




Peace Press

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST www.peaceucc.com

Volume 30, Issue 4

A Global Mission Church

April, 2017

The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.

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LENTEN BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

Tuesday, April 4th and April 11th

6:00 p.m. Soup & Bread, followed by study led by Dr. Jason Myers



Sunday, April 9
10:45 a.m.

Worship service will include a song by the children and special music by the choir.



Thursday, April 13
7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service.
(Sanctuary)



Friday, April 14
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service
Choir will present cantata, "Tenebrae"
(Sanctuary)



Sunday, April 16
7:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise
(Breakfast follows)
10:45 a.m.
Easter Worship

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Ms. Elisabeth Penry

Minister of Music
and Organist

Mrs. Sherri Vestal

Secretary

Ms. Rhiannon Kelly

Youth Director

Mr. Russ Haver

Consistory President

Easter Egg Hunt & Spring Festival

Saturday, April 15th

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Live Music,
Vendors,
Bounce House,
Crafts, Food,
Games, Ponies,
Face Painting
Fish Fry & more!



Pastor's Perspective

“The followers of Jesus did not believe in him because of the resurrection. They believed in the resurrection because they first believed in him and in the spiritual life he unleashed among them. This is, finally, what the resurrection proclamation is about. It is about the decision to believe in Jesus and to give oneself over to the Spirit to be discovered in his life.”

-Dr. Stephen J. Patterson

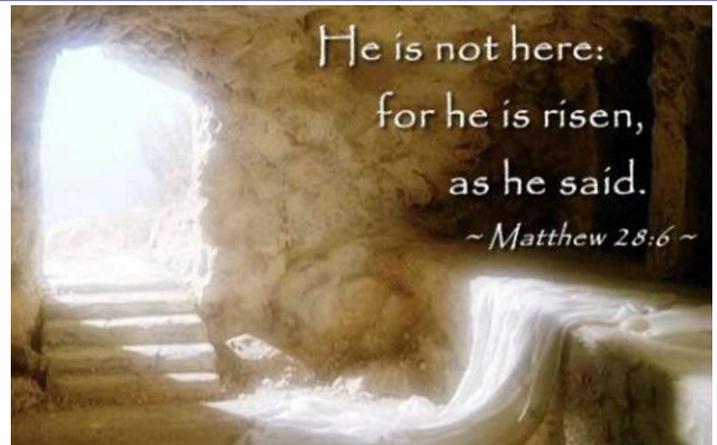
Beyond the Passion: Rethinking the Death and Life of Jesus.

As we move toward the Roman crucifixion of Good Friday, it offers us a moment to reflect on the death of Jesus. The big, never ending question, is why? Why did Jesus, this Jewish peasant from the backwater town of Nazareth have to die?

A quick, traditional answer is that “he died for our sins.” His death was a sacrificial death in the name of what is called *atonement theology*. It was Gods’ will that he should die, a consequence of which was the washing away of our sins.

Death as ‘atonement’ is a deeply Jewish notion, harking back to the scapegoat tradition found in Leviticus 16, where the sins of Aaron (and the Israelites) were symbolically placed upon a goat that was then ritualistically slaughtered, its blood sprinkled around, thus cleansing the “holy place, tent of meeting, and the altar”. Later another goat is confessed over and the sins of the people are placed upon it; this live goat is sent out into the wilderness, symbolically removing the sins of the community from their midst. All of this makes for good theatre, but it was in the end, a bloody, strange, and awful mess.

With Jesus and his early followers being Jewish, transferring Jesus’ death into an act of atonement (sacrifice) was an almost natural transition. Thousands of years of tradition would lead to this outcome quite easily. The belief that it was God’s will that Jesus would die for my sins is, on one level, a very Jewish notion. Yet historically, Jesus’ death was not really “for my sins” (an act of atonement), but *because* of the sins of humanity. Jesus was crucified as a social and political bandit – between two other bandits – because of what he taught, lived, and embodied. His vision for the world (Empire of God) conflicted greatly with the vision of the Roman Empire; and for this he died. How



we process that death is critical to our understanding of his life and the central role of all that he did and taught.

