

March 2016

*Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*



COVENANT

Inclusive, Open-Minded and Home for Your Soul.

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## The Covenant Compendium

### ***A Message From Rev. Mark Sandlin***

Life is comprised of a series of transformations – one upon another, upon another, upon another. Without them, we stagnate. Without them, we get stuck where we are in life, and life grows dull and strangely thin. Yet, we tend to avoid transformation; we resist change. Or, if we do take on change, we stop at the first bump in the road or at the first sign of “failure.”

As spiritual people who find some of our roots in progressive Christian theology, we should be reminded that God seems to have always been about to do “a new thing.” And that Jesus seemed to constantly be saying, “you have heard it said, but I say...”.

We are to be a people who embrace life, love, and all the changes that necessarily come along with them.

Which brings us to our new schedule for Sunday mornings. As we begin this new chapter of coming together as a spiritual community, I believe it has never been more important for us to actively embrace the idea of transformation. Indeed, transformation is a core of progressive Christian theology. The idea that through love individuals and communities can positively impact change in the world around us is central to our understanding of who we are supposed to be. I'm excited for this community and our opportunity on Sunday mornings to experience in a fresh way the spiritual growth that comes with transformation.

For folks who need a little less packaging in their intentional spiritual time, our 9:15 Gathering should feel like home for your soul. With local musicians performing, time for meditation, the intentional use of more inclusive language in the Reflection, and a time for the whole community to respond, it takes our pledge of being inclusive and open-minded very seriously.

At our 11:15 Gathering, the commitment to being inclusive and open-minded is still palpably present, it just comes with a dash of traditional structure and music that might feel a tad bit more familiar – because sometimes home for your soul means having a comfortable pair of slippers around.

There will, of course, be the inevitable bumps in the road. The trick is to trust in each other and the community that surrounds us, to lean on love and let graciousness be our default position, and to see the bumps in the road not as failures but as fresh sources of information. If we can do those things while keeping communication and feedback flowing in kind and nurturing ways, I have the sense that the transformation will create a spiritual community that is not only very needed, but that is unlike any other.

I'm looking forward to journeying with you.

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

#### **NEW SCHEDULE!**

9:15–10:00	9:15 Gathering
10:00-10:15	Fellowship time
10:15 –11:00	Study Time
11:00-11:15	Fellowship time
11:15-12:00	11:15 Gathering
Nursery	9:00-12:00, Rm101

#### **Important Dates ...**

- March 5: Church Work Day, 9:00am—12:00 pm.**
- March 6: NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE BEGINS; Communion during 11:15 Gathering; Open to all!**
- March 7: Higher Ground Breakfast, 10:00am, 210 East Bessemer St.**
- March 8: Sierra Club, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**
- March 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- March 14: Session Meeting, 6:00 pm, Faselso Room**
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day**
- March 20: Spring Begins**
- March 27: Easter Sunday**

## March Sunday Service Information

### March 6:

9:15 Host: Anthony Taylor  
 9:15 Music: Betsy Bevan  
 11:15 Ushers: Clara Kelly, Barry Barber  
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Ralph Cauthen

### March 20:

9:15 Host: Jane Walter  
 9:15 Music: Ann Curtis  
 11:15 Ushers: Celia Starling, Frank Starling  
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Emily Seawell

### March 13:

9:15 Host: Morgan Glover  
 9:15 Music: Bruce Piephoff  
 11:15 Ushers: Ann Finch, Charlie Finch  
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Sarah Sills

### March 27:

9:15 Host: Jane Cauthen  
 9:15 Music: Walt Lott  
 11:15 Ushers: Nancy Schaefer, Lem Cox  
 11:15 Lay Asst.: Mitch Fore

## Every Week ...

**Mon.:** Yoga, 6:00pm, Parlor \*\*      \*\* \$10 per session  
 Meditation, 6:00m, Marty's Room (106)  
**Tues.:** Pilates, 5:30 Fellowship Hall \*\*  
**Wed.:** Coffee Group, 9:00am, The Green Bean  
 WNFS Potluck, 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall  
 Choir rehearsal, 7:00pm, Sanctuary  
**Thur.:** Yoga, 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall\*\*  
**Fri.:** Coffee Group, 9:00am, Panera (New Garden Rd.)

## Church Office Hours

**Mark Sandlin: Mon.—Thurs., 9:00am—5:00pm**  
**Kate Baird: Mon.—Fri. 9:00 am– 3:30 pm**

Got new contact info? Moved? New cell phone/  
 land line phone number? Changed email? Let  
 the church office know! Call (336) 275-6403 or  
 email us at: [pcoc2010@gmail.com](mailto:pcoc2010@gmail.com) Thank you!

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers

Join us every Wednesday at 6:00pm for our potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share; enjoy all the contributions. Afterward, there's usually a program, music, a special event. It's always fun; guests are always welcome!

## Sunday Study Groups 10:15–11:00; Visitors Welcome !

**NEW GROUP: Sunday Theme Discussion Group.** Sometimes we'd like more time to respond to the Sunday Reflections topics. This group provides the opportunity to delve more deeply into topics by drawing on the knowledge of the community that gathers. Each week, our minister will help start the conversation and will respond to thoughts and questions; the group will then keep the discussion going. On Sunday, March 6th, the group will meet in the back of the Sanctuary at 10:15. Future home TBA.

