

# PEACEPRESS



## *Pastor's Perspective*

On Sunday, April 16th Peace Church made the decision to invest in a solar power system that is projected to cut our annual electricity bill by 86%. That's a lot of savings, and for some the most attractive aspect of our decision. After all, stewardship of our finances is very important.

Yet perhaps even more important to our solar investment is the impact it will have on God's green earth. Only a few short years ago, people like me and many others wondered about the reality of climate change and its impact on the earth. I needed more tangible proof and scientific knowledge of the entire process. Today I am not only an informed "believer" in climate change, but have been following the climate

disruptions (fires, floods, hurricanes, droughts, & extreme temperatures) that are now routinely taking place all over the world. Additionally, the current levels of CO2 in the air are higher than ever before reaching 424.83 parts per million (ppm) two weeks ago on April 17th (see [www.co2.earth](http://www.co2.earth)). With the sustainable level determined to be at 350 ppm, this is not a good development.

While our investment in 100 solar panels is the equivalent of a drop of water into the ocean, we are simply one of a global movement of people, organizations, corporations, and governments all over the world who are making the move to renewable energy. Like it or not, the change has begun and the only remaining question is whether or not we can make the change quickly enough. By installing solar panels, we have engaged in a bold act of faith; for God's good creation, the other species of the world, and our

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grandchildren.

Climate change is what scientists and theologians call an “existential” threat; a threat to our existence. For this reason some will continue to look away, deny, or will simply not be able to muster the strength and courage to engage with it. That is ok, but as people of faith we are part of God’s creation and our actions are a testimony of faith. We believe in God, God’s good creation, all that’s in it, and thus we act in passionate love to protect and defend this earth.

Once our solar power system is installed and running toward the end of the year, we will have a big celebration. This will be part of our testimony to the neighborhood, our nation, and indeed the whole world.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.”... And God saw that it was good. - Genesis 1: 24-25

As David Murray likes to say: “We are small, but mighty!” Yes, indeed!

Pastor Tom

## *A Note from Elisabeth*

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,... Ephesians 5:19 (NIV)  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,...  
Psalm 100:1 (KJV)

What a joy it is to sing and/or make a joyful noise to the Lord! I have heard wonderful positive remarks since the choir has begun singing again, and it was nice to invite the congregation to sing with us during the anthem on Easter morning. Your comments and participation are really appreciated - and here is another invitation to come and

join us in song!

The plan when the choir restarted in January was to rehearse from 9:30 – 10:45 on Sunday mornings and sing about once a month in the service. So far, this plan seems to be working well. We are rebuilding our repertoire and library, so it’s a great time to become a part of the process. We do enjoy having multiple generations participating in the choir as that represents our church. We’re certainly working hard to make the choir accessible to anyone who wants to be involved – including trying to keep track of when people will not be here, so everyone can sing together. Please consider coming on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

In the month of May we certainly don’t want to forget Mother’s Day. If it is still possible for you, sing with your mother, or sing your mother’s favorite hymn or song in her honor. And this year, Pentecost is in May on the 28th . When you come into church get a hymnal and read page 243, Holy Spirit, Come. It is a beautiful prayer full of imagery.

Let praising the Lord through music be an active, continuing part of your life!

## *Women's Fellowship*

Mother's Day is May 14, so don't forget your favorite Mom's name for the Mother's Day Bulletin. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex for In Memory of or In Honor of those you love so much! The proceeds from this effort will go to Urban Ministries this year. Moms are known for feeding folks, and Urban Ministries is doing a great job of that!



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

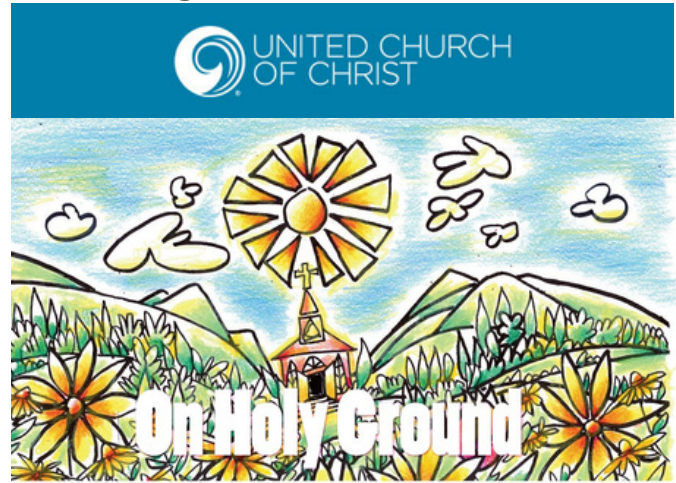
- 6th -Audrey Summers
- 12th -Miriam Dieterly
- 15th -Rick Owen
- 20th - Una Lee Myers
- 23rd - Les Case
- 26th - Ava Chambers
- 28th - Lynn Hughes

