



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

Tom Warren



In the gospel of Mark, there is a most disturbing text which scholars refer to as 'apocalyptic,' which simply means 'to reveal.' The text is from Mark 13: 7-8:

“When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The writer of Mark, who crafted this early gospel circa 70 C.E., is responding to specific first century struggles within the Roman Empire. In verse 14 there is a reference to the “desolating sacrilege,” clearly understood as the historic destruction of the Jerusalem Temple by Roman forces. But the bigger picture of this “apocalyptic” text – the theological claim – is that the old, unjust order will fall, giving birth to a new order more in line with the fair and just intentions of God. World orders and world powers, built on arrogance, power, and violence, inevitably fall and in their place comes the possibility for a new social order built on justice, peace, and love.

Looking out over our world and its global economy today, it is not hard to think that a major, global shift is taking place. People, all across the globe, are on the move. Wars are raging in various nations (not just Ukraine) throughout the world. Street brawls

have broken out from Baltimore to Bangladesh. And while the rich gain more and more of the world's wealth, the increasingly unjust order through which they have gained such wealth is crumbling. Birth pangs are beginning.

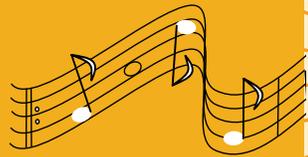
It is into this reality that God calls the church. Into this reality that God calls Peace Church. While God gives birth to a new social order, to what are we called? How do we take part in the birthing process? In Jesus' time some advocated taking up arms (Zealots & the Sicarii). Others retreated to caves (Qumron Community), while still others cozied up to the powerful, seeking a slice of the pie.

But a few, a small group of women and men, rallied around the vision of Jesus. They caught a glimpse, in his actions and teachings, that the world could be organized differently. All could have what they need. Peace could take root in the world. Violence was not inevitable. People of different races, economic backgrounds, religions, and social circumstances could embrace on behalf of the kingdom. One faith community at a time could change the world.

This is the call of the church. It always has been. Christ's followers have gotten lost and confused along history's path, but the “birth pangs” of our day present a new opportunity to once again not simply believe in Jesus or believe things about Jesus, but to follow Jesus. To live for what he lived for. To fight for what he fought for; to build God's kingdom here on earth.

Resurrection Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A NOTE FROM ELISABETH



As May begins, we are still in the heart of the Spring season. It's the time each year we see with greater awareness the new life and color and excitement in the world around us. At the end of April, we focused on God's beautiful creation as we remembered Earth Day.

The hymn, All Things Bright and Beautiful on page 61 in our hymnal, reminds us that it is God's creative hand that made everything around us. The verses describe the world including flowers and birds and sunset and seasons and the food in the garden, and it is God that gives it all to us. As we wake up each morning and see our world - in every season - we need to give thanks and sing praise to Him.

"He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord." Psalm 40: 3 (NIV)

We also want to remember that May includes Mother's Day and be grateful for our mothers or those who are mother figures in our lives - being thankful for their love and all they taught us including the songs they may have sung.

Looing ahead - Pentecost Sunday is June 5th this year. As we move through May and approach Pentecost Sunday, let's pray for a new awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our church.

UPDATE ON GISELA LAVASTIDA



Our church member Gisela Maria Lavastida, daughter of Revs. Gisela and Elmer Lavastida, is now into her third year as a student at the Matanzas Theological Seminary in Matanzas, Cuba. She is currently taking two classes including Liturgy 1 (worship) and Introduction to Missions and Diakonia (service). To get to the seminary she takes a bus all the way from Santiago (eastern part of Cuba) and is helped in that cost by the recent scholarship we awarded her that also goes to books and other seminary related expenses.

Gisela continues on in the process of pursuing the ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. This is a process that takes some time and may require that Gisela come to Greensboro and the UCC Southern Conference for some meetings related to her ordained status. For the long term, there are hopes of Gisela Maria starting a UCC church in Cuba, but that reality is certainly down the road a bit.

Let us all keep Gisela Maria in our prayers as she continues in pursuit of her degree as well as working part time and raising two beautiful young men, Samuel and Daniel.