**The Parlor:** The **Progressive Christianity** group continues its year-long study of Brian McLaren's "We Make the Road by Walking". Books are available in class for \$12. Class members share in facilitating the lively discussions. March begins with Chapter 28, facilitated by Joyce Powers. Join the group at any time.

**Table Talk** sharing group, **Marty's Room (Room 106):** Jane Cauthen leads the sharing and open discussion group. The talk is always lively! Come share!

**Contemporary Issues, Fellowship Hall:** The group is on sabbatical in March to encourage participation in the new group listed above.

**Children & Youth:** Room 206 **URGENT! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH THE READERS GROUP!** Contact Morgan Glover at 314-5191 or [mjluvsjc@gmail.com](mailto:mjluvsjc@gmail.com).

## ***SESSION DIGEST – FEBRUARY 8, 2016***

The Session was moderated by Reverend Mark Sandlin, interim pastor. Mark Cable received an excused absence. In addition to the regular members, Barbara North, Fred Wallace, and George Lockhart, newly-elected elders, were also present.

Session actions:

- ◆ Received Emily Seawall into membership after she shared her faith journey and desire to join Church of the Covenant.
- ◆ Approved the recommendation from the Worship Committee to change the Sunday morning schedule to include two gathering times and two fellowship times. The new schedule will begin on March 6<sup>th</sup> for a six-month trial period.
- ◆ Discussed an ongoing tenant problem and proposed a possible resolution. Session agreed to have a general discussion at the March meeting concerning tenant issues.
- ◆ Received a report from the Clerk of The Session concerning the statistical report. The clerk also recommended the formation of a committee to review the church rolls and resolve membership issues.
- ◆ **Resource** – Gave general approval for the Resource committee to investigate whether installing a safe would be appropriate for holding the Sunday offering. The Session also received the favorable report from the Auditing Committee.
- ◆ **Building** – Received the report from the fire department inspector.
- ◆ **Elder Nominating Committee** – Discussed the timing for the installation of new elders.
- ◆ Members currently rotating off the Session were thanked for their faithful service.
- ◆ **Personnel** – Approved Mark Sandlin's request for vacation time off from February 22-28.
- ◆ **Communications** – Referred Anthony Taylor's report on file storage back to the committee for action.

The complete draft minutes of this meeting are available in the Session notebook, located in the church office.

Kelley Griffith, Clerk of The Session

## ***Church Work Day: Saturday, March 5, 9:00–12:00***

We'll get together this Saturday morning for our March Workday from 9:00 til noon. As always, there are chores to be done inside and out. A sign-in sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall and the coffee will be on! Come for all or just a portion of the time. Any amount is appreciated! Here are a few of the jobs that need doing: Clean the wooden bannister in the old building. Murphy's Oil Soap and rags will be provided. Help clean out the third floor storage room. Cut back privet hedge on the Mendenhall side (near parlor). Bring your favorite loppers and saws! Clean out refrigerator, straighten kitchen, parlor, and Fellowship Hall (as needed). **Hirsch Wellness Network will be hosting a workshop on Saturday. We will avoid working in the new building, so we won't disturb them.** Hope to see you Saturday! -Clara

## ***Breakfast at Higher Ground, March 7, 10:00am***

Join us to provide a monthly breakfast for the staff and clients of Higher Ground, Triad Health Project's Day Center. We meet with them the first Monday of each month at 10:00am at 210 East Bessemer Ave. Participants and donors are always welcome! For more information or to volunteer, contact Sarah Sills at: [sarahbsills@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbsills@gmail.com)



## Other Events!

### Doing Our Work: 2015-2016 Series on Race, Racial Inequity, and our Future in Greensboro



First Monday of Every Month  
7pm—8:30pm at Congregational UCC  
400 W Radiance Drive, Greensboro

October 5: Origins of the concept of “race”  
November 2: Implicit Bias  
December 7: Race and wealth  
No session in January  
February 1: Race and education  
March 7: Race and law enforcement  
April 4: Race and the judicial system  
May 2: Color-blind racism

The monthly series will bring local experts to present and lead dialogue on concepts to help us develop a firmer understanding of roots and nature of racial inequity, and what we can do about it together. While we will focus our outreach on our white colleagues and friends, all are welcome, and we very much appreciate the on-going support and collaboration of our colleagues of color.

Hosted by the members of a Community-City Working Group:

Michelle Kennedy, Bayard P. Love, Bishop Chip Marble, Reverend Julie Peebles, Lewis Pitts, Reverend Alan Sherouse, Register of Deeds Jeff L. Thigpen, Mayor Nancy Vaughan  
in partnership with the Guilford Anti-Racism Alliance, that designed the series:

[www.meetup.com/Guilford-Anti-Racism-Alliance/](http://www.meetup.com/Guilford-Anti-Racism-Alliance/)

Please contact CCWG or GARA for more information. PLEASE NOTE: NO RSVP REQUIRED  
(disregard earlier message re: Facebook invite)



Coming  
Events

Activities

Awards

Photos

Tours



The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society will hold its **2016 Spring Tour** on Friday/Saturday, April 1-2, in the village of Flat Rock and in the historic towns of Mills River and Hendersonville.

We meet Friday noon at the Carl Sandburg Home in Flat Rock and will visit a number of historic churches in this beautiful area of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Registration is \$20. The schedule, registration form, and address are on the website at [www.ncphsociety.org](http://www.ncphsociety.org), or contact Program Chair Sam Martin at [\(910\) 428-4165](tel:9104284165)

## Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

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Check us out online!

[www.athinkingchurch.org](http://www.athinkingchurch.org)



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