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

Easter Egg Hunt & Spring Festival

Saturday, March 31st

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Egg Hunts,
Bounce House,
Crafts, Food,
Games, Face
Painting



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Rev. Tom Warren

Pastor

Direct Line 336-553-9730

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Ms. Elisabeth Penry

Minister of Music
and Organist

Mrs. Sherri Vestal

Secretary

Mr. Ted Wilkinson

Youth Director

Ms. Abigail Miller Warren

Nursery Attendant

Holy Week Schedule



SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH

Palm Sunday / Maundy Thursday themed worship service, 10:45 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30TH

Good Friday Worship, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The choir will present their Easter Cantata,
"Song of the Shadows" by Joseph M. Martin

SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST

Easter/Spring Festival, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST

Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. (Outdoor Altar) with breakfast to follow;
Easter Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Pastor's Perspective

I am sometimes mystified by what passes for Christianity these days. If you don't follow the 'news of the weird' as I sometimes do, you may have missed these slightly strange stories of Christians in action:

- ♦ A popular televangelist from Texas, Gloria Copeland, in encouraging people to bypass the flu vaccine, made the claim that if you really are following Christ, then you will be immune from the flu virus: "...Jesus himself gave us the flu shot. He redeemed us from the curse of flu...inoculate yourself with the Word of God."
- ♦ A congregation (World Peace & Unification Sanctuary) in Newfoundland, Pennsylvania recently had a service where marital vows were renewed while participants held firm to their AR-15 assault rifles, believing the "rod of iron" cited in Revelation 2:27 was a reference to the AR-15.
- ♦ Members of a church in New Hartford, New York (Word of Life Christian Church) were convicted of manslaughter and violent assault after severely beating teenage brothers "for their sins" in the church sanctuary.

One of the greatest temptations of faith – regardless of what tradition one claims – is to use holy scripture to justify our own perspectives and impulses. In modern day Christianity, just about any behavior can be justified if cited biblically and appropriately twisted into something unrecognizable. We are all tempted to search the scriptures for that which affirms our views on the world, while conveniently disregarding the rest or simply bypassing the hard work of understanding scripture in its historical context.

In a dark and deeply confused time such as ours, when idolatry runs rampant and violence is consistently lifted up as divinely ordained and redemptive, it is more important than ever to study the biblical narrative with all the intellectual and rational power we can muster. We are to love God with our hearts, souls, *and our minds*; to do less is to turn faith into a side-show.

As we continue in the Lenten journey, let us find time to study the life of Jesus; to understand his teachings of love – what they meant then and what they mean now. Perhaps this holy season of reflection and repentance can also be a time of cleansing: cleansing from the idolatry of our days, when the worst of human behavior is often justified with the worst of biblical interpretations.

A simple, Lenten prayer: "*Create in me a clean heart, O Lord.*"

~ Pastor Tom

CREATE IN ME A
Clean heart, O GOD,
AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT
WITHIN ME. PSALM 51:10 ESV

Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 18th

We will have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 18th, at the end of the worship service, to review the 2017 Annual Report and ratify the motions/actions of the 2017 Consistory. The Annual Report is available to pick up in the Narthex, and is being mailed to our members who are not able to be in church.



**Daylight Savings
Time begins
Sunday, March 11!**



A note from Elizabeth...

The month of March is entirely within our liturgical season of Lent. During this time of personal, Spiritual focus and renewal, remember our hymns can be a source of prayer and direction.

In our hymnal under the CHRISTIAN YEAR heading on page 818, you will find numerous hymns for *Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week*. Also on page 826 under the heading of JESUS CHRIST, there is a section entitled *Suffering*. All of these provide devotional resources for meditation. You might want to choose a different hymn each week, or concentrate on one hymn and sing and/or pray the words of the phrases letting God speak to you in a personal way.

For example, hymn 195 in the *Suffering and Death* section is *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. The words were written by Isaac Watts in 1707, but they are still so powerful today. This hymn directs us to truly look at the cross and its meaning. When we do and see Jesus there, the words are: *my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride*. Then the last line: *love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all*. Together these phrases define our relationship with Jesus – dying to ourselves and giving Him everything!

Also, during March the choir will be singing the Good Friday worship on March 30th. We will use the cantata *Song of the Shadows* by Joseph M. Martin with narration by Pamela Martin. It is not too late to join us to sing. Please consider coming on Wednesday evenings around 8:00 PM for the cantata time!



