitat volunteers in May and September.

**Personnel:** Margaret is in the process of figuring out who is on the committee and getting it organized. Fred's Congregational Care Report: The number of contacts for February was 59 with 8 providers.



## ***In\*Spire Meditation April 9th Meeting and Brown Bag Lunch***

Join our mediation group at Noon on Apr. 9th 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!

## ***April 21st Fellowship Meal Following the Service***

The Fellowship Committee invites you to the April monthly fellowship meal following our Sunday service on Sunday, April 17th. A sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the Sanctuary; 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](mailto:rbcauthen@aol.com)

We recently participated in a dinner at the end of a day of fasting during Ramadan with members of the Islamic community. We extended an invitation to them to join our monthly fellowship meal and are hopeful some members might soon be our guests at the April or May luncheons, and ask that if your dish contains any pork products, they're clearly marked. Please make these guests welcome.

## ***Monthly Work Day on Saturday, April 27th***

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). 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](mailto:clerkelly@gmail.com)

## ***Financial News***

Through the end of February the church received nearly \$18,000 in contributions as well as \$13,740 in rent income. These collections are just over what was budgeted for the first part of 2024 and totaled \$32,130. Operating expenses totaled over \$43,500 which results in an operating loss of over \$11,400 for the first two months of 2024. Operating expenses include \$19,200 for building expenses, \$19,335 for payroll expenses and \$5,000 in other committee expenses. The church has a little over \$51,000 in reserves.

## ***Outreach News***

The Outreach committee thanks you for your participation in our survey. Our goal was to get input from the congregation about what kinds of projects you would like to see happen as well as your comments on projects we are currently supporting. Your responses will guide the committee as we make plans for future projects involving the congregation.

People to People Liaison wishes to thank the staff, Session leadership, and the congregation of the Presbyterian Church on the Covenant for its years of support to children and families of war-torn Congo through PTPL. Most recently your support has been through a financial contribution to support one high school student for an academic year, and furnishing a place for board meetings. In the past, PTPL outreach celebrations have been held in the fellowship hall to widen community support for the school tuition program, the vocational training efforts, and PTPL's small microcredit program. Your members Marcia Rhodes and Ralph Cauthen currently serve on the board. Other church members have become individual supporters.

## 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)

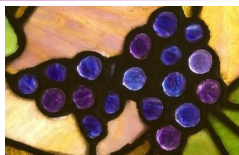


SCAN ME



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