

PEACEPRESS

Hello September



Pastor's Perspective

BY TOM WARREN

As we roll into September and look toward our Rally Day celebration on September 11th , let us spend a moment reflecting on our Vision Statement and why it is important to the life of our faith community.

When an organization lays claim to a “vision”, it makes a claim as to its motivating purpose. A Christian community is, by its very title, a unique group of people dedicated to a historically unique individual; that, of course, being Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus came into the world at a unique and special time in history, during the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire was the most powerful and deadly political power ever seen up to that point in human history.

In the shadow of this empire, Jesus was a Jew who was committed to the reformation of the Jewish faith, a reformation which eventually evolved into the Christian faith tradition, a tradition which challenged both the political (Romans) and religious (Jewish) authorities of the day.

New Testament scholar Marcus Borg notes that Jesus' uniqueness took shape as a person of deep mystical qualities, who was a sage-filled man of wisdom. He prophetically critiqued the social injustice of the first century, while angering both Roman and Jewish authorities as he welcomed the poor, women, children, the sick and the lame into a new community based on love, hospitality, economic sharing, forgiveness and peace. To this our Vision Statement points...

Peace United Church of Christ is a community of people who strive to be living examples of the teachings, ethics, and values of Jesus Christ.

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As we move towards affirming our new statements, let us be conscious of the joyful and challenging nature of these declarations. They are statements that we will strive to grow into, never living them out perfectly, but always keeping them before us as people of "The Way". A beautiful way, indeed.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

ELISABETH PENRY

Back on the last Sunday in June I picked up one of the pamphlets about the United Church of Christ. Having grown up in another denomination, I was particularly interested in the section on the Characteristics of the UCC with the first one being "Christian." The church is to proclaim Jesus Christ. We are under His leadership.

If someone were to ask us why we believe in Jesus, we need to be secure in our answers and ready to discuss Who and What He is in our lives. For a church to grow and be exciting we need to be sure we are really presenting the living Jesus and His Word to the community and the world based on John 14: 6 where Jesus Himself says:

"I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me." (NIV)

We sing about following the leadership of Jesus. Check out the words of these hymns in our hymnal:

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

We need to mean it when we sing it! What are the reasons that you can definitively say why Jesus is the One you follow? How do we together as a Christian church show we are following Him?

Hands-On

THEO SCOTT

Six people worked mightily at the August Session and more contributed at home. The result...a whopping 80 pillows delivered last week for August. The higher number includes some children's pillows for Hospice.. Their official program, Kid's Path, has not reopened, but we decided to force the issue since there still have to be some child patients or grieving children out there. We will see how it goes.

Buckle up, Hands-On. We start adding some Christmas pillows in September so that we can have them pretty much finished in November. Our Dec. session is only 11 days before Christmas, so we have to start early.

New members are welcome.

See you on September 14 at 1 PM.

Theo

Hands-On Chair.

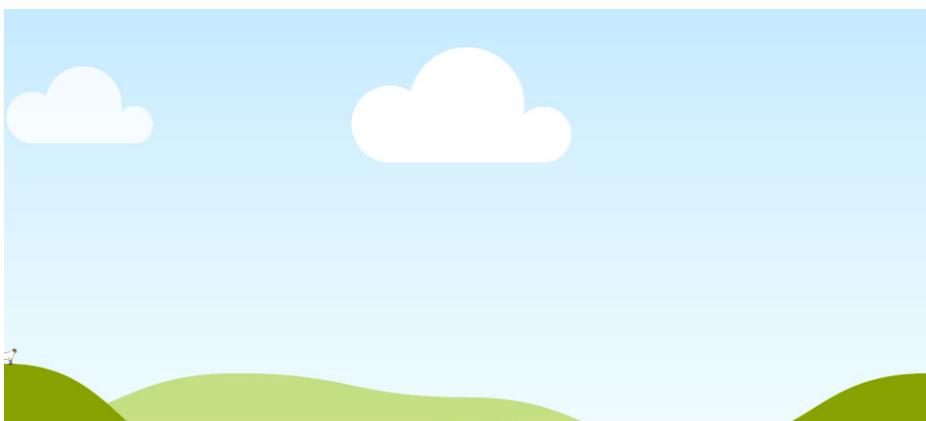


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PROPOSED VISION
STATEMENT

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- **7th - Madeline Owens**
- **11th - Joe Small & Amy Williams**
- **15th - Cynthia Bowen Darrell Clark Tom Warren**
- **18th - Roberta Bowman**
- **19th - Kathryn Virgilio**
- **20th - Sue Brittain**
- **21st - Kenny Savage**
- **22nd - Sylvia Lippard & Doris Yeatess**
- **23rd - James Leszinski**



Crop-Walk Update Summer Splash was... A Splash!

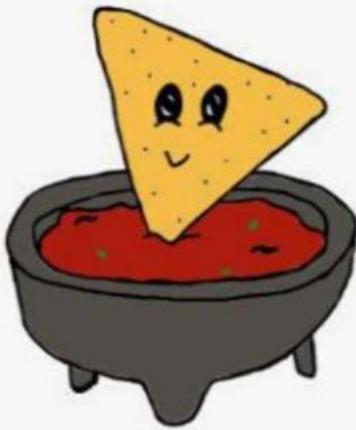
RUSS HAVER

On Sunday October 2, 2022 the 42nd Annual Greater Greensboro Crop Hunger Walk will take place at the Greensboro Coliseum. Material packets will be available to pick up in August so members can sign up to walk and order shirts. Shirt sizes are youth medium, adult small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL;

Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex in the next few weeks so anyone who would be interested in walking or ordering shirts can do so (more to come on pricing).