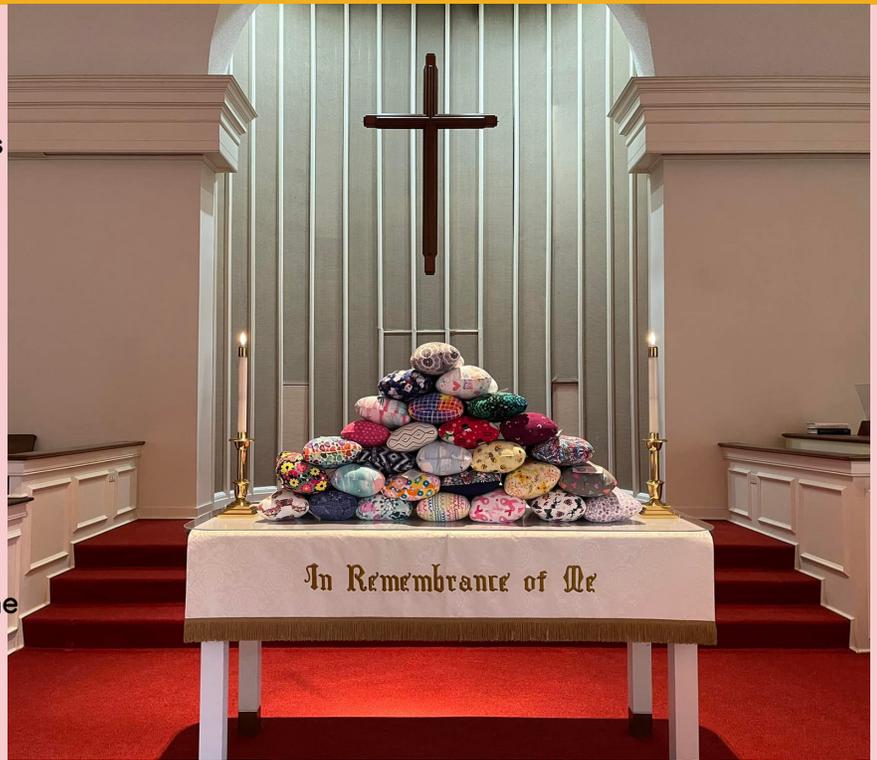
Hands-On "Homespun"

15th Anniversary Celebration

A lovely group of 32 people enjoyed the delicious "Hands-On Homespun Luncheon" on Sunday, May 1. It was a truly beautiful occasion with take home goodies to enjoy.. Thanks to the committee members without whom food preparation would still be in progress.

Assisting were Sue Brittain, Lynne Hughes, Sharon Mitchell, Yvonne Poffenbaugh, Debbie Shiner, and Abbie, Wheeling.. Desserts were donated by Abbie, Debbie, Lynne, Sue, and Theo. Sharon did the bulletin board, Sharon the fabric display, and Hannah and Madeline put together the jigsaw puzzle display of cards Hands-On had received.

Thanks to all who participated in any way.



ROOM AT THE INN: Mother's Day Mission

The Mother's Day Mission this year is sponsored by women's fellowship. At the Mary Nussbaum Maternity Home, women who have nowhere to turn are finding a place that wants to help. There is a place to live while expecting a child and the guidance that will help shape the lives of mother and baby when they leave this place after the birth.

Room At The Inn offers a voluntary program for residents who want assistance in developing their relationship with Christ and with others in their lives. The program is based on the definition of a Godly woman as described in Chapter 31 of the book of Proverbs. For more information about Room at the Inn you can go to their website at roomattheinn.org.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Peace UCC Women's Fellowship.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- May 6th – Audrey Summers
- 7th – Lindsey Wilkinson
- 8th – Haley Lambe Williams
- 12th – Miriam Dieterly & Melinda Summers
- 15th – Rick Owen
- 20th – Una Lee Myers
- 21st – Evie Williams
- 22nd – Marie Hearn
- 23rd – Les Case
- 26th – Ava Chambers

MISSION OF THE MONTH

As always, your support is appreciated.



Treasurer's Report as of March 2022 for General Fund

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	11,575.90	32,610.90	118,228.00	85,617.10
4003	Loose Offerings	145.30	250.30	500.00	249.70
4004	Initial offerings	0.00	0.00	00.00	00.00
4006	Non-Pledge Offerings	620.00	1,950.00	4000.00	2,050.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Offerings		\$12,341.00	\$34,811.20	\$122,828.00	\$88,016.80
		Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Rem.
March 2022 Income Total		\$13,646.84	\$48,563.97	\$151,078.00	\$102,514.03
March Expenses Total		\$20,009.02	\$51,240.86	\$220,873.00	\$169,727.14
March Income-Expenses:		-\$6,362.18	-\$2,676.89	-\$69,795.00	

Jambalaya Sales and Expenses as of 4/01/2022

Income + \$3,430.53 Food Sales. Those who paid with paypal had a transaction fee deducted. This is why it is an "odd number" and not a whole number.

Expenses - \$1,205.58 Food, containers, and advertising

Profit + \$2,224.95