

PEACEPRESS



Pastor's Perspective

On Sunday, September 17th we had a great celebration during our worship. The high point of the service for me was the baptisms of Keegan and Gabriella Goode, as well as the welcoming into membership of Cindy Bowman. The community of faith which is Peace Church expanded on that day, and a spirit of joy was certainly in the air.

Peace Church is a United Church of Christ congregation that has in its historic DNA the word and theological commitment to evangelism. One of our predecessor denominations was the Evangelical Synod of North America, an association of German Evangelical pastors in Missouri. This association, founded in 1840, reflected the 1817

union of Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany. These were the original pastors and churches that started Eden Theological Seminary in Saint Louis.

To be an evangelical church is to be engaged in the primary task of proclaiming the gospel, or evangel – the good news of God’s love revealed with power in Jesus Christ. We proclaim this gospel by word and deed to both individual persons and the wider society as a whole. This proclamation is the heart of the liturgia – the work of the people. Thus, the Sunday morning liturgy is the work of the people. We gather each Sunday for the worship of God, and through each week, we engage in the service of humankind.

The United Church of Christ is Christian, Reformed, Congregational, and Evangelical. That is, based in Christ, shaped by the values of the 16th century

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Protestant Reformation, committed to the local 'congregational' church, and endlessly engaged in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

This past September 17th through two baptisms and the welcoming of a new adult member, we lived out our evangelical mandate. May it be so again!

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth

I have certainly heard people say they like a particular hymn when we sing it. On a congregational hymn- sing Sunday, some people are very quick to make requests. So the question is, "Why do you like the hymns you like?" Have you known it for a long time? Was it sung at a memorable event? Was it a favorite of a family member? You like the words? The music is peppy? There could be several reasons why you like the hymns you like.

There is a lot of information for each hymn in our hymnal. There are two parts to each hymn – the words and the music. At the lower left side of the page (in our hymnal) is the source of the words and the source of the music. You may see the writers' names, or a designation as a folk tune, or national or cultural origin – whatever information is known about the source of the hymn. The familiar title at the top of the page is usually the title of the words which is often a poem. The last index in the back of our hymnal is the index for the commonly known titles. Then if you look at the lower right page corner of each hymn you will see the title of the music (hymn tune) written in all capital letters. On page 840 in our hymnal is an index for the Hymn

Tunes. Quite a few of these tunes are used for multiple different sets of words. Under the hymn tune name is an indication of the number of syllables – meter - in each line of the hymn. The Metrical Index starts on page 835. There are lots of different varieties of meter such as 87.87 or 10.10.10.10. Check it out - look at the numbers and then count the syllables in each line of the words. Sometimes meter may be designated by letters as in CM which stands for Common Meter which if you count the syllables is 86.86. Amazing Grace is an example of Common Meter. You might also see Irr as the meter which is Irregular for those hymns that don't fall into a definite pattern.

If you're looking for a particular hymn, and you only know a little bit about it, using one of these methods could help you to find it – and then it might become a favorite! Our hymns are such powerful aids to worship – sing, read and pray the words, praise and glorify God through song!

Open Hearts for Others



Thanks to the generosity of Peace Church members and the community through our annual End of Summer Splash event held in August, we were able to donate and deliver school supplies to Lindley Elementary School as well as donate \$1,000.00 to the Lindley PTA toward the purchase of much-needed school supplies. The funds were raised through the dunking booth, face painting, and food sales and raffles. Thank you to Olivia Jolliff who chaired the event and to all who helped to make the End of Summer Splash a success!



Thanks for donating \$2,142.00 USD to Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1st - Bill Hughes
- 2nd - Linda Fesperman
- 5th - David Murray
- 6th - Yvonne Poffenbaugh
- 13th - Sherri Kluttz
- 15th - Bill Kluttz
- 16th - Jean Scott
- 22nd - John Dilworth
- 28th - Marty Morgan

Mission of the Month: Neighbors in Need

Peace UCC will collect donations for NIN throughout the month of October, however, the official NIN offering Sunday is October 1st. There will be offering envelopes available or you can mail your donation to the church with NIN in the memo line. The theme for NIN this year is "Behold!"