2018 CUBA YOUTH MISSION TRIP

As you may remember, last year we had a very successful youth mission trip to Santiago de Cuba. We are going to continue that tradition this year from July 21st through the 28th! Kim Miller and I will be leading the trip this year of 12 high schoolers and 4 adults. We will be helping with construction work at the Lavastida Center's dining room which was destroyed by one of the hurricanes that ripped through the Caribbean. In addition to the construction we will also be taking cultural and historical excursions as well as meeting and



connecting with the local people. It promises to be an experience no one will forget! If you're interested in finding out more about the trip, we will be having an **informational meeting on March 18th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Bertha Work Room. We are getting a positive response to the trip this year so if you are interested in this opportunity, we encourage you to complete the application and submit the deposit (make checks payable to UCC Study Seminar) as soon as possible.

If you'd like to support the trip, we are excited to announce that **Elizabeth's Pizza (3927 Battleground Avenue)** will be giving 10% of their sales to our Cuba Youth Mission Trip on the following days:

- Tuesday March 13th
- Tuesday April 10th
- Tuesday May 8th



It's all day long, dine in or take out! Simply let the cashier or server know that you are part of Peace UCC and Elizabeth's Pizza will write a check for 10% of sales for those days. Come on out and eat to support our youth mission trip!!

~ *Kim Miller & Ted Wilkinson*



Hello Peace Family! Over the last month, as we approached the season of Lent, Children's Chapel learned about some of the different roles that Jesus can play in our lives. First we learned about how Jesus can be a healer and they made cards to give to people in their lives who

were in need of healing (special thanks to John Syster for teaching the children this lesson while I was out of town). We also learned about how Jesus can be our teacher, teaching us to love God and each other. To demonstrate this the children made pictures to show what Jesus teaches us for our youth bulletin board (which will hopefully be up by the time you read this). Finally for the first Sunday of Lent we learned about promises and how some promises can be demonstrated with a symbol. The lesson I chose to demonstrate this was that of Noah and the Ark and we made rainbows as a symbol of God's promise to us. As we go through the season of Lent we have many more projects that I am very excited about.

~ *Ted Wilkinson, Youth Director*

Peace United Church of Christ

MISSION OF THE MONTH

One Great Hour of Sharing



It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God’s world: there is hunger, sickness, and injustice in so many communities. It is easy to feel there is nothing we can do to help. We can feel trapped by hopelessness and fear that what little we can do won’t have an impact.

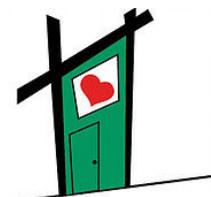
But there is hope!
Better yet: we are that hope!

As the Apostle Paul writes, “by the power at work within us,” God is able to “accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20). Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don’t realize that God gives us community to practice love and compassion. We cannot only care for ourselves, but we must also care about those around us, both near and far. Our gifts become part of a loving legacy in ways we can’t foresee. Our gifts become blessings to people we don’t know and blesses in ways we can’t expect. We can make a difference beyond what we can imagine.

Sharing resources through One Great Hour of Sharing is an invitation to imagination! Through our sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.” When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. But when we think of the wonders God works, our imaginations go wild! Just imagine how God is bringing transformation! God is at work doing so much more than we can imagine. And when contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are part of God’s work in the world.

TINY HOUSES GREENSBORO IS COMING TO PEACE UCC

The vision of the Dawnings Team is about to become reality! The idea of a church-wide project with implications for the community at large grew out of the Dawnings process. Working in partnership with Tiny Houses Greensboro, a nonprofit 501c3 building safe affordable housing, The Missions Committee is implementing plans to build a Tiny House on our grounds which will then be moved to a permanent site on Causey St. Our house will be designated for a homeless veteran. This exciting project will engage all members and friends of Peace Church as it will require an array of talents, skills, and commitment.



To date, we have secured a donor for the entire \$20,000 cost of the Tiny House. Tiny House Greensboro will sponsor a display table at our Spring Carnival on March 31, so please come out and speak to them about specifics of the program. The prototype Tiny House will be on display on our campus. A breakfast fundraiser is being planned to cover other costs related to the project. Building a house is a challenge, but also a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, reach out to our local community in mission, and to put into action the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FOOD DRIVE



The Greensboro Urban Ministry Grocery Store Food Drive is scheduled for April 13 and 14. Peace UCC volunteers will work **Friday, April 13 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm at Harris Teeter on W. Gate City Blvd.** Volunteers are needed to work one or two hour shifts. Please phone or text Cindy Spillers at 336-420-1099 to schedule a time.



Consistory Retreat

On Saturday, March 17th, the members of the Consistory will be on a retreat at the church from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cheri Lovell, the President of the UCC Western North Carolina Association, will be leading us in a process of discernment and discussion to help the Consistory in its leadership skills as Peace UCC orients itself for the new challenges and opportunities of the future. Please keep your Consistory members in prayer for this special retreat event.

