

PEACEPRESS



Pastor's Perspective

As I shared in my Ash Wednesday meditation, we are a “marked” people. The ashes placed upon our foreheads are “symbol” as well as “signal”; a symbol to ourselves of our commitment to repentance and an understanding of the limited nature of our lives (“ashes to ashes, dust to dust”). Also, the ashes are a signal to the world that we understand ourselves as different in the values that we hold, the ethics that we try to live, and the narrative out of which we make sense of our lives and wider world. We are different and our “markedness” is, at least on Ash Wednesday, demonstrated to the world.

When I woke up this morning, still wearing a black smudge upon my forehead, the morning newspaper further reminded

me of why we are different. The headlines, for both national and local stories, reveal a society that is awash in confusion, distorted values, and fear. There was simultaneously, an article about the latest mass shooting as well as an article about the legal effort to allow concealed handguns on all of West Virginia’s college campuses. Indeed, mass shootings hardly solicit a shrug anymore from most Americans, opting instead to just turn our eyes away. Are we numb, powerless, or simply paralyzed by fear? It’s hard to tell.

Lent is a unique religious season for Christians in which we walk along with Jesus to the cross. The cross was first and foremost a symbol of Roman power, where “troublemakers” of all kinds were hung as a public example for what happens when citizens don’t conform, or worse yet, when they question the established order. Jesus’ journey to the cross was one of healing,

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teaching, feeding, and, by extension, challenging the social order of the day. For that he was lynched, and the powers of death were seemingly victorious. Yet, only for a moment.

If we are truly a “marked” people, living out of a different set of values, then the Lenten journey will not be an easy one. Good Friday is dark. Holy Saturday saturated with anxiety. Easter morning awash in the joy of life’s victory over death. For this we are “marked”: in strength, in faith, in love.

Let the journey begin....

Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth



So how much did you learn about music when you were in school? Or did you take private lessons? Or do you just happen to know what the symbols above mean?

If you said, “repeat signs,” then you are correct. When we first began rehearsing our choir again in January, we encountered these signs in our first anthem and discussed their meaning. When singing, or playing an instrument, and you come to these signs, you re-do whatever is between them. If there is just the one over on the right with the dots on the left side of the lines, you re-do whatever you have done up until that point in the music. Sometimes I really like having the opportunity to repeat and correct mistakes that I made the first time around!

When I was teaching school, I was reviewing some of the musical signs and symbols we had learned previously. One of the answers I got for this symbol was “repent” sign.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized the student, probably

unknowingly, was on the right track. When we repent and seek forgiveness, we are going back over something we have done. Although we can’t completely undo the action, there is the opportunity to look back and re-consider our words or actions or attitudes and hopefully make corrections as we move ahead.

The season of Lent is traditionally a quiet time of focus on Jesus and prayer and confession and reflection and renewed commitment. This year, when we see those repeat signs in music (and they come up often – even in our hymnal!), let’s not only repeat the music but also be reminded of repentance and the meaning of the season.

Lavastida Center Receives UCC Cuba Study Seminar

On Wednesday, February 15th, the 19 members of the UCC Cuba Study Seminar were received with open arms and tears of joy. It had been three years since our last visit and it was great to renew our ties with the staff and ministry of

the Lavastida Center, as well as the Lavastida family in particular. On behalf of Peace Church, Kim and Pastor Tom were able to deliver a gift of \$1,100.00 to the Lavastida Center which will be used to support their outreach ministries in Santiago and the surrounding rural areas. It is hard to overstate how important these funds are to the Lavastida Center and what a significant amount our gift was in their Cuban context.

Much gratitude was shared by the Lavastida Center staff for our gift, and more importantly, for our love and solidarity carried out in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you Peace Church members!!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



- 3rd - Archie Jolliff
- 7th - Chris Bowen
- 9th - Ruth Doggett
- 12th - Rachel Cumberland
- 13th - Abbie Wheeling
- 15th - Teyrnon Bowen & Cassandra Virgilio
- 18th - Dot Benschoff
- 22nd - Cindy Spillers
- 23rd - Lucille Hege & David Peeler
- 26th - Beth Troy
- 28th - Larry Clapp & Grant Jolliff

Mission of the Month

Our mission of the month for March is the Church World Service Hygiene Kit Ministry. This is an exciting mission to take part in, because it will involve church members assembling kits after we are finished collecting donations throughout March. Look out for an announcement in March on our packing date! Church youth and youth families are highly encouraged to participate in this packing day, as it will be very easy and accessible for the youth.