Of course, crucifixion is not where the story of Jesus ends. The empty tomb is where it ends, and thus for believers, where it continues from to this day. The empty tomb is the story of God’s victory over the powers of death in this world. The resurrection story lives on because the followers of Jesus believed that this first century Jewish peasant was right about God and what God’s kingdom on earth should look like.

Acknowledging crucifixion is to live with our eyes open to the powers of death that encircle us as they did Jesus. Believing in the resurrection is to embrace the holy idea that love conquers hate, hope is stronger than despair, and life is victorious over death. In our world as it is today, belief in the resurrection is needed more than ever. Yet, to believe that the death of Jesus was only about redressing our own, privatized sense of sin is to miss the larger and critically important issues of history. Namely, that the powers of death, which take many forms, are stalking the earth, its people, and our lives.

Jesus’ death is proof of that historic reality; his resurrection and our belief in it, a radical and revolutionary hope against the destructive waves of history.

This year we will proclaim it again. This year we *need to proclaim it again...*

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!!

JAMBALAYA SALE

The Jambalaya sale was a huge success! Our sales were approximately \$2,100.00, less expenses, which have yet to be totaled. Over 90 of our sales were to people from the community outside of our church membership! This was a grand success with many thanks to Rick Owen, and the many volunteers who helped.



A note from Elisabeth

It's April, and we are worshipping and celebrating with lots of music here at Peace.

Beginning with the first Sunday, April 2nd, we will have both handbells and the Folk Praise Band during worship that morning. We are also scheduling a hymning event that afternoon. If you have not been here too long, "hymning" is going to homes of those who are unable to make it to the church service and sharing some favorite hymns. It is not just for the choir, but anyone in the church family is welcome to come, too. After worship we grab a bite to eat and then meet back at the church around 1:30 p.m. with the goal of being in someone's home by 2:00 p.m.

April 9th is Palm Sunday. The children will share a song, and the choir has two anthems planned for worship.

The **Good Friday** service on **April 14th** will include the choir's singing *Tenebrae* by Hal Hopson. This contemplative work is a combination of song and narration.

With Easter morning come our *Alleluias*. We have two anthems planned for that morning as well.

After Easter, the Sundays and the worship celebrations continue. The handbells will ring again on April 23rd, and our anthems the 23rd and 30th focus on the awesome wonder of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus.

Jesus Himself set the example for singing. Mark 14:26, which is at the end of the Last Supper passage, says: *When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* (NIV) May we all experience His presence through the music of worship!

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

A family had a friend over for dinner and the friend asked the 3 year old boy what happened on Easter. The father, not sure his son would know the answer, leaned over and whispered in the boy's ear "*Jesus rose from the dead.*" The boy perked up, looked at the friend and proudly said "*Jesus froze to the bed!*"

Parents often struggle talking with their kids about what happened on Easter because it is still hard for us to fully understand it and explain it to children. Here are some tips about how to talk to your children this Easter season about the resurrection of Jesus:

- ✦ Consider your child's age, developmental stage and personality. Some children may be more sensitive to certain details than others. If you're unsure about reading your children the entire Biblical account of the Easter story, use John 3:16 as your guide to explain what happened. Continue to build on the foundation you've set by adding more details about the story every year, or as you see fit.
- ✦ Listen and answer your children's questions honestly. Give them time to process what you're sharing with them and don't be afraid to tell them when you don't know the answer. Even as adults, there are some things about Easter we still may not fully comprehend.
- ✦ Engage them in activities that can help bring the truths of Easter to life. Get creative! Use real-life scenarios, science experiments, skits or an Easter-themed book to help your kids understand forgiveness, sin, new life and salvation.
- ✦ Explain to your children what Easter means to you. It can be easier to chat with your son or daughter when you focus on personal reflections.

Remember, the Gospel message is simple to grasp – even for a child. Pray that God would give you wisdom and that the Holy Spirit would bring clarity to your children as they learn.

As a parent you know what's best for your family. Engage your children in conversations about Jesus and His sacrifice and take time to celebrate Easter with your family. And remember, Jesus didn't stay frozen to the bed!

(Excerpts from <http://focusonthefamily.ca>)

~ Rhiannon Kelly, Director of Youth and Children

Church Directory

UPDATE



Please notify the church office if you have moved, ARE moving, changed your phone number, address, email, etc. We will be publishing a new directory this month and would like to have current information as much as possible.