Hopefully this will give everyone time to look at their schedule and plan to join the Peace Church team to walk on Oct. 2nd and give you an early start to collect pledges from your family, friends, and neighbors. Copy and paste this link into your browser to join Peace's Team or to make a donation to our team:
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/greensboronc>

I VALUE OUR FRIEND CHIP



CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

BY  CWS

On Saturday, August 20th Peace Church had its first (annual?) End of Summer Splash! carnival on the church lawn from 4:00-7:00pm. The carnival featured a water slide, dunking booth, ice cream sundaes, hotdogs and hamburgers, water balloons, face painting, and of course, Captain Super Soaker! Much fun was had by all the children who came by for the fun and our squad of volunteers were fantastic. Enjoy these photos!



Southern Conference and WNCA UCC Meetings

AVA CHAMBERS

The Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference United Church of Christ is Saturday, September 24, 2022
10:00am - 3:30pm

The Southern Conference is churches in North Carolina and Eastern Virginia. The meeting will be virtual this year. The guest speaker will Justin Meier (Ph.D). He is a Trauma-Informed Resilience-Building therapist, professor, and pastor. Dr. Meier has a heart to see churches become places of hope, help and healing without judgement. He strives to do this by teaching churches how to not only embrace a trauma-informed posture, but also how to use simple practices to help people overcome their trauma.

Peace Church is given 2 delegates for the Annual Gathering. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please contact Ava Chambers, 336-776-7536.

The Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Association United Church of Christ is Saturday, October 1, 2022
9:00am - 3:00pm
at Abernethy Laurels, Newton, NC

The Western Association is comprised of UCC churches in North Carolina from Greensboro to Tyron NC. Our theme this year if "We Are Family". We will share in fellowship and worship, celebrate good things happening in our churches and dedicate ourselves anew to the calling of Christ as we embrace our faith and hope.

Again Peace Church has 2 voting delegates. If you would like to attend, please contact Ava Chambers. 336-776-7536

Cuba Update

KIM MILLER AND PASTOR TOM WARREN

Update on Cuba and the Cuba Study Seminar 2023

The United Church of Christ Cuba Study Seminar is scheduled to depart on Friday, February 10th through Sunday, February 19th, 2023. At this time there are 11 committed participants, and we expect more to sign on in the coming weeks. If anyone is interested in going on this trip, please contact Pastor Tom at uccubastudy@gmail.com.

It has been nearly three years since the Cuba Study Seminar has traveled to Cuba. During this time Cuba has been through some very difficult struggles. Most recently an oil storage tank in Matanzas was struck by lightning, leading to the complete burning of three storage tanks filled with oil used to fuel their national power grid. In the explosion and subsequent fire, a number of firefighters lives were lost, and many local citizens were burned by the incredibly destructive heat of the fires. Cuba observed a national day of mourning in the wake of these fires.

In addition to the various struggles of the Cuban people, the U.S. blockade of Cuba remains in effect. The impact of this 60-year embargo, which has been strengthened numerous times over the years, is tragic for the common Cuban citizen. To learn more about the impact of U.S. sanctions on Cuba go to this link: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/feb/03/cuba-us-embargo-must-end>

We hope everyone will keep the people of Cuba in their prayers, especially Revs. Elmer and Gisela Lavastida and the staff of the Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago. We look forward to being with our Cuban brothers and sisters again in February and invite any members or friends of the church to join us.

Kim Miller and Pastor Tom Warren
Co-Chairs, UCC Cuba Study Seminar

Don't Forget!

The Women's Fellowship meets the first Tuesday of every month. This month they will meet on September 6th. New-comers are always welcome.

RALLY DAY

September 11th is our Rally Day service which will feature the music of the James McLaughlin Jazz Quartet featuring jazz musicians from the University of North Carolina Greensboro program in Jazz Music. After worship there will be a picnic luncheon followed by a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote upon our proposed Vison and Mission Statements. Worship will begin at 10:45am, but the smooth jazz will get started at 10:30am. Join us!

On the next page you will find the flier for the service.

September 17th

RALLY DAY



A Jazz Service for Rally Day at
Peace United Church of Christ - more info at peaceucc.com



Treasurer's Report as of July 2022 for General Fund

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Rem.
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	9,151.00	67,355.57	118,228.00	50,872.43
4003	Loose Offerings	5.00	696.78	500.00	(196.78)
4004	Initial offerings	0.00	0.00	00.00	00.00
4006	Non-Pledge Offerings	603.00	4,173.00	4000.00	(173).00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	(29.98)	100.00	129.98
<u>Total Offerings</u>		<u>\$9,759.28</u>	<u>\$72,195.37</u>	<u>\$122,828.00</u>	<u>\$50,632.63</u>

Snapshot of Finances for July from the Treasurer's Report

	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Rem.
June 2022 Income Total	\$11,331.85	\$94,983.33	\$151,078.00	\$58,094.67
June Expenses Total	\$17,062.54	\$119,943.58	\$220,873.00	\$105,508.00
June Income-Expenses:	- \$5,730.69	- \$24,960.25	- \$69,795.00	

End of Summer Splash community donations for food \$89.14. Most of the donations were cash; however, some were via Venmo with a small fee per transaction. Therefore, there isn't a round donation figure.

Online Worship Service is a new line item on the treasurer's report. Thank you to the anonymous donors for the \$1,000 donation to help purchase items needed for our online worship service on Facebook and YouTube.

As always, the financial records are displayed at the church on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you have any questions, feel free to email them to peacefinance2417@gmail.com. I am usually in the office every Wednesday.