

PeacePress

Official Peace Church Newsletter
A Global Mission Church



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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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pastor Tom Warren



Well, as we enter into the August “dog days of summer”, we do so with an eye to our annual Rally Day celebration. This year’s Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12th and will include worship, special children’s programming, a congregational luncheon, followed by a Congregational Meeting.

This year’s Rally Day is being held at an extraordinary time in the life of our church and in the life of the world. Our pandemic year of 2020 turned everything upside down and now we must put the pieces back together, needing first to discern what pieces are still left to put back together. Rally Day will be a time to gain clarity about who remains “at the table” of Peace Church, what options for the future are before us, and how we can move into this unknown future with energy and hope.

At our Rally Day Congregational Meeting we will (1) present an overview of our current financial situation, (2) outline some options for moving forward into the future, and most importantly, (3) receive comments, ideas, and concerns from church members who are present at the meeting. The presence of all church members is critical to the success of this meeting.

Peace Church, like every other church in the world, has never been in a situation quite like this. This is uncharted territory. In this stormy historical moment, I am reminded of the story of Jesus’ calming of the storm in Mark 4: 35-41:

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Jesus asks his disciples “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” While I certainly confess to some fears and anxiousness at this point in the journey, my faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the world’s desperate need to hear this gospel remains strong. The question is how can Peace Church embody this faith in the midst of the stormy seas of history that we are now sailing through?

I look forward to our Rally Day celebration, and the conversations that must take place on that day.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A NOTE FROM ELISABETH



How would you define a hymnal? What is it? What if someone who had never heard of a hymnal asked you, what would you say?

Yes, it is a book of songs – Christian songs – but those songs are so much more. Our hymnal is a worship tool for praise and prayer. To truly get the most out of the hymns and the hymnal, we must intentionally read and meditate on the words. There is an entire section of hymns in our hymnal from page 569 through page 599 with the heading Prayer and Guidance, and in the index on page 824, there are even more hymns listed under the topic Guidance. To move forward from this pandemic, in all areas, we must purposefully seek and follow the guidance of God, together through Jesus, and led by the Holy Spirit.

Listed here are five hymns and their page numbers in our hymnal. There are five Sundays in August, and I am planning to use one of these each week somewhere during the worship service.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us p. 558

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought! p. 545

Lead Me, Lord p. 593

Lead On, O King Eternal p. 632

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah p. 622

As you hear it played, you may wish to follow and pray the words in the hymnal. Please dedicate that time to meditating and asking God for guidance and listening for His response.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It's back to school time for students and teachers. By donating school supplies we can help families and teachers in our church neighborhood. Please select items from the list and place in the collection box in the Narthex. The items will be delivered to Lindley Elementary School which is just across W. Market St. from our church.

Guilford County Schools Supply List:

Glue Sticks (8 and 12 count)	Index Cards (regular size)
Crayons (8 and 24 count)	Fat pencils (no erasers)
Dry Erase Markers	Copier paper
Safety Scissors	Crayola Markers
Box of #2 Wooden Pencils	3-Ring Binders (2")
Box of Colored Pencils	Pink Square Erasers
Hand Sanitizer	Pencil Pouches or Pencil Boxes
Clorox Wipes	Loose Leaf Paper
Ziploc Bags (quart and gallon)	Composition Books
Moist Towelettes	2-Pocket Folders
Box of Tissues	
Pump Dispenser of Antibacterial Soap	

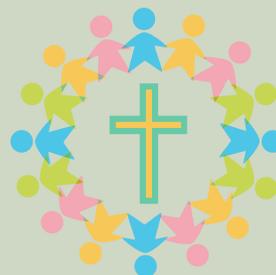
SHERRI KLUTTZ ALBUM RELEASE

After a long wait Sherri Kluttz' new album "By God's Grace" has been released and there are copies available for \$8 in the church office. The album features classic gospel songs along with some more popular folk songs mixed in. Pastor Tom and Abigail Miller-Warren are also featured in a couple of the songs. If anyone wants a signed copy Sherri can be reached at 336-209-5048 or by email at kluttz5562@gmail.com. Congratulations Sherri!!

RALLY DAY 2021

It is time to mark your calendars for Rally Day 2021! On Sunday, September 12th we will gather for worship at 10:45am. This worship service, depending on the weather conditions, will be either at our outside altar or in the Fellowship Hall. Part of this Rally Day will include children's activities, a congregational luncheon after worship, followed by a very important Congregational Meeting (see Pastor's Perspective).

