

PEACEPRESS



Pastor's Perspective

July 1st was the 10th anniversary of being the pastor at Peace Church. While it passed by quietly, I could not just let it go by. We have been working together for a significant amount of time and many things have changed.

There are lots of people who are no longer with us at Peace Church and lots of additional people who are. Beloved members have died, some have moved away, and in the wake of Covid, some just stopped attending. At the same time, new members have come on board and so many community groups are now routinely using our church building. Peace Church is a center of community activity.

What has remained the same throughout these 10 years is... **struggle.**

Church life in America these days is no easy picnic. Many Americans have ceased being interested in organized religion. Churches are closing all the time and many congregations are barely hanging on. While at the UCC General Synod meeting in Indianapolis, I spoke with many clergy colleagues, all of whom had similar stories to relate about...**struggle.** One pastor I spoke with told me she routinely leads Sunday worship services with only three (3) people present. Wow!

So we continue on and we continue to do the good work of the gospel. It is amazing all that we, as a small congregation, are able to do in our

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local community and in various parts of the world. Most impressive to me is the deep care and compassion we show for one another. That is the hallmark of a truly loving congregation.

So let's keep it that way, even in the midst of all the.....**struggle**.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

It's August and time for school to start again. I'm reminded of a listening exercise I frequently did with general music students at the beginning of the year. We would sit and listen for 5 minutes (which could seem long) and during that time students were to write down everything they heard. Some students definitely heard more than others. The purpose was hopefully to help them start to learn to be quiet – even briefly – and just hear all that goes on around them which led to our definition of music as simply “organized noises (sound).” As we are focusing on conserving nature and energy in our world, then let's take some time to really listen to our world and hear the music in it.

Our hymns are reminders of the music around us just waiting to be heard and enjoyed. For example, we sing, “This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears, all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.” At Christmas we sing, “and heaven and nature sing” repeated three times in Joy to the World. In Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee is the line “chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.” Organized sounds may include melody (singing birds) and/or rhythm (rain falling). It's amazing how many different bird songs there are – similar to the many different voices we have in our congregation.

You may want to try it – when you are outside, be totally aware of the songs of nature and rejoice in God for all you hear. If you walk or run, listen as you move – even your own feet provide a natural rhythm!

God has certainly provided musical variety in life if we simply take the time to listen for it!

Filling Needs & Touching Lives



Your generous donation of

\$325

*will help us achieve
the goal of providing
comfort to many people.*

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship was notified of an urgent need by the Interactive Resource Center for bottled water. The IRC provides water and other necessities to a large homeless population in Greensboro and this week, they were completely overwhelmed with needs due to the extreme heat.

We were impressed with the work they are doing when they came to talk with us and we have responded with a check for \$400 which will help them meet the needs during these very hot summer months.

Congregation Summer Pictures



Summer is here and many in our congregation will be taking vacations with their families or have families coming to visit from places far away. Like Spain! The Peace Press would like to publish those pictures in the **September** edition.

All you have to do is email your pictures with a brief description of your vacation photo to peaceucc2714@gmail.com. Please put "summer vacay" in the subject line. **The deadline is August 25th.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd- John Dieterly
- 4th - Jennifer Killingsworth
- 6th - Michael Clapp
- 10th - Glen Hutchinson
- 17th - Stan Dodd
- 19th - Daniel Whitfield
- 21st - Louise Hearn
- 23rd - Heather Owen
- 29th - Heidi Hochwarth
- 31st- Brooklyn Hittepole

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 them in the collection box in the Narthex. The items will be delivered to Lindley Elementary School.

School 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	Pink Square Erasers
Box of Colored Pencils	3-Ring Binders (2")
Clorox Wipes	Pencil Pouches or Boxes
Moist Towelettes	Loose Leaf Paper
Box of Tissues	Composition Books
Antibacterial Soap (pump kind)	2-Pocket Folders

Heat Hits the Homeless Hard...Peace Responds!!

On Wednesday morning, July 19th, the church office received an



email from Frank Moore, a board member of the Interactive Resource Center (IRC). He was pleading for gifts of water as the homeless population of Greensboro is extremely vulnerable to the heat during these scorching summer days. Peace Church was able to respond.