Peace United Church of Christ

MISSION OF THE MONTH

**GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY
GROCERY STORE FOOD DRIVE**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 21st
8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.**

Many churches, including Peace Church, have shared so generously with Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank in the early months of 2017, as they have faced significant food demand that threatened to empty their pantry. Myron, from the Greensboro Urban Ministry, says, *“Thank you for dividing your bread with the hungry, as the 58th chapter of Isaiah calls us to do. The community stepped up and shared generous resources – more than \$57,000 and nearly 200,000 pounds of food in two months’ time! What a wonderful response! You have helped us keep the doors open to the pantry and share more food with those who face shelves that are bare in their own homes.”*

Peace Church will participate in the semi-annual Grocery Store Food Drive on **Friday, April 21st** at Harris Teeter on High Point Road at Adams Farm Shopping Center. These city-wide



events are essential to supply The Food Bank at Greensboro Urban Ministry, where families who need emergency food assistance are helped. Your food gifts will be collected at participating grocery stores throughout Greensboro. Please consider donating extra food items (especially oatmeal) this month. Your support of this ministry is needed more than ever as food demands continue to increase at GUM.

Volunteers are needed to greet shoppers and to collect their donated items between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please contact **Cindy Spillers at 336-852-0478** to schedule a 1 or 2-hour shift.



**COMING SUNDAY,
APRIL 30TH!!**

CONNECTING,
COMMUNICATING,
CARING.....
AND *Celebrating!*



An evening of fellowship and entertainment for the whole family!

**It's the
2nd Anniversary Celebration of
*PeaceCare***

**Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m.,
Program at 6:30 p.m.**

**You will not want to miss this
very special event!**



***Lenten Bible Study continues
with Dr. Jason Myers***

Our Lenten Bible Study with Dr. Jason Myers from Greensboro College continues on Tuesday evenings, April 4th and 11th. Join us for soup at 6:00 p.m. followed by the study class at 6:30 p.m. in the Bertha Work Room. Dr. Myers, Professor of Biblical Studies, has been leading us each week in understanding the historical context of each gospel as a way of more deeply understanding what Jesus was all about in his day and ours. Come join this wonderful and stimulating class!!



Holy Week Events

Maunder Thursday Service (April 13th) will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

This service focuses on the Last Supper (Passover Meal) that Jesus celebrated with his disciples (Luke 22:19-20) where he emphasized the commandment to "love one another, even as I have loved you." This service also often remembers and celebrates Jesus' washing of the disciples feet as an act of service. Maundy is the Latin word for command.

Good Friday Service (April 14th) will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This service will feature the choral cantata with a Tenebrae theme. Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows" and is a service which recognizes the crucifixion of Jesus and the slow extinguishing of the "light of God" done symbolically through the extinguishing of candles and the reading of scripture. We are filled with gratitude for our choir as they faithfully prepare for this special Good Friday service.

Easter Egg Hunt & Spring Festival is Saturday, April 15th, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Sign-up to volunteer for our largest and most successful community event of the year!!

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service (April 16th) will be at 7:00 a.m.

Sunrise service will be at the Outdoor Altar (weather permitting) followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall prepared by the Men's Fellowship. Easter worship celebration in the Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.



CREATION CARE TEAM (CCT)

EARTH DAY VEGETARIAN DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 6:00 P.M.

Earth Day this year is on Saturday, April 22nd and the Creation Care Team of Peace Church will be sponsoring a vegetarian dinner and presentation by Carol Lynn Anderson of the Greensboro Ethical Choices organization. We invite all church members and friends to bring a vegetarian dish of their choice (and the recipe!!) to share and then to stay for a presentation and discussion of the benefits and issues related to "ethical eating". Her presentation will be on "Modern Agriculture and the Environment". The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Thank You to Our Generous Givers!!