We hope everyone will be present with us for fellowship, special worship, fun, food, and important conversation as we look to our future. Join us!!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

- Anne will be out of the office for the week.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

- Hands-On will meet on this Tuesday, August 10. If you would like to come and visit with us or join in the work, we would love to have you with our group. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-2:30.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

- Anne will be returning to UNCG and her office hours will change to the following:
Monday - 2-5, Tuesday - 11-3, Wednesday - 10-2, Thursday - 11-2, Friday - 10-3

HANDS-ON UPDATE

Attendance was up to 7 for our July pillow session...up from 5 in June. Thanks to those who attended, as well as those who worked at home.

This week, 61 pillows were delivered by Pastor Tom and Theo to Hospice, Wesley Long Hospital, and Cone Hospital.

As "Mission of the Month" for June, \$1,020.00 was raised to benefit the work and materials needed for Hands-On. Theo Scott and all the members of Hands-On say "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"



Faith's Call to the World: A Summer Discussion Series

This program will meet each Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, August 4th

Rev. Frank Dew

Executive Director, Greensboro Urban Ministries, Ret.

Wednesday, August 11th

Dr. Matthew C. Armstrong

Professor of English, Guilford College

Author: *The Mysteries of Haditha*

Presenters will share a scripture foundational to their faith journey and the work in the world that their faith has called them to.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- August 3rd – John Dieterly
- 4th – Jennifer Killingsworth
- 6th – Michael Clapps
- 7th – Buddy Lippard
- 10th – Jocelyn Bowen & Glen Hutchinson
- 17th – Stan Dodd
- 19th – Daniel Whitfield
- 21st – Louise Hearn
- 23rd – Heather Owen & Izzie Smith
- 26th – Jamie Henegar
- 29th – Joan Dilworth
- 31st – Brooklyn Hittepole

PEACECARE UPDATE



Please remember our Card Ministry when you have friends or family with prayer concerns. Our Prayer Ministry is happy to send cards as part of the Peace Church outreach efforts. Provide the contact information to Theo Scott.

Thanks to our PeaceCare card mailers: Una Lee Myers, Debbie Kaynor, Roy Smith, Jean Scott, Jean Morgan, and Dorothy Pauli.

FINANCE UPDATE

Quick Look of Finances as of May 31, 2021 (Treasurer's report is posted in the church hallway on the bulletin board)

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	8,125.00	50,980.00	107,081.00	56,101.00
4003	Loose Offerings	20.00	373.00	250.00	(123.00)
4004	Initial offerings	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
4006	Non-Pledge Offerings	1,710.00	8,043.75	37,102.00	29,058.25
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Offerings		\$9,855.00.00	\$59,391.75	\$144,583.00	\$85,186.25

May 2021 Offering Income	June 2021 Offering Income	May-June Difference Offering Income
\$11,290.00	\$9,855.00	-\$1,435.00

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
June 2021 Income Total*	\$11,498.70	\$78,947.90	\$164,683.00	\$91,530.09
June 2021 Expenses Total	\$9,261.12	\$69,440.69	\$196,284.00	\$129,443.31
Income-Expenses	+\$2,237.58	+\$9,507.21#	-\$31,601.00	

* Income does not include money received for the History Room project (\$445).

The PPP loan was used to help defray the cost for Tom and Rachel's salaries for May as well as Tom's insurance and annuity. This is all part of payroll compensation. We also used the PPP loan to pay for our utilities. This is what helped our bottom line. Without the PPP loan funds, we would be in a deficit for June.

DEVOTIONAL FROM UCC STILL SPEAKING

By Jennifer Brownell

Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. – Acts 9:31 (NRSV)

You probably don't ever have these conversations where you are (cough, cough), but the church people I hang out with spend a fair amount of time thinking, reading, and talking about plans or programs designed to get the church to grow.

Screens or no screens. Small groups or leadership training. One kind of music or another kind. And whatever the attractive program or plan is, it must lure the elusive "young family," seldom seen in the wild and not easily captured.

What if church growth, though, was less about a plan or a program and more about an orientation, an attitude, a way of being?

What if the most attractive feature of your church to young families (and old singles and all the configurations of humanity in between) was that you had the kind of true peace that confronted conflict in a healthy, unafraid way?

What if the most appealing growth plan was a commitment to faith so unabashedly reverent that it looked something like awe?

What if the best church growth program of all was a community of people giving and receiving the kind of comfort that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I mean, I don't know if it would work. But if your church is anything like mine, you've tried everything else. Maybe the plan we've been seeking has been with us all along, hidden in plain sight right here in the thirty-first verse of the ninth book of Acts.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give us comfort. Christ, grant us awe. Creator God, bring us peace. Amen.