Using money from our Love Fund, Peace Church was able to purchase 8 cases of bottled water (320 bottles!!) which were delivered to the IRC and will be distributed to the homeless who seek out the IRC for a variety of services and resources, such as water.

Peace Church was able to respond quickly and generously because of all of you who give to our Love Fund. Our 8 cases were added to by many other congregations in the city who stepped up in compassion for the most vulnerable among us in our beloved city.

--Pastor Tom

Gearing Up for the Annual Greater Greensboro Crop Walk



The Greater Greensboro Crop Walk is one of the largest in the United States!

Our congregation has participated in the crop walk for over 30 years. And we will be lacing up our sneakers to walk on Sunday, October 8th at 2:30 p.m.

Members of our congregation who would like

to participate can sign up on the crop walk sheet located in the Narthex. There is also an order form for crop walk t-shirts for those participating in the walk or who would like to support the cause.

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, the Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk returns 25% of the funds it raises to Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools to wells and water systems to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths, and their needs – something CWS has learned through more than 70 years. (last two paragraphs from <https://greatergreensborocropwalk.org/>)





Climate Change Resources

For many people, engaging with the issue of climate change is quite intimidating as it is such a global problem. Here are some good resources to assist those who may be interested in the topic and desire to be better educated.

Movies:

Chasing Ice (www.chasingice.com)

David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch

(www.theanthropocene.org)

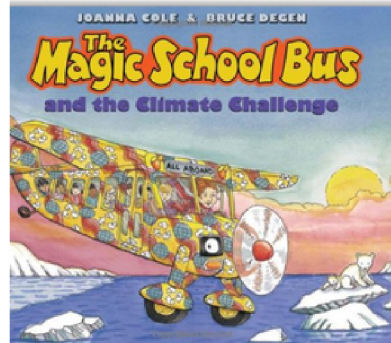
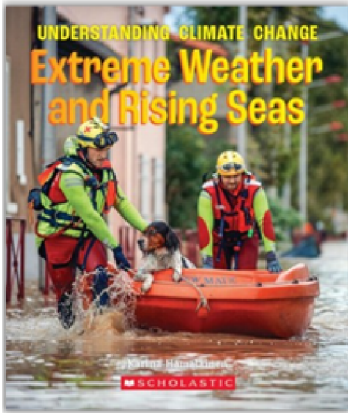
Resources for Action:

www.350.org

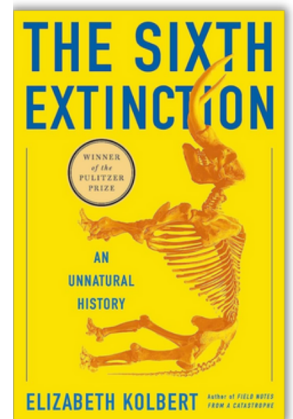
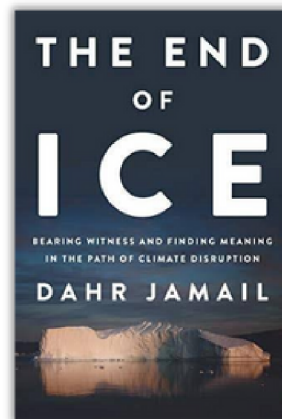
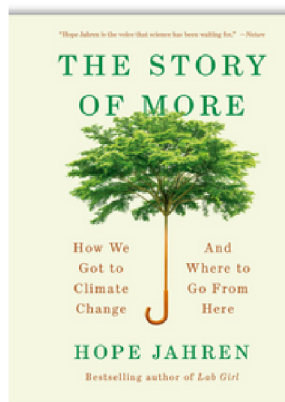
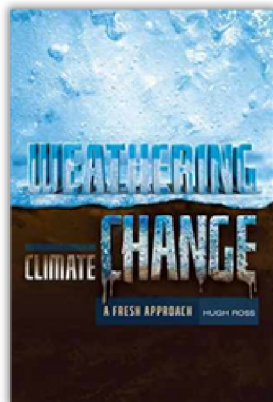
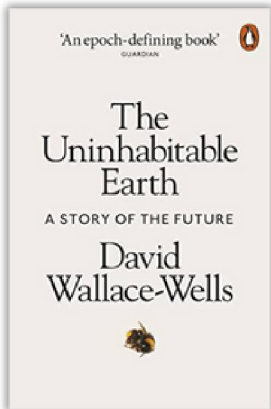
www.thirdact.org (organization for people over 60)

www.creationjustice.org (UCC ministry)

