

September 2025

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 P. 4 for livestream

2025 Office hours:

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

Kate Baird: M, W, Th, 9-3

9/01: Labor Day, office closed

9/10: Sierra Club, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

9/10: Session Mtg., 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

9/12: Out of the Garden Project, 3:00pm

9/14: Pennies 4 Hunger Collection

9/21: Potluck Lunch, 12pm, Fellowship Hall

9/22: Outreach Comm. Mtg., 2:00pm; Fellowship Comm. Mtg., 3:00pm

9/22 Autumn Equinox

9/27: Monthly Work Day

9/28: Communion Sunday



# The Covenant Compendium

## *A Letter from Reverend Sandlin*

Dear PCoC family,

This Sunday, Sept. 7th, is an important one for us. The Session has already said yes to selling our building, and now it's time for the whole congregation to vote. I know that carries a lot of emotions. This building has held our laughter, our tears, our prayers, and so many milestones in our lives. It's okay to feel both gratitude and sadness as we take this step.

But it's also a time of new beginnings. At the end of the year, we'll move across the street and start gathering in the house there. In some ways, we'll be going back to our roots — like the early church that gathered in homes, around tables, close enough to hear one another's stories and share life more intimately.

So yes, it's a goodbye. But it's also a hello. We carry the memories with us, and we step into a new season with hope and expectation. Through it all, Love holds us together.

PEACE!  
Mark

## ***Sunday Service Information, September 2025***

### **September 7:**

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Clara Kelly

### **September 21: *Monthly Potluck***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Nancy Schaefer

### **September 14: *Pennies 4 Hunger***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Celia Starling

### **September 28: *Communion Sunday***

Music: Stephanie Lindley  
Usher: Clara Kelly

## ***Outreach News***

Our fundraiser to purchase animals to be donated through PCUSA's Special Offerings/ Presbyterian Giving has provided a cow, a family of chickens, goats, piglets, and rabbits, complete with rabbit hutch.

The Outreach committee has concluded another successful donation drive for contributions of school supplies for Foust Elementary School. Supplies were delivered last month and were gratefully received.



## ***Save the Date—Annual Stewardship Luncheon***

The annual Stewardship Luncheon will take place on Sunday, October 19th, immediately following the 11:00am service. Please plan to attend and learn about future church efforts.

## ***CROP Walk 2025***

This year's CROP Walk will be on Sunday, Oct. 5th at 2 pm. Our team will be walking to raise money to end hunger ; this year's team is: Nancy Schaefer, Margaret Foley, Beth Latture, and Clara and Pat Kelly.

If you would like to join us or make an online donation, go to [greensborourbanministry.org](https://greensborourbanministry.org), and click on CROP Walk at the top of their home page. From there you can search for our team, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, and join or support our walkers.

If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to CROP Walk and give it directly to a walker or place in the offering basket during a Sunday service. Thank you!

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

Volunteers, donate a morning of your time, 9:30am to 12:00pm! Help us keep the building and grounds in top condition and attractive. Meet in the Fellowship Hall to see the monthly chore list. Email Clara Kelly: [clerkelly@gmail.com](mailto:clerkelly@gmail.com)

## ***Rev. Sandlin's September Sermon Series***

### **September Sermon Series**

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant with Rev. Dr. Mark Sandlin

#### **“What If?: Faith Beyond the Training Wheels”**

Bishop John Shelby Spong (one of my favorite theologians) had a wild talent for saying the quiet parts out loud. He'd ask the questions most pastors only whisper to their dogs at midnight: *What if the God we grew up with isn't real? What if faith is bigger, messier, and more beautiful than the rules we inherited? What if theism was just training wheels?*

This September (and the tiniest bit of October), we're taking Spong's daring “what ifs” and running with them. Each week, we'll dive into some of the newest and boldest work in theology (Queer, Liberation, Post-Theistic, and Eco-Theology) to ask questions that don't shrink faith but set it free.

#### **Week 1 (Sept 7): What if God isn't who we thought?**

Beyond the “man upstairs” to God as Love, the ground of being, the current pulling us toward each other.

#### **Week 2 (Sept 14): What if creeds were love songs, not loyalty oaths?**

From dogma as gatekeeping to poetry that sings of mystery and justice.

#### **Week 3 (Sept 21): What if prayer isn't begging?**

Prayer doesn't change God. Prayer changes people. And people change things.

#### **Week 4 (Sept 28): What if resurrection is love's refusal to die?**

Not resuscitation magic, but defiance of despair – Love rising again and again.

#### **Week 5 (Oct 5): What if Christianity isn't dying at all?**

Maybe the old scaffolding is falling away... so something freer, wilder, and more rooted in Love can rise.

Come ready to wrestle, wonder, and imagine. Because the real heresy isn't asking “what if?” The real heresy is refusing to love.



## ***After Gateway is having a Carnival!***

Alright , AGI Family, Mark your calendars! We are hosting our very first Carnival Fun Fair. It will be taking place on September 26, 2025.

There are going to be lots of fun activities and games:

Cake Walk (Fundraiser)  
 Food, Drinks and Sweets  
 Face Painting and Temporary Tattoo Sleeves  
 Sensory Wall  
 Arts Table  
 Duck Pond Game  
 Photo Booths  
 Petting Zoo  
 Dancing, Karaoke and so much more.

## ***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/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)

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**SCAN ME**