This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

What exactly is NIN? Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

Through this offering, we express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching our neighbors with justice and compassion. This allows us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. In the spirit of Christ, we will seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate



suffering. We will do this through direct service as well as advocacy.

Not only are NIN funds shared with CAIM, but they are also utilized by staff to develop curated and created social justice resources, i.e. webinars, bible studies, curriculums, advocacy tools, etc. within the program areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women's justice, immigration justice, and more. Additionally, a portion of the monies collected are used to fund grants at the following levels and needs: Direct Service (\$1,000 – \$3,000) – provides funding to meet the immediate needs of an individual or group (i.e. food, clothing, utilities).

- Advocacy (\$3,001 – \$5,000) – offers funding to assist communities who wish to change policy on a state or federal level via an advocacy campaign.
- Grass Top (\$5,001 – \$10,000) – is a highly competitive tier that seeks to award uniquely innovative programs that can be replicated in other settings.

At present, we are pleased to state that nearly 100% of the monies raised from NIN SMO are used to fund our mission projects and programs which include our largest commitments to NIN grants and CAIM. (from UCC website)

Thank You, Doris!!

At its September work session, Hands-On surprised Doris (and pretty much every other person) with a "Thank You" celebration. We had our best attendance of the year....12 members.

Theo talked about Doris's history with Peace Church going back to the old church on Lee St. She covered Doris's participation in the Women's Fellowship and Choir from way back then. Also, there were mentions of "Very Special People (VSP, a senior group about 1990-2010).



The formation of Hands-On was inspired by that group in which Doris also was a pioneer. Not to be omitted was her work with the Southern Conference of the UCC

and Church Women United, locally and regionally.

Doris just had her 99th birthday (Sept. 22),



and she is still active in the Women's Fellowship, Hands-On, and the Choir. It was wonderful to let her know how much we love and appreciate her.

WE LOVE YOU, DORIS!!

Rally Day Celebrates Baptisms and Membership

It was a very special Rally Day at Peace Church on September 17th as we celebrated both baptisms and membership into our church family.



Peace Church welcomed into membership Cynthia Bowman. Cynthia, the niece of Romona Griffin, grew up in Peace Church. We are delighted to have reconnected with her and to have Cynthia as part of Peace Church!



Baptism marks one's acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of God's grace and forgiveness, and the beginning of their Christian faith and life. We are honored to walk along and help support Keegan and Gabriella Goode as they grow in their faith.



Pastor Tom to Serve On WNCA Board



Peace United Church of Christ is part of the UCC Western North Carolina Association (WNCA), which encompasses all UCC churches from the Triad area to the western boundary of North Carolina. In total, the WNCA includes over 70 local congregations.

The work of the WNCA is overseen by the Board of Directors, to which Pastor Tom was recently asked to serve as Vice-President. He will serve a two-year term. The board meets four times a year, with some of those meetings being held remotely on Zoom.

The WNCA is responsible for three major events each year, among other duties: a Spring Educational Forum; the Fall Annual Meeting at Abernathy Laurels Retirement Community in Newton, North Carolina; as well as a role in the Southern Conference Annual Meeting held in June each year. The Southern Conference is made up of the more than 185 churches of the WNCA, Eastern North Carolina Association (ENCA), and the Eastern Virginia Association (EVA).

Pastor Tom is looking forward to serving on the WNCA board and learning about the work of the board and the visions and plans it may have as we look to the future. He will submit a report to the Consistory and Peace Press after each board meeting.

Brunswick Stew Time Again!!



It's Brunswick Stew Time Again! Yes, our annual Brunswick Stew fundraiser is right around the corner. Chef Mick McGrogan is ready! This year's event will be on Saturday, November 18th from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Each 32oz order is \$12.00.

Volunteers will be needed on Friday, November 17th for preparation and Saturday for distribution, sales, and final pots of stew to be cooked.

Last year's stew sale was very successful with \$1,364.00 made after expenses. Let's shoot for \$1,500.00 this year!!