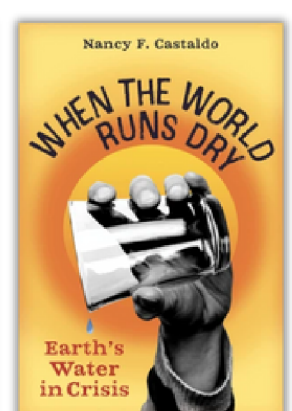
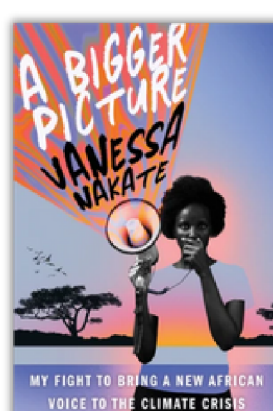
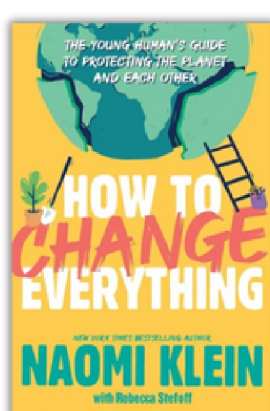
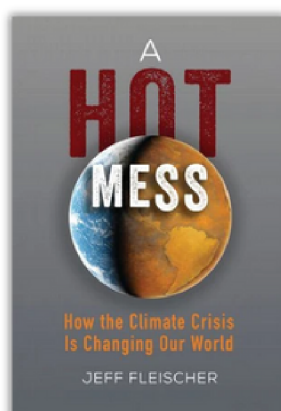
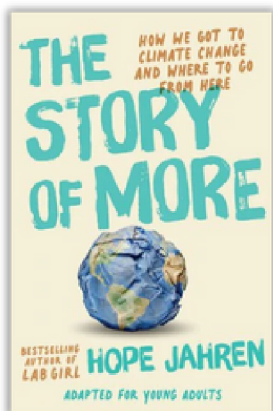
Children's Books



Adult Books



Teen Books



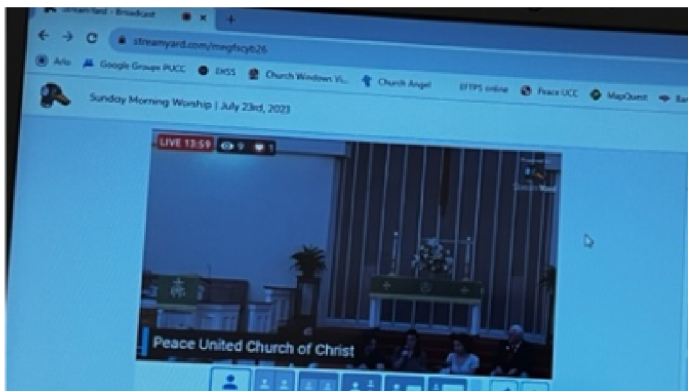
Camera Operator Needed for Worship Streaming

Our online worship streaming on FaceBook came out of the need to stay connected during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue this service for the shut-ins and those who may be out of town but would still like to "attend" worship service live or at a later date.

The person behind the camera is our very own Audrey Summers, a rising high school junior. While Audrey is present every Sunday, there are times when she is unavailable and a fill-in is needed. The Summers family will be on vacation toward the end of August and someone from the congregation is needed to operate the camera.



Livestreaming the worship service is so easy that Audrey's mom, Melinda, has filled in. If you are interested in helping out, please let Melinda or Pastor Tom know. Audrey would be happy to help train someone to help with this vital church ministry.



Church Members Lead Worship Services

Many thanks to Norra Norred and the Women's Fellowship, David Murray, and Olivia Jolliff for providing the sermons during worship service while Tom was away.