# GUM Food Drive

Peace Church members participated in the Greensboro Urban Ministry Grocery Store Food Drive on Saturday, April 22 at Harris Teeter on West Gate City Blvd. Volunteers greeted shoppers with a list of needed items and collected the donations. A big thank you to the following volunteers: Russ Haver, Theo Scott, Debbie Shiner, and Cindy Spillers.



# Mission of the Month: Strengthen the Church



The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Please give generously.

# Power Washing Maestro

Have you noticed how sparkling outdoor areas of the church are? We can thank Russ Haver for his hard work and dedication in making what was old brand new again. Russ spent several days in April power washing our church sign, sidewalks and other parts of the church exterior. Thank you so much, Russ, for making our grounds a welcoming place for all.



**Before**



**During**



**After**

## Keeping in Touch

**Kathleen MacLeod**

(Jonathan Jefferson's grandmother)

49464 Cabot Trail RR4

Baddeck, Nova Scotia -BOE 1B0

Canada



# Hands-On Making a Difference



As you know, this vital ministry provides bone-shaped pillows made with care and lots of love to Hospice of Greensboro, Moses Cone Hospital Palliative Care, Moses Cone Hospital Pediatrics, Wesley Long Hospital and periodic distributions to Friends Home at Guildford and Piedmont Crossing Nursing

Crossing Nursing Homes. Members recently met stuffing and sewing pillows that will soon be delivered. When you encounter this lively group of volunteers it is evident that they have a lot of fun fellowshiping with one another while making a difference in the lives of members of our wider community. How can you join in on the magic? You can pick up the supplies, stuff at home and bring the pillows back to church. Or you can join the group every second Wednesday of the month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Pictured above are Abbie Wheeling, Doris Yeattes, Debbie Kaynor, Lynn Hughes, Sue Brittain, Pastor Tom, Theo Scott, and Femi Quakenbush.



**SERVING  
GREENSBORO  
TOGETHER**  
for Greensboro Urban Ministry

**May 2, 2023**

## Dine Out for Gum

This annual dining fundraiser event will take place Tuesday, May 2nd. Every year over 75 restaurants participate. These generous restaurants donate part of their proceeds from sales that day to help fight hunger locally. Donations will be used to purchase food for Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen. This kitchen provides a free, hot meal to anyone hungry seven days a week. Over 400 people come each day to receive a meal. How can you support this event? Save the date and plan on dining in or ordering take-out on that day for breakfast, lunch, or dinner!

Log onto their website at [www.greensborourbanministries.org](http://www.greensborourbanministries.org) for a full list of participating restaurants.

**Church members who would like to dine out in support of GUM's Potter's House Community Kitchen will meet Tuesday, May 2nd at Blue Agave Mexican Bar & Grill, 3900 Battleground Avenue, at 6:00 p.m.**



# Hands-On Milestone!



We are MARCHING to 10,000  
and getting ready to

*Celebrate*

*the distribution of  
10,000 pillows!!*

Mark the date and join us on

**Sunday June 11th**

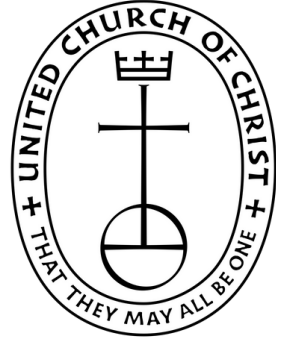
After Service in the Narthex

We are planning a taste  
experience to delight your palate.

Don't miss it!

# UCC General Synod 34 Indianapolis, Indiana June 30th - July 4th

Every two years the United Church of Christ has its national meeting called the General Synod. This is the meeting where representatives of all UCC bodies (local churches, regional Conferences, national instrumentalities, and global ministries) meet to do the business of the church. This year, such business includes the election of a new denominational President, a proposal to meet every three years instead of two, and various resolutions dealing with a variety of issues facing the church in these times.