- ♥ An anonymous gift recently came in to tune, repair, and provide a lock system for our Fellowship Hall piano... Thank you!
- ♥ Richard and Virginia Graber gave a generous gift to renovate our church sign, and another gift was given to cover the cost of new letters for the sign... Thank you!
- ♥ An anonymous gift was given which covered the replacement of all the lights and ballasts in the church with high efficiency LED bulbs... Thank you!
- ♥ An anonymous gift was given to cover the cost of the landscape architect who is designing the "master plan" for the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) which will be presented to the congregation upon completion... Thank you!
- ♥ A brand new children's high chair was recently given to the nursery for use by our new and soon to arrive infants in the congregation... Thank you!
- ♥ A generous gift was recently given to cover the cost of a new "sprayer" for the sink in the kitchen... Thank you!
- ♥ Other gifts in the past couple of years include paint and blinds for the Fellowship Hall, new carpeting for the Chapel, new hand-made work tables and a sign outside the Fellowship Hall, and funds for the dish washer and refrigerator in the kitchen... Thank you!!

We are so grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm that our church members have shared....Thank you to all!!

Bits & Pieces

BIBLICAL ETHICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE DISCUSSION — APRIL 9TH

On Sunday, March 19th, fourteen church members interested in the Christian call to social justice met for a time of sharing and discussion in regard to the Christian call to social action. **Rev. John Syster** shared the story of a “river community” that was good at saving people who were seen floating down the river and almost drowning, but after saving more and more people floating downstream, decided to “go upstream” to determine why people were falling into the river in the first place. At that point they began to strategize how to move from acts of “band aid” charity, to systemic advocacy and structural justice so that no more folks would fall in the river.

On Sunday, April 9th we will have a follow-up meeting after worship. This again will be a bag-lunch discussion. All are welcome!

Congratulations, Hands-On!

The Hands-On session on March 8th had 14 in attendance for the second time this year....and it is only March. Great job of showing up and working hard.

We welcome **Kentoya Savage** as a new member of Hands-On!

Thanks to all,
Theo Scott



Recognize this place?! This is our STAGE! And it is completely clean for the first time in a very long time! It looks great and will now be able to be used for upcoming programs at Peace this year!



Peace Church Recipe Corner

Marinated Carrots

(Contributed by Abbie Wheeling)

- 1 lb. bag carrots, peeled/sliced (or small carrots, whole)
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 1 small green pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz) condensed tomato soup
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup vinegar
- 1 tsp. mustard
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper

Cook carrots until tender. Drain and cool for 10 minutes. Add onions and peppers. Combine all other ingredients and heat to a boil. Pour mixture over carrots. Refrigerate 12 hours. Serve hot or cold. Keeps in frig up to 2 weeks.



I am reminded every spring of **Lola Kluttz**, when these beautiful Lenten roses return and bloom so pretty. Lola gave me these from her garden and probably several of you have some from her, too. (S. Vestal)

Upcoming Wider Church Events

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ANNUAL
MEETING, JUNE 22-24, 2017



The *Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ* will be having its *52nd Annual Meeting* from Thursday, June 22nd through Saturday,

June 24th. The theme, "Living Our Faith, Building On Hope, and Sharing Our Love," will be the central expression of this gathering that will be held in Virginia Beach, VA. Our gracious host, the Eastern Virginia Association, will prepare and join with us for what will be a fun, festive, and joyful occasion. For more information, contact Peace Church member Jeanne Bryan who is on the Board of Directors for the Southern Conference. You don't want to miss it!

GENERAL SYNOD 31 IN BALTIMORE JUNE 30 — JULY 4, 2017

The 31st General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held June 30th through July 4th in Baltimore, Maryland. This is the bi-annual national gathering of representatives from the over 2,000 congregations of the United Church of Christ. This is the meeting where the UCC, in all its glory and diversity, meets to worship, discuss issues, and set ministry goals for the future of local congregations and national UCC instrumentalities and offices. This year a resolution from our Southern Conference regarding U.S. policy toward Cuba is coming before our national body for consideration. For more information about General Synod go to www.ucc.org.



Peace Village will be held June 26-30!
Put it on your calendar!

mens fellowship
encouraging • connecting • becoming

Monday, April 17th

7:00 p.m.

**great food • great friends • inspiring and
educational programs • wonderful fellowship**

COMING NEXT MONTH...