Consistory members include Russ Haver (President), Jane Ford (Vice-President), Elizabeth Hittepole (Treasurer), Jeanne Bryan (Asst. Treasurer), Rick Owen (Secretary), Grant Jolliff, Mick McGrogan, Harold Poffenbough, Yvonne Smothers, and Ted Wilkinson.



We are happy to welcome the Summers family to our Peace Church Family! Chris and Melinda Summers, with their daughters, Audrey and Hannah, joined Peace Church on Sunday, January 14, 2018. Please extend a hand of welcome to them and introduce yourself so they can get acquainted with everyone here.

mens fellowship

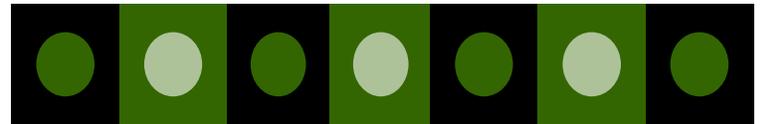
encouraging • connecting • becoming

Monday, March 19th

7:00 p.m.

We will meet at PorterHouse Burger Co.,
4608 W. Market Street, Greensboro

**great food • great friends •
wonderful fellowship**



DAWNINGS INITIATIVE UPDATE

Last spring, the Consistory, acting on the recommendation of the Dawnings Initiative Committee (long range planning/ visioning), asked **John Syster** and **Jeanne Bryan** to gather a group of church members together to begin exploring the Open and Affirming Process that was first approved in 1985 by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. "Open and Affirming" is a designation bestowed by the General Synod upon congregations that choose to be welcoming and affirming of all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender, or national origin.



The Peace Church group was gathered and by early Fall 2017 began meeting using discussion starters offered by United Church of Christ materials. While the group itself was clearly in favor of welcoming all people to our congregation, it was also desirous of involving the entire church in the conversation and thus has begun planning forums, workshops, and other opportunities for discussion in which all can participate. We would like everyone in the congregation to be involved in the learning and the discussions as we journey into the future together. Stay tuned as future workshops and learning opportunities are announced.

~ John Syster and Jeanne Bryan

CREATION CARE TEAM (CCT)

Creation Care Team To Welcome Sister Catherine Francis

On Monday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m., the Creation Care Team will welcome Sister Catherine Francis, who will be talking with us about Saint Francis of Assisi and his concern and focus on the poor and protection of God's creation. Sister Catherine is affiliated with the Franciscan Center in Greensboro and speaks often on the wisdom and insight of Saint Francis. We will meet in the Bertha Work Room.

Light and healthy snacks will be provided at 6:00 p.m. with Sister Catherine's discussion beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Following Sister Catherine's presentation, the Creation Care Team will make plans for Earth Day Worship Service on April 22nd.

All are welcome to what promises to be a fascinating discussion!!

~ Jane Ford & Pastor Tom

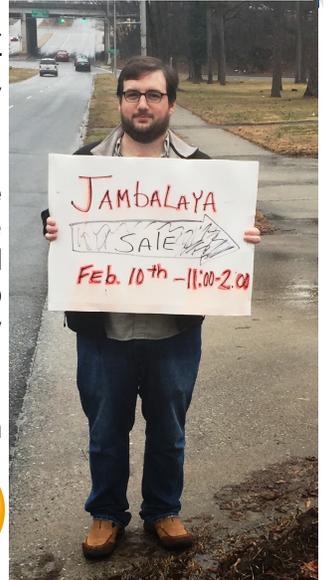


Congratulations to **Grant and Olivia Jolliff** on the birth of a baby boy, **Archibald Grant Douglas "Archie" Jolliff**, born on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at 7:12 p.m. The baby and mom are both doing well, as are dad and big brothers, Augustus and Charleston.

JAMBALAYA SALE

Our 3rd Annual Jambalaya Sale was a huge success! Our sales were approximately \$2,100.00, less expenses, which have yet to be totaled. (Most food and supplies were donated, so expenses will be minimal.) This was a grand success with many thanks to Rick Owen, and the many volunteers who helped.

Pictured here is **Ted Wilkinson** who braved the rain to advertise to passing cars on Market Street.



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Peace Church:

It has been a great pleasure to receive the expression of solidarity through the visit of the Cuba Study Seminar 2018. Each year we await this event with much anticipation since it encourages our work.

In this occasion we wish to thank you for the generous donation that you have sent for our Center. It is an answer to prayer from our Lord to continue the work of reconstruction of our kitchen-dining room and lodging.

May God continue to bless you all richly in the coming months.

