

December 2025



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

12/07: Special Joint Service w/ Citadel of Praise Church

12/09: Personnel Comm. Mtg, 6:00pm, Fship Hall

12/10: Session Mtg., 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

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

12/13: D&D AA Holiday Party, 5:00-7:00PM, Fship H

12/14: 11:00 Service; Pennies 4 Hunger; Music by Robin & Linda Willams

12/14: PCoC Holiday Potluck, 12:00pm, Fship Hall

12/19: AGI Holiday Party, Fship Hall, 9:00—12:00

12/22: Outreach Comm. Mtg., 2:00pm

12/24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm, Sanctuary

12/25: Christmas Day, church off. closed 12/25 & 12/26

12/28: Communion Sunday

12/31: PCoC Moves!

*Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*



The Covenant Compendium

***A Letter from Reverend Sandlin***

PCoC family,

Advent has a way of slowing us down, even when life is doing its very best to speed us up. It invites us to take a breath, to listen for hope in the quieter corners of our days. As Christmas approaches, I find myself thinking about how often new beginnings come wrapped in equal parts excitement and nerves.

Our move into a new space at the end of the year feels a lot like that. There is so much to look forward to, and there is also the tenderness that comes with leaving a familiar place behind. Both are real. Both are part of the journey.

What steadies me is knowing this: a church is never just the walls that hold us. It's the people who show up for each other, who laugh and grieve and serve and grow together. And that, thank God, we get to bring with us.

My hope is that this Advent season gives us room to breathe, room to feel what we're feeling, and room to trust that Love is already ahead of us, preparing the path. Our new space will be a new chapter, and I'm grateful to walk into it with you.

With love and gratitude for each of you.

PEACE!

Mark



## ***Sunday Service Information, December 2025***

**December 7: *Citadel of Praise Church*    **December 14: *Pennies 4 Hunger, Fellowship Potluck*****

**Music:** Stephanie Lindley  
**Usher:** Celia Starling

**Music:** Stephanie Lindley, Robin & Linda Williams  
**Usher:** Nancy Schaefer

**December 21:**

**Music:** Stephanie Lindley  
**Usher:** Clara Kelly

**December 24: *Christmas Eve Service***

**Music:** Stephanie Lindley & Guest Artists  
**Usher:** Nancy Schaefer

**December 28: *Communion Sunday***

**Music:** Stephanie Lindley  
**Usher:** Celia Starling



### ***Dec. 7th: Special Service Guests; Citadel of Praise Church***

Don't miss attending our 11:00am service in person on Dec. 7th as we share our church with the pastor and congregation of the new owners of the building, Citadel of Praise Church. There will be special music and a message from Rev. Drumwright, the pastor of Citadel. Let's all welcome them!

### ***Dec. 14th: Fellowship Lunch & Christmas Celebration***

Bring your favorite covered dish to the monthly Fellowship Lunch! Special holiday celebration! Join the fellowship and share your favorite dishes. Help build our faith community. Volunteers needed; please contact Barbara North to volunteer at: woodnotes2004@yahoo.com. We'll enjoy special music from Robin and Linda Williams; Robin is the grandson of Covenant's founding pastor, Rev.

### ***Spartan Open Pantry Donations Welcome Now***

Please see the full flyer on Page 4; this year the need is urgent for both dry and canned food, as well as toiletries and paper products. The PCoC Outreach Committee will be accepting donations in the main parking lots from 10:00 to 12:00 on Sat. Dec. 6th and Dec. 13th. Donations may also be brought to the Sanctuary on Sundays to the rear table. Thanks for your generosity!

### ***An Update from Rev. Sandlin***

As you know, PCoC has given notice to our wonderful tenants and they will be out of the building by Dec. 31st. We plan to move over to Holderness House, across Walker Ave., by that same time, and we look forward to celebrating our first Sunday in our new surroundings on Jan. 4th. The new location will have a ramp installed for those of us with mobility issues. The Preservation Committee has developed a plan for moving, and we hope to be able to carry it out on schedule.