Delegates are sent from every UCC conference (there are 38) in the nation and this year Pastor Tom Warren has been invited to be a voting delegate of the Southern Conference. He will travel to Indianapolis on June 30th and travel home on July 5th. His expenses will be paid by the Southern Conference.

The most exciting vote this year will be for our new denominational President. After a year-long process, the UCC National Board voted March 4th to nominate Associate General Minister, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, for General Minister and President. If elected by the General Synod this summer, Thompson would be the first woman – and the first woman of African descent – to lead the denomination.

We will have more General Synod news in June's Peace Press, but please keep our denominational leaders in your prayers as the planning for General Synod 34 proceeds.

- **Tuesday, May 2nd**

Women's Fellowship presentation on Homelessness in Greensboro with Karen Bullock, Community Coordinator for the Interactive Resource Center. The highly enlightening presentation will be held in the Narthex at 10AM. All are welcome to attend.

- **Sunday, May 7th**

The Solar Panel Committee will meet following worship service.

- **Wednesday, May 10th**

Hands-On will have their regular meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 1 PM.

## *Important Dates*



- **Sunday, May 14th**

Happy Mother's Day! We will be honoring all women in our congregation during worship service.

- **Sunday, May 21st**

Consistory meeting at 1 PM in the Narthex.

- **Thursday, May 24th**

All articles for the June Peace Press are due.

- **Sundays!**

The Choir practices Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to sing!

# Call Letter for SOC Annual Meeting 2023

April 11, 2023

1 Peter 5:10, and I quote, “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

To my brothers and sisters of the Southern Conference, Grace, Mercy and Peace to you, from God our Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for all of you.

To all of the members of the Southern Conference – the Delegates, Pastors, Laity, Youth, and Institutions of the Southern Conference, it has been a long time since 2019 that we were able to gather in person for our Annual Gathering. We are so excited to present this **Official Call Letter** and invitation to attend and participate in this year’s 58th Annual Gathering to be held **in person**. It will be held at the beautiful, Greensboro-High Point Marriott Airport, located at One Marriott Drive Greensboro, NC 27409. It will be held on June 23-24, 2023.

We have been disconnected by the times for the last three years. In light of this, our theme will be “**Reconnect, Restore and Reimagine!**” It is my fervent prayer that we will indeed reconnect, restore and reimagine during this Annual Gathering. This event will educate, equip and empower you with all the panels and workshops that will be presented.

Friday morning’s opening session will focus on reconnecting with each other followed by special luncheons and exciting afternoon panel discussions and workshops. On Friday evening, there will be a semi-formal banquet. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. This will be his last official message as GMP prior to Synod. The business session will take place on Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm. The sending forth and the sharing of our reconnecting stories will culminate in our closing worship on Saturday morning.

Please follow the E-News and the SOC website at [soc-ucc.org](http://soc-ucc.org) as more plans are revealed. Also, registration will be done online via the registration link on the SOC website. **The deadline for registration will be June 3rd, so make your plans soon!** The hotel group rate is \$139 and reservations must be made by **May 26th**. You may call the hotel directly at 800-228-9290 and identify yourself as part of the Southern Conference United Church of Christ or use the following link: Book your group rate for Southern Conference United Church of Christ.

Come, celebrate, and be thankful that we once again have been afforded the opportunity to **reconnect, restore and reimagine! To the Glory of God. See you soon!**

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis  
Conference Minister  
Southern Conference Minister

Rev. Barbara M. Rathbun  
President, Board of Directors  
Southern Conference UCC



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

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>Offerings</b>				
4001	Pledges	8,692.45	29,012.10	117,110.00
4003	Loose Offerings	80.00	425.00	500.00
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non-Pledged Offerings	820.00	2,290.00	25,870.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00
	<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$9,592.45</b>	<b>\$31,727.10</b>	<b>\$143,580.00</b>
<b>Fundraising</b>				
4102	Jambalaya	40.00	3,200.00	4,000.00
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
4121	History Room	300.00	600.00	
	<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>\$340.00</b>	<b>\$3,800.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
<b>Special Offerings</b>				
4009	Communion	(112.60)	(102.60)	100.00
4108	Birthday/Thank You	0.00	50.00	100.00
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	0.00	50.00
4114	Memorials	(300.00)	540.00	0.00
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Special Offerings</b>	<b>(\$412.60)</b>	<b>\$487.40</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>Other Services</b>				
4118	Weddings	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Other Services</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>				
<b>Facility Use Donations</b>				
4124	New Arrivals Institute	7,590.00	7,590.00	30,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	225.00	3,000.00
4128	Alliance Church	500.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	<b>Total Facilities Use Donations</b>	<b>\$8,165.00</b>	<b>\$8,815.00</b>	<b>\$37,360.00</b>
4122	Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>\$8,165.00</b>	<b>\$8,815.00</b>	<b>\$37,360.00</b>
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00
4111	Flower Fund (Covid Worship)	0.00	200.00	