You can sign up to volunteer or purchase stew on the designated forms in the narthex. More details to come as we get closer to the sale date!

Hands-On Rescheduled

The October session for Hands-On is being rescheduled for the third Wednesday, October 18 at 1:00. We are looking forward to another great turnout.

- **Sunday, October 1**
World Communion Sunday & Neighbors in Need offering.

- **Tuesday, October 3**
Living the Questions: Saving Jesus" 12-part DVD program examining the life of Jesus will meet at 6:00 p.m. every Tuesday through October 24th. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Important Dates

OCTOBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- **Sunday, October 8**
CWS CROP WALK
2:30 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum.

- **Sunday, October 15**
Consistory meets at 1:00 p.m. in the narthex.

- **Wednesday, October 18**
Hands-On pillow-making ministry meets at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Stewardship: What About Tithing?

In the mainline Protestant tradition of which the United Church of Christ is a part of, tithing is not very widely practiced. We tend to keep money matters quite private, and it hurts our giving.

On average, American Christians give about 2% of their income to their local church. Church statisticians have noted that giving even 1% more in annual income would be transformative for the local congregation; Peace Church included.

Tithing is the commitment to give 10% of annual income to the local church. It originally comes from various scripture passages that cite giving a tenth of everything you own as an act of gratitude and deep faithfulness (see Gen. 14:19-20, Gen. 28:20-22). If our annual income is \$20,000 (\$1667 per month) then our monthly giving to the church would be \$167.00. If our income was \$50,000 annually, our monthly gift would be \$417.00. If our annual income was \$200,000 then our monthly gift would be \$1,667.00 and so on.

If each member of Peace Church moved to Biblical tithing, our financial worries would be gone, and our ability to reach out to the world and care for our church would be greatly enhanced. While a 10% tithe might be a significant jump for folks, perhaps a 5% tithe would be possible. Tithing, on any level, is worth praying on.

This stewardship season, spend some time in prayer. For what are we willing to give sacrificially? Our answers can change the church.

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

Thursday, September 21, 2023

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Account #Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining	
Offerings					
4001	Pledges	9,217.50	78,266.60	117,110.00	38,843.40
4003	Loose Offerings	60.00	839.00	500.00	(339.00)
4004	Initial Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4006	Non-Pledged Offerings	130.00	4,840.00	25,870.00	21,030.00
4007	Sunday School	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total Offerings	\$9,407.50	\$83,945.60	\$143,580.00	\$59,634.40
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	(82.60)	100.00	182.60
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	\$602.40	\$350.00	(\$252.40)
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	0.00	15,000.00	30,360.00	15,360.00
4126	Narcotics Anonymous	75.00	600.00	3,000.00	2,400.00
4128	Alliance Church	250.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
4130	Fellowship Hall Use	0.00	750.00	1,000.00	250.00
	Total Facilities Use Donations	\$325.00	\$18,350.00	\$37,360.00	\$19,010.00
4122	Miscellaneous Income	2,142.00	5,361.44	0.00	(5,361.44)
4123	Sales Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total Miscellaneous Income	\$2,467.00	\$23,711.44	\$37,360.00	\$13,648.56
4109	Easter Lilies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4111	Flower Fund (Covid Worship)	40.00	240.00		

