

December 2024

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant



# The Covenant Compendium

### Inside this issue:

Services, Schedules,	2
PCoC Updates	3
Other News	4

**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
 11:00am in the Sanctuary  
 See P. 4 for livestream

### Important Nov. Dates ...

#### 2024 Office hours:

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

- 12/02: CHNA Mtg.: 7pm, Fellowship Hall
- 12/07: Food Drive, UNCG Spartan Open Pantry, main parking lot
- 12/08: Pennies 4 Hunger Collection
- 12/10: Sierra Club, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- 12/11: Session Mtg., 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- 12/13: Out of The Garden Project, 3:00pm
- 12/14: D&D AA Group Holiday Party, 5:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- 12/15: Fellowship Lunch & Carol Sing, 12:00pm Fellowship Hall
- 12/16: Outreach Comm. Mtg., 2:00pm; Fellowship Comm. Mtg., 3:00pm
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Service, 5pm, Sanctuary
- 12/24-12/26: Christmas , Office Closed

## A Letter from Reverend Sandlin

Christmas. A child born in a manger, no crib for his head. Sent into this world to teach us something about the value of every human soul – sent in as the least-of-these, born to a poor woman in a borrowed animal stall – sent to teach us that “the least-of-these” is simply a human construct created by the insiders to define themselves over and against people they see as somehow less than themselves – sent to show us what a life looks like when it starts from the assumption that all people are worthy of love.

That is not just a better story than the one now told, it’s downright rebellious. So, this Christmas I wish for you and for me a rebellious little Christmas.

A Christmas that encourages us to be advocates for those caught in the traps of hunger, homelessness, oppression, poverty, and war. Traps that are created by the powerful but mostly impact those who struggle. I wish for us a rebellious little Christmas that also encourages us to see that we too have difficult spaces in our lives. A Christmas that helps us see beyond the cleaned-up Christmas story of the present to the humble, unassuming, rebellious beginnings of Christianity – a baby born to an outsider – a baby who would teach the world about love, justice, equality, and compassion.

May your Christmas be full of love, justice, equality, compassion...and a little bit of rebelling against the Powers that Be! Merry Christmas!

PEACE!

Mark



## ***Sunday Service Information, December 2024 & Christmas Eve***

### **December 1:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Nancy Schaefer

### **December 8: *Pennies 4 Hunger***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Clara Kelly

### **December 15: *Fellowship Luncheon***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Celia Starling

### **December 22:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Nancy Schaefer

### **December 24: 5pm *Christmas Eve Service***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Clara Kelly

### **December 29:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Celia Starling



## ***Session Meeting Minutes, November 13th, 2024***

The official Session meeting was postponed until the regularly-scheduled December meeting, due to the passing of Rev. Sandlin's father. The other Session members still gathered for an informational meeting with a Salem Presbytery representative to hear information on navigating this transitional period at PCoC.

## ***Financial News***

The Church of the Covenant was very fortunate to receive an anonymous gift of \$25,000 in support of our work as a progressive, Christian church. This money will give us more time to find a suitable buyer for our property. This gift adds to other contributions to total \$145,830 through October 31st. Rent income totals \$65,300. Total income for 10 months totals \$216,050.

Our expenses total \$220,415 for a net loss of \$4,365. Expenses include \$96,835 for personnel, \$95,020 for building and grounds, \$11,890 for the music program, \$3,400 for outreach, \$7,415 for administrative expenses, and \$3,910 for worship, fellowship and other.

## ***Honor Cards: Habitat for Humanity/People to People Liaison***

Honor family members, friends, and colleagues by sending Habitat Greensboro's Holiday Card. If you prefer an e-card, you have the option to select from three different artworks created by residents at River Landing at Sandy Ridge. Each card is a minimum of \$5. All proceeds help to build homes, communities, and hope in Greensboro.

Cards will be for sale in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, Dec. 8th, and Sunday, Dec. 15th. They'll be for sale on weekdays at the church office. Buy E-cards at the Habitat website: <https://habitatgreensboro.org/holiday-card/>  
Also available are honor cards from People to People Liaison group, whom PCoC supports.

## December News & Events

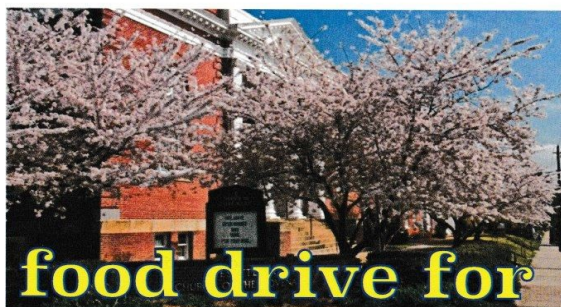
Come join us at the fire pit for marshmallows, fellowship, and candy canes as we collect donations for the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry On Saturday, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th, and Dec. 21st. Details below.

On Sunday, Dec. 15th, join us after the 11:00am service for a special Fellowship Lunch, festivities, and seasonal sing-along with Music Director Stephanie Lindley. Bring a covered dish, side, or dessert to share. Don't miss the fun!

The annual Christmas Eve service is on Dec. 24th at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary, with special seasonal music and message and candle-lighting to celebrate the season.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped decorate for the holidays! We will need volunteers on Saturday, Jan. 4th, to help take down and store the decorations for next year. Contact Barbara North to volunteer: woodnotes2004@gmail.com

## Spartan Open Pantry Food Drive



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

## Spartan Open Pantry serving UNCG students in need

Saturdays, December 7, 14 & 21, 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



The annual PCoC food drive/toiletries drive for donation to the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry has begun! See the list at right for needed items. Bring them to our volunteers in the main parking lot between 10am and 12pm on each Saturday before Christmas, Dec. 7, Dec. 14th, and Dec. 21st. Donations can also be brought to the Sanctuary on Sundays; collection boxes will be at the back.

On weekdays, donations can be dropped off at the church office.

Every year, your generosity has made our donations exceed the previous year, and we're hoping for the best year yet!

## Special Concert in January! Don't miss Flamy Grant!



**FLAMY GRANT**

“Catchy, rabble-rousing folk of the Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie variety.”

Nick Spacek,  
The Pitch Kansas City

“Her vocals soar... A mix of Wynona Judd smokiness and Dolly Parton realness. Her lyrics sparkle as brightly as her rhinestone jumpsuit.”

Andy Kaufman,  
Music Connection Magazine

**GREENSBORO, NC**  
**Unity in Greensboro +**  
**Presbyterian Church of the Covenant**  
**MON, JAN 27 • 7PM**  
**\$25 • ALL AGES**

## 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)

Check us out online! [www.athinkingchurch.org](http://www.athinkingchurch.org)



## Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

501 S. Mendenhall Street  
Greensboro NC 27403  
Phone: 336-275-6403  
E-mail: [pcoc2010@gmail.com](mailto:pcoc2010@gmail.com)



SCAN ME