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
4115	Community Event Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Offering Income</b>		<b>\$17,684.85</b>	<b>\$45,029.50</b>	<b>\$188,290.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Missions</b>				
5001	OCWM	(1,000.00)	(1,000.00)	
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	16.00	226.00	400.00
5005	Community Outreach Events	0.00	37.85	150.00
<b>Total Missions</b>		<b>(\$984.00)</b>	<b>(\$736.15)</b>	<b>\$550.00</b>
<b>Consistory</b>				
5101	PeaceCare	0.00	64.43	350.00
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	0.00	700.00
5104	Membership Support	0.00	0.00	800.00
5105	Worship Committee	(37.72)	385.73	1,700.00
5106	Stewardship	20.70	20.70	250.00
<b>Total Consistory</b>		<b>(\$17.02)</b>	<b>\$470.86</b>	<b>\$3,800.00</b>
<b>Christian Ed</b>				
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	0.00	30.00	400.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	0.00	74.43	500.00
<b>Total Christian Ed</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$104.43</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
<b>Property</b>				
5210	Janitorial	700.00	2,100.00	8,800.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	1,250.01	5,417.00
5214	Property Insurance	1,243.91	3,426.02	16,000.00
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	80.00	603.38	10,000.00
5217	Boiler Maintenance	464.26	1,192.30	15,000.00
5219	ADT Security	(239.20)	(141.48)	600.00
5221	Supplies	0.00	160.43	1,000.00
<b>Total Property</b>		<b>\$2,665.64</b>	<b>\$8,590.66</b>	<b>\$56,817.00</b>
<b>Administration</b>				
5401	Postage	119.20	305.46	1,300.00
5403	Office Equipment Lease	263.22	793.12	4,000.00
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	0.00	53.36	1,000.00
5407	Telephone/Internet	249.18	751.54	3,100.00
5409	Office Supplies	18.45	213.25	1,500.00
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	(100.00)	(30.55)	1,000.00
5412	Bank Charges	40.78	132.21	600.00



Peace United Church of Christ - Greensboro NC  
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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>\$590.83</b>	<b>\$2,218.39</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>Utilities</b>				
5301	Gas	1,499.00	4,497.00	15,000.00
5303	Electricity	901.44	2,464.80	11,500.00
5304	Water	408.12	1,147.96	7,000.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>		<b>\$2,808.56</b>	<b>\$8,109.76</b>	<b>\$33,500.00</b>
<b>Pastoral Compensation</b>				
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	8,372.52	33,491.00
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	4,249.98	17,000.00
5505	Social Security Reimb.	338.76	999.40	4,065.00
5507	Annuity	841.50	1,514.70	7,069.00
5509	Insurance	1,745.37	5,236.11	23,000.00
5510	Medical Reimb.	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total Pastoral Compensation</b>		<b>\$7,133.13</b>	<b>\$20,372.71</b>	<b>\$87,625.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>				
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	1,200.00	3,600.00	15,600.00
5603	Secretary	1,080.00	4,014.00	18,720.00
5604	Office Support	1,650.00	1,650.00	0.00
5605	Nursery Attendant	15.00	139.50	1,800.00
5607	Youth Leadership	468.00	1,854.00	9,360.00
<b>Total Personnel</b>		<b>\$4,413.00</b>	<b>\$11,257.50</b>	<b>\$45,480.00</b>
<b>Personnel Benefits</b>				
5612	Social Security Exp.	337.61	861.20	3,479.00
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
5618	Conference & Meetings	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total Personnel Benefits</b>		<b>\$337.61</b>	<b>\$861.20</b>	<b>\$4,879.00</b>
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>				
5701	Jambalaya Expense	1,088.46	1,288.46	1,500.00
5703	Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00
5705	Brunswick Stew Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
<b>Total Fundraising Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,088.46</b>	<b>\$1,288.46</b>	<b>\$3,300.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$18,036.21</b>	<b>\$52,537.82</b>	<b>\$249,351.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>		<b>(\$351.36)</b>	<b>(\$7,508.32)</b>	<b>(\$61,061.00)</b>