Nora spoke on "God as Shepherd"



David spoke on "Forgiveness"

Olivia spoke on "Education as Ministry: Nurturing God's Gifts in the Spirit of Matthew 25"

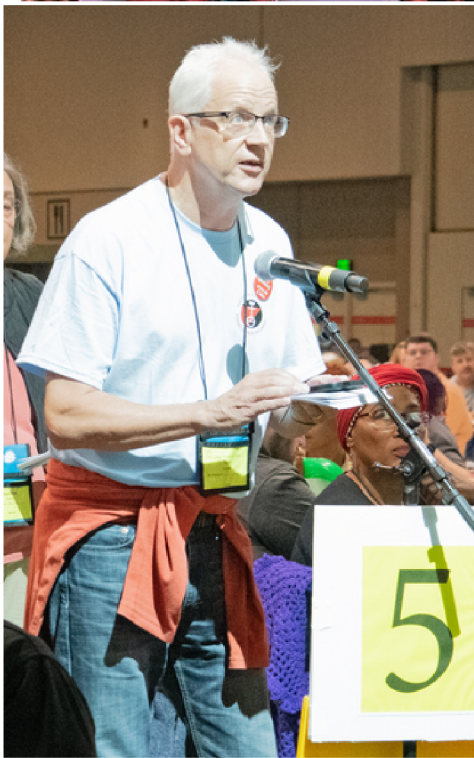


Pastor Tom Attends UCC General Synod

Thousands of UCC members across the US gathered in Indianapolis from June 30th to July 4th to attend the 34th General Synod. It was the first time since COVID that the group could meet in person. Pastor Tom attended as a delegate and shared highlights from his trip.



Southern Conference delegates



Pastor Tom doing "Speak Out" for Cuba trip.



Keynote speaker Rev. Nadia

Bolz-Weber. (above and right) An article about her speech can be found on the UCC website.

<https://www.ucc.org/comfort-not-keynote-nadia-bolz-weber-speaks-to-general-synod-about-hope-amid-fear-anxiety-worry-and-regret/>



Worship Center

New UCC President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. (right) She is the first woman, and the first black woman, to lead the UCC as President and General Minister. She begins her leadership August 1st.



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

Thursday, July 13, 2023

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	9,359.25	59,441.60	117,110.00	57,668.40
4003	Loose Offerings	62.00	673.00	500.00	(173.00)
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non-Pledged Offerings	555.00	4,685.00	25,870.00	21,185.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Offerings	\$9,976.25	\$64,799.60	\$143,580.00	\$78,780.40
Fundraising					
4102	Jambalaya	0.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	800.00
4104	Yard Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4106	Brunswick Stew	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
4121	History Room	0.00	600.00		
	Total Fundraising	\$0.00	\$3,800.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,800.00
Special Offerings					
4009	Communion	10.00	(92.60)	100.00	192.60
4108	Birthday/Thank You	0.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
4110	Christmas	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
4112	Easter	0.00	45.00	50.00	5.00
4114	Memorials	0.00	590.00	0.00	(590.00)
4116	Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Special Offerings	\$10.00	\$592.40	\$350.00	(\$242.40)
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	7,410.00	15,000.00	30,360.00	15,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	450.00	3,000.00	2,550.00
4128	Alliance Church	250.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	1,500.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	600.00	1,000.00	400.00
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$7,735.00	\$17,550.00	\$37,360.00	\$19,810.00
4122	Miscellaneous Income	751.90	3,961.34	0.00	(3,961.34)
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	\$8,486.90	\$21,511.34	\$37,360.00	\$15,848.66
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4111	Flower Fund (Covid Worship)	0.00	200.00		

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Treasurer's Report as of June 2023 for General Fund