Rev. Elmer and Gisela Lavastida
Lavastida Christian Center, Santiago, Cuba

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

Lois Bell; Dale Benshoff; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; Ramona Griffin; Millie Harmon; Laura Langley; Jim Lillie; Buddy Lippard; Carol MacDonald; Sally McGrogan; Sharon Mitchell; Jean Morgan; Marty Morgan; David Murray; Mary Ann Murray; Marcy Neal; Nancy Peeler; Gertrude Radford; Pansy Slate; Becky Taylor; Lucille Waynick; Betty Webster; Buddy Webster; Marjorie Wegner; Rosina & Dan Whitfield; Kelly Wyrick.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Chris Barnes** (nephew of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Katie Bowen** (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); **Eric Chapman** (nephew of Jane Ford); **Janet Faucette** (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); **Todd Fedor** (friend of Femi Quakenbush); **Donna Green** (friend of Maria Smith); **Theresa Grill** (neighbor of Sue Smith); **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); **Annette Sarty** (sister of Yvonne Poffenbaugh); **Michael Shoffner** (grandson of Edith Sink); **Tom & Rhoda Taylor** (niece & her husband of Harold Poffenbaugh); **Lindsay White** (great-granddaughter of David & Nancy Peeler).

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING
February 4	N/R	54	\$12,560	\$105
February 11	N/R	N/R	\$5,861	\$549
February 18	9	56	\$2,136	\$50
February 25	N/R	N/R	\$1,815	\$0

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

(Through January 31, 2018)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	12,702	12,702	15,086	(2384)
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	14,151	14,151	16,699	(2548)
Lavastida Center	3,192			



March Birthdays

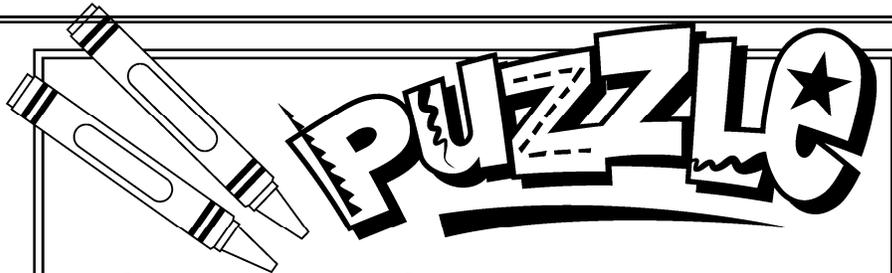


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Jill Stewart	5 Marion Hearn	6	7 Chris Bowen	8	9 Ruth Doggett	10
11	12 Rachel Cumberland	13 Abbie Wheeling	14	15 James Baker Teyrnon Bowen Jack Neal	16	17
18 Dot Benshoff	19	20	21	22 Cindy Spillers	23 Lucille Hege David Peeler	24
25	26	27	28 Larry Clapp Grant Jolliff Kaden Wyrick	29	30	31



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



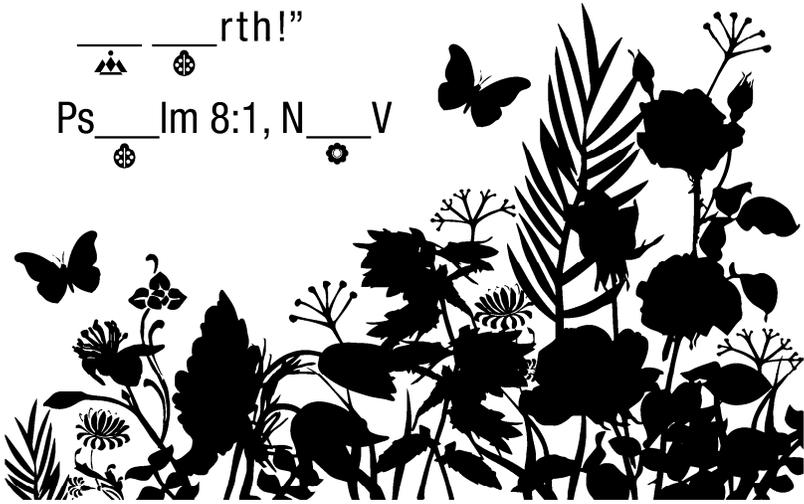
Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A = E = I = O = U =

"L__RD, __r L__rd, h__w
 m__j__st__c __s y__r
 n__m__n __ll th__
 __rth!"
 Ps__lm 8:1, N__V



HAPPY 115TH BIRTHDAY PEACE CHURCH!

On March 1, 1903, the Revs. J. C. Leonard and J. D. Andrew convened interested people in the Friends Meeting House and the First Reformed Church of Greensboro was organized with 17 charter members.

Theological student, Shuford Peeler was commissioned by the Board of Missions as minister to the congregation. He was licensed to preach by the Classis of North Carolina on May 20, 1903, and two months later, July 12, was ordained to the Christian ministry.

115 years have passed, and the ministry of Peace Church continues. We are a blessed people with many exciting days and years on the horizon. Happy Birthday Peace UCC!



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"
 Psalm 8:1, NIV