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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
4117	Summer Splash Food	923.20	923.20		
Total Offering Income		\$12,847.70	\$113,222.64	\$188,290.00	\$76,830.56
Expenses					
Missions					
5001	OCWM	0.00	2,000.00		
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	\$2,371.84	\$550.00	\$178.16
Consistory					
5101	PeaceCare	0.00	219.31	350.00	130.69
5103	Membership Growth	0.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
5104	Membership Support	0.00	140.00	800.00	660.00
5105	Worship Committee	125.00	1,208.69	1,700.00	491.31
5106	Stewardship	0.00	70.69	250.00	179.31
Total Consistory		\$125.00	\$1,638.69	\$3,800.00	\$2,161.31
Christian Ed					
5117	Christian Ed Literature/Supplies	0.00	30.00	400.00	370.00
5119	Youth Fellowship	0.00	451.94	500.00	48.06
Total Christian Ed		\$0.00	\$481.94	\$900.00	\$418.06
Property					
5210	Janitorial	700.00	5,600.00	8,800.00	3,200.00
5212	Grounds	416.67	3,333.36	5,417.00	2,083.64
5214	Property Insurance	1,243.92	9,645.60	16,000.00	6,354.40
5216	Building Equipment/Maintenance	204.99	5,125.13	10,000.00	4,874.87
5217	Boiler Maintenance	0.00	6,630.10	15,000.00	8,369.90
5219	ADT Security	53.75	117.49	600.00	482.51
5221	Supplies	0.00	278.69	1,000.00	721.31
Total Property		\$2,619.33	\$30,730.37	\$56,817.00	\$26,086.63
Administration					
5401	Postage	184.78	789.40	1,300.00	510.60
5403	Office Equipment Lease Computer	0.00	1,826.98	4,000.00	2,173.02
5405	Software/Maintenance	637.00	970.48	1,000.00	29.52
5407	Telephone/Internet	248.86	1,997.04	3,100.00	1,102.96
5409	Office Supplies	66.57	1,054.17	1,500.00	445.83
5410	Miscellaneous Expenses	84.33	214.71	1,000.00	785.29

Summer Splash Food money will be distributed in September. We have subtracted this amount from the total income as it will not count toward the church's income. This is a community outreach endeavor and in partnership with Lindley Elementary School PTA.

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
5412	Bank Charges	38.17	334.23	600.00	265.77
	Total Administration	\$1,259.71	\$7,187.01	\$12,500.00	\$5,312.99
Utilities					
5301	Gas	722.00	7,385.00	15,000.00	7,615.00
5303	Electricity	1,322.33	7,255.83	11,500.00	4,244.17
5304	Water	456.98	3,290.90	7,000.00	3,709.10
	Total Utilities	\$2,501.31	\$17,931.73	\$33,500.00	\$15,568.27
Pastoral Compensation					
5501	Cash Salary	2,790.84	22,326.72	33,491.00	11,164.28
5503	Housing Allowance	1,416.66	11,333.28	17,000.00	5,666.72
5505	Social Security Reimb.	338.76	2,693.20	4,065.00	1,371.80
5507	Annuity	1,178.10	4,459.95	7,069.00	2,609.05
5509	Insurance	3,490.74	13,962.96	23,000.00	9,037.04
5510	Medical Reimb.	949.31	1,557.34	2,500.00	942.66
5511	Mileage Reimb.	0.00	458.25	500.00	41.75
	Total Pastoral Compensation	\$10,164.41	\$56,791.70	\$87,625.00	\$30,833.30
Personnel					
5601	Organist/Dir of Music	1,200.00	10,300.00	15,600.00	5,300.00
5603	Secretary	0.00	4,014.00	18,720.00	14,706.00
5604	Office Support	1,470.00	8,030.00	0.00	(8,030.00)
5605	Nursery Attendant	0.00	265.50	1,800.00	1,534.50
5607	Youth Leadership	0.00	2,754.00	9,360.00	6,606.00
	Total Personnel	\$2,670.00	\$25,363.50	\$45,480.00	\$20,116.50
Personnel Benefits					
5612	Social Security Exp.	204.26	1,940.34	3,479.00	1,538.66
5614	Worker's Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
5618	Conference & Meetings	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
	Total Personnel Benefits	\$204.26	\$2,140.34	\$4,879.00	\$2,738.66
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	\$19,544.02	\$146,312.57	\$249,351.00	\$105,425.42
	Difference	(\$6,696.32)	(\$33,089.93)	(\$61,061.00)	

Income-Expenses August **\$11,924.50 - \$19,544.02 = -\$7,619.52**

Income-Expenses 2023 **\$112,299.44 - \$146,312.57 = -\$34,013.13.**

Income-Expenses 2023 Budget **\$188,290.00 - \$249,351.00 = -\$61,061.00**