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
4115	Community Event Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Offering Income		\$18,473.15	\$90,903.34	\$188,290.00	\$98,186.66
Expenses					
Missions					
5001	OCWM	0.00	1,000.00		
5003	Community Outreach Publicity	0.00	333.99	400.00	66.01
5005	Community Outreach Events	0.00	37.85	150.00	112.15
Total Missions		\$0.00	\$1,371.84	\$550.00	\$178.16
Consistory					
5101	PeaceCare	61.88	186.31	350.00	163.69
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	0.00	843.69	1,700.00	856.31
5106	Stewardship	49.99	70.69	250.00	179.31
Total Consistory		\$111.87	\$1,100.69	\$3,800.00	\$2,699.31
Christian Ed					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	0.00	30.00	400.00	370.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	0.00	126.94	500.00	373.06
Total Christian Ed		\$0.00	\$156.94	\$900.00	\$743.06
Property					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	4,200.00	8,800.00	4,600.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	2,500.02	5,417.00	2,916.98
5214	Property Insurance	1,243.92	7,157.76	16,000.00	8,842.24
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	1,037.91	4,147.48	10,000.00	5,852.52
5217	Boiler Maintenance	0.00	5,878.58	15,000.00	9,121.42
5219	ADT Security	53.75	9.99	600.00	590.01
5221	Supplies	0.00	173.77	1,000.00	826.23
Total Property		\$3,452.25	\$24,067.60	\$56,817.00	\$32,749.40
Administration					
5401	Postage	119.20	508.95	1,300.00	791.05
5403	Office Equipment Lease	442.15	1,644.56	4,000.00	2,355.44
5405	Computer Software/Maintenance	0.00	53.36	1,000.00	946.64
5407	Telephone/Internet	249.26	1,499.32	3,100.00	1,600.68
5409	Office Supplies	50.48	871.38	1,500.00	628.62
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	130.38	1,000.00	869.62
5412	Bank Charges	37.99	247.72	600.00	352.28

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Thursday, July 13, 2023

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Account #Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	
Total Administration		\$899.08	\$4,955.67	\$12,500.00	\$7,544.33
Utilities					
5301 Gas	722.00	5,941.00	15,000.00	9,059.00	
5303 Electricity	813.02	5,137.51	11,500.00	6,362.49	
5304 Water	438.68	2,418.16	7,000.00	4,581.84	
Total Utilities		\$1,973.70	\$13,496.67	\$33,500.00	\$20,003.33
Pastoral Compensation					
5501 Cash Salary	2,790.84	16,745.04	33,491.00	16,745.96	
5503 Housing Allowance	1,416.66	8,499.96	17,000.00	8,500.04	
5505 Social Security Reimb.	338.76	2,015.68	4,065.00	2,049.32	
5507 Annuity	589.05	3,281.85	7,069.00	3,787.15	
5509 Insurance	1,745.37	10,472.22	23,000.00	12,527.78	
5510 Medical Reimb.	103.03	608.03	2,500.00	1,891.97	
5511 Mileage Reimb.	0.00	178.75	500.00	321.25	
Total Pastoral Compensation		\$6,983.71	\$41,801.53	\$87,625.00	\$45,823.47
Personnel					
5601 Organist/Dir of Music	1,100.00	7,600.00	15,600.00	8,000.00	
5603 Secretary	0.00	4,014.00	18,720.00	14,706.00	
5604 Office Support	1,340.00	5,330.00	0.00	(5,330.00)	
5605 Nursery Attendant	90.00	265.50	1,800.00	1,534.50	
5607 Youth Leadership	450.00	2,754.00	9,360.00	6,606.00	
Total Personnel		\$2,980.00	\$19,963.50	\$45,480.00	\$25,516.50
Personnel Benefits					
5612 Social Security Exp.	227.99	1,527.24	3,479.00	1,951.76	
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		\$227.99	\$1,527.24	\$4,879.00	\$3,351.76
Fundraising Expenses					
5701 Jambalaya Expense	0.00	1,288.46	1,500.00	211.54	
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	
5707 History Room Expenses	0.00	386.99			
Total Fundraising Expenses		\$0.00	\$1,675.45	\$3,300.00	\$2,011.54
Total Expenses		\$16,628.60	\$110,117.13	\$249,351.00	\$140,620.86
Difference		\$1,844.55	(\$19,213.79)	(\$61,061.00)	

June Income-Expenses	\$ 18,473.15-\$ 16,628.60	+\$ 1,844.55
2023 Income-Expenses	\$ 90,903.34-\$110,117.13	-\$19,213.79
Budgeted Income-Expenses	\$188,290.00-\$249,351.00	-\$61,061.00