### ***Christmas Eve Service***

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 5:00pm on Wednesday, Dec. 24th in the Sanctuary. Please join us to celebrate the Season with special musical guests, lessons and carols, and candle lighting to conclude the service. Reminder; the church office is closed 12/24-12/26.

## November 2025 Session Meeting Minutes

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Use of R Murphy Williams Fund:** Resource Committee recommended interpreting the Fund's Certificate of Incorporation as including using part of the Fund to help ongoing activities of the Church. The Committee approved the following motion: The Session endorses the borrowing of \$20K funds from the R Murphy Williams Fund by the Church of the Covenant with the understanding that the funds will be replaced upon sale of the building.

**Resigning from Session:** Jane has circulated a letter formally resigning from the Session effective 31 December 2025. This resignation is part of the decision by the Session to reduce its number to 5 for 2026 and Jane had agreed to serve for a year and then resign at the end of 2025. The Session voted to accept Jane's letter of resignation, with thanks for her service.

**Use of Holderness House:** Margaret. was concerned that the rent being asked for the use of the Holderness House was too high, given that we will not have full access to the house until halfway through the year. Mark said he would ask for a lowering of the rent and shortening the lease term once we have sold the current buildings and moved.

**Elder Nominating Committee:** Since Mitch said he may consider running for another term, Mark said he would look for one other church member to assist David in forming a Elder Nominating Committee for one position starting next January.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Building Sale:** Due to building condition issues, Citadel have accordingly asked for a reduction in the purchase price to cover cost of these additional repairs. Motion from Revisioning Committee that Session accept the \$1.35M offer from Citadel with the understanding that once this new purchase agreement is signed, the earnest money comes to Covenant. The motion was approved by the Session and at a special congregational vote, which was unanimous.

**PASTOR'S UPDATE:** Mark recently officiated at a funeral; has spent much time working on the sale of the buildings; recently took a much-needed mini-vacation.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Resource Committee:** Mitch reported on PCoC's current financial status.

**Spiritual Formation (includes Worship and Music):** Committee met 11/12 and had a report from Joyce on collecting written memories of the history of the church, which will be read at selected times during services and at the December Fellowship luncheon. The Committee is working on ideas for what the services will look like once we have moved to a smaller space with more flexibility in arranging the furniture.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Have gotten a lower price for repairing the chiller and plan to have it repaired before the move; had Dumpster Days in November where members are asked to come help move unclaimed/unwanted stuff into a dumpster. After Gateway had its carpet replaced as well as flooring in the kitchen.

**Interior:** Barbara gave a detailed report on the activities of the Preservation Committee to prepare for the move.

**Communications:** Beth. Working with Mark on styles for a new website, while Kate has been in touch with a person who has volunteered to help with the website after the new year.

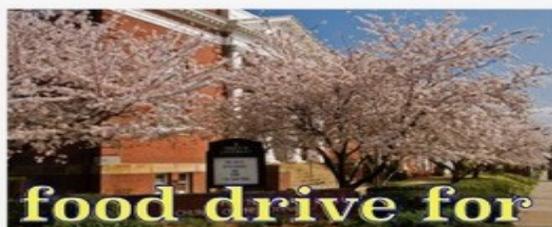
**Fellowship:** Jane. Information from Ralph: Potluck , the last one for the year, on 14 December.

**Personnel:** The committee presented Kate with a gift card and flowers. Has met with Resource Committee; is still working on mission statements for the various branches of the church.

**Congregational Care: Fred** The contacts for Oct. were 43 by 5 providers.

## Spartan Open Pantry Food Drive Dec. 6th and 13th

Volunteers are needed to help man our outdoor collection point on Saturday Dec. 6th and Saturday, Dec. 13th, from 10:00am t 12:00pm. The elves will share a warm fire, candy canes, and will enjoy visiting with the neighborhood as we ask our congregation and neighbors to help us love one another at the holidays with food items and hygiene items. The need this year is urgent.



COVENANT  
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 6 & 13, 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 (lift-off lids preferred)  
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



## 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)



SCAN ME

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