"We are thankful for the faithful congregations that provided these warm blankets for families in need. People of faith are so generous and really do love their neighbors."
-LAURA MEYER, NEIGHBORS TO NEIGHBORS, MICHIGAN



SCHOOL KITS
45,570



BABY KITS + WELCOME BACKPACKS
7,843



CWS | 2022 KITS + BLANKETS SHIPPING REPORT

HYGIENE KITS
108,390



CLEANUP BUCKETS
6,605

"From our youngest children to our Senior Saints our church assembled CWS Welcome Backpacks as an intergenerational mission project."
-KELVIN BENNETT, WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN, IOWA

Every year I donate to the CWS Blanket offering at my church. I know my gift will help to provide love, warmth, and comfort to individuals who need a reminder that someone cares about them.
-ASHLEY K., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



BLANKETS
59,910



Thanks to generous supporters like you, CWS distributed over **228,000 Kits and Blankets** in 2022!

Important Dates

- March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th Lenten Soup and Study is ongoing throughout the month of March. Every Thursday it will be held in the Parlor and soup will be provided.
- Tuesday, March 7th Women's Fellowship will meet in the Parlor at 10AM. Newcomers are welcomed and encouraged to attend!
- Wednesday, March 15 Hands-On will have their regular meeting in the Fellowship Hall.
- Thursday, April 6th Maundy Thursday service will be held at 6PM in the Narthex and will be a dinner worship meal.
- Sundays! The Choir practices every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to join!
- Friday, April 7th Good Friday Service at 7PM in the Sanctuary.



The date for the March session will be March 15. There is an event scheduled for that date that requires the Fellowship Hall on our usual date.

Thanks to all members for a wonderful February during my absence. 69 pillows were delivered by Feb. 23 to four recipient organizations. With an extra week for work at home in March, we look forward to increasing that number as we "march" (no pun intended) to our 2023 goal of 10,000 pillows.

Theo Scott
Chair



"Summer Camp at JRVC is a time and place where friends are made to last a life time. Get your camper registered for a fun and meaningful experience this summer. Register on our website at www.jrvc.org or request a registration form by emailing phardy.jrvc@gmail.com...Bring along a first time Camper and receive a \$50 discount."

Middle and Senior High Camps

June 25-June 30: (Grades 7-12) Campers will hike to Harper Falls, Bike the Virginia Creeper Trail, Kayak the Johns River and more(Cost: \$450). Directed by Rev. Jason Stump.

July 16-July 21: Main Site High Adventure (Grades 7-12) Campers will stay on the Main Site and participate in adventure activities including off site rock wall climbing and caving (Cost: \$525). Directed by Staff.

(For Campers Grades 7-12 the above two Camps can be combined for two-weeks of Camp at the cost of \$900. To Inquire email Phil Hardy at phardy.jrvc@gmail.com).

March 18, 2023 | 9 AM - 12 PM | Zoom

SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORUM: "WITH HEARTS AND HANDS: ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST"

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Susan Smith
Associate Pastor
Exodus Outreach UCC
in Hickory

Tickets \$10

Free for Youth (under 18)



Western North Carolina Association
of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ

Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC
Treasurer's Report as of January 2023 for General Fund