DAWNINGS TEAM Potluck Discussion Sunday, May 21, 2017

On Tuesday, March 7th the Dawnings Team had its final meeting for "Stage 1" of our congregational discernment process. The Dawnings Team (Russ Haver, Ava Chambers, Kelly York, Maria Smith, Kentoya Savage, and Susie Cressman) has been meeting since August, 2015 in a process designed to discern new directions for Peace Church as we look toward the future.

In the Fall of 2016 the Dawnings Team held a series of Sunday morning meetings which lead to five new directions that Peace Church feels called to address and engage with. These areas include: Service to the Community, Spiritual Development, Acceptance of All People, Community Building/Dialogue/Stewardship, and Creation Care/Environmental Ethics. We are now ready to present the implementation plan for each of these areas of concern.

On **Sunday, May 21st**, the Dawnings Team will sponsor a potluck discussion after worship to present strategies for how we might live out these new directions for our congregation. We anticipate an exciting conversation and hope all members can be present for this important event in the life of our church.



Contact **Jane Ford** at **336-288-1155** for more information.



Peace United Church of Christ
 2714 W. Market St.
 Greensboro, NC 27403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MOTHER ~ DAUGHTER ~ FRIEND BANQUET



Monday, May 15, 2017

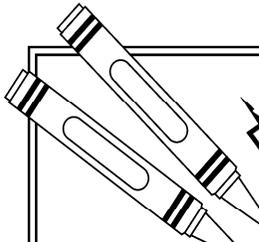
6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Our theme is the "Circle of Friendship"

"Circle Unbroken" — The circle of women around us weave invisible nets of love that carry us when we're weak and sing with us when we are strong. ~ Sark

Rachel Denny will be our Speaker/Entertainer who will speak and sing songs with us!! (She was the lady who played the cowbells a few years ago.)

Tickets are \$9.50 and will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, April 23rd. Put this on your calendar and plan to be with us! Such a fun evening!



PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

dead hope resurrection given of
birth living Christ mercy great Jesus

In his he has
 us new into a
 through the

 from the .

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

SPRING CARNIVAL

Peace United Church of Christ
2714 W. Market St.

LIVE
MUSIC &
VENDORS!

FISH
FRY!

PONY
RIDES!

EGG HUNT,
GAMES,
CRAFTS!

BOUNCE
HOUSE!

BAKE
SALE!

SATURDAY 4/15

10am-4pm

Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Lois Bell; Dale Benshoff; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; Richard Graber; Ramona Griffin; Millie Harmon; Laura Langley; Jim Lillie; Buddy Lippard; Sally McGrogan; Dorothy Meeks; Sharon Mitchell; David Murray; Mary Ann Murray; Gertrude Radford; Pansy Slate; Lucille Waynick; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Doris Whitley; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Katie Bowen** (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); **Eric Chapman** (relative of Jane Ford); **Janet Faucette** (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); **Sophia Fineron** (mother of Karen Haver); **Theresa Grill** (neighbor of Sue Smith); **Gerry Haver** (mother of Russ Haver); **Larry Haver** (brother of Russ Haver); **Butch Holt** (brother-in-law of B.J. Blocker); **Betty Larimer** (aunt of Trish Larimer); **Ann Moran** (friend of Susie Cressman); **Beatrice Rosenthal** (mother of David Dole); **Michael Shoffner** (grandson of Edith Sink); **Ralph Stevenson** (brother-in-law of Linda Fesperman); **Lindsay White** (great-granddaughter of David & Nancy Peeler).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR MARCH

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING
March 5	24	79	\$4,497	\$875
March 12	22	65	\$3,429	\$565
March 19	15	67	\$1,594	\$7,625
March 26	12	58	\$1,280	\$1,515

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(Through February 28, 2017)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	13,618	28,486	30,316	(1,830)
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	21,096	37,633	37,552	81
CWS Blankets+	820			



April Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 James McGroarty Blake Ray	6	7	8
9	10 Greg Haver	11	12	13 Avery Dole	14 Aiden Leszinski	15 Dale Benshoff Buddy Webster
16 Nan Buchanan Ramsey Nelson	17	18 Becky Taylor	19 Beverly Haithcock	20 Theo Scott	21	22 Lucille Bennett
23	24 Richard Graber	25 Brady Dole	26	27	28 Robby Hochwarth III Kathy Syster	28 Sharon Mitchell Roy Smith Wendy Washington