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	11,581.15	11,581.15	117,110.00	105,528.85
4003	Loose Offerings	130.00	130.00	500.00	370.00
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non Pledge Offerings	1,095.00	1,095.00	25,870.00	24,775.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Offerings	\$12,806.15	\$12,806.15	\$143,580.00	\$130,773.85
Fundraising					
4102	Jambalaya	40.00	40.00	4,000.00	3,960.00
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
	Total Fundraising	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,960.00
Special Offerings					
4009	Communion	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4108	Birthday/Thank You	50.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
4114	Memorials	1,140.00	1,140.00	0.00	(1,140.00)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Special Offerings	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00	\$350.00	(\$840.00)
Other Services					
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Other Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income					
Facility Use Donations					
4124	New Arrivals Institute	0.00	0.00	30,360.00	30,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	75.00	3,000.00	2,925.00
4128	Alliance Church	500.00	500.00	3,000.00	2,500.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$575.00	\$575.00	\$37,360.00	\$36,785.00
4122	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	\$575.00	\$575.00	\$37,360.00	\$36,785.00
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4115	Community Event Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Offering Income	\$14,611.15	\$14,611.15	\$188,290.00	\$173,678.85
Expenses					
Missions					
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
5005	Community Outreach Events	37.85	37.85	150.00	112.15
	Total Missions	\$37.85	\$37.85	\$550.00	\$512.15
Consistory					
5101	PeaceCare	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5104	Membership Support	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
5105	Worship Committee	10.50	10.50	1,700.00	1,689.50
5106	Stewardship	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
	Total Consistory	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$3,800.00	\$3,789.50
Christian Ed					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	30.00	30.00	400.00	370.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	50.15	50.15	500.00	449.85
	Total Christian Ed	\$80.15	\$80.15	\$900.00	\$819.85

Property					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	700.00	8,800.00	8,100.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	416.67	5,417.00	5,000.33
5214	Property Insurance	938.20	938.20	16,000.00	15,061.80
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	80.00	80.00	10,000.00	9,920.00
5217	Boiler Maintenance	728.04	728.04	15,000.00	14,271.96
5219	ADT Security	48.86	48.86	600.00	551.14
5221	Supplies	59.95	59.95	1,000.00	940.05
	Total Property	\$2,971.72	\$2,971.72	\$56,817.00	\$53,845.28
Administration					
5401	Postage	62.04	62.04	1,300.00	1,237.96
5403	Office Equipment Lease	173.74	173.74	4,000.00	3,826.26
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5407	Telephone/Internet	253.18	253.18	3,100.00	2,846.82
5409	Office Supplies	65.10	65.10	1,500.00	1,434.90
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
5412	Bank Charges	41.65	41.65	600.00	558.35
	Total Administration	\$595.71	\$595.71	\$12,500.00	\$11,904.29
Utilities					
5301	Gas	1,499.00	1,499.00	15,000.00	13,501.00

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5303	Electricity	751.85	751.85	11,500.00	10,748.15
5304	Water	369.92	369.92	7,000.00	6,630.08
	Total Utilities	\$2,620.77	\$2,620.77	\$33,500.00	\$30,879.23
Pastoral Compensation					
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	2,790.84	33,491.00	30,700.16
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	1,416.66	17,000.00	15,583.34
5505	Social Security Reimb.	321.88	321.88	4,065.00	3,743.12
5507	Annuity	336.60	336.60	7,069.00	6,732.40
5509	Insurance	1,745.37	1,745.37	23,000.00	21,254.63
5510	Medical Reimb.	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Total Pastoral Compensation	\$6,611.35	\$6,611.35	\$87,625.00	\$81,013.65
Personnel					
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	1,400.00	1,400.00	15,600.00	14,200.00
5603	Secretary	1,440.00	1,440.00	18,720.00	17,280.00
5605	Nursery Attendant	52.50	52.50	1,800.00	1,747.50
5607	Youth Leadership	666.00	666.00	9,360.00	8,694.00
	Total Personnel	\$3,558.50	\$3,558.50	\$45,480.00	\$41,921.50
Personnel Benefits					
5612	Social Security Exp.	272.22	272.22	3,479.00	3,206.78
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
5618	Conference & Meetings	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
	Total Personnel Benefits	\$272.22	\$272.22	\$4,879.00	\$4,606.78
Fundraising Expenses					
5701	Jambalaya Expense	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
5703	Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
5705	Brunswick Stew Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
	Total Fundraising Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00
	Total Expenses	\$16,758.77	\$16,758.77	\$249,351.00	\$232,592.23
Difference		(\$2,147.62)	(\$2,147.62)	(\$61,061.00)	