

PEACEPRESS

Counting Our Blessings



Pastor's Perspective

A word of gratitude for the gift of appreciation presented to me on Sunday, October 22nd. I was very surprised and it felt good to be publicly appreciated. We have been together now for over 10 years, a decade filled with much challenge, good works, and joy-filled worship and fellowship. Thank you to all!

Moving as we are toward the Thanksgiving holiday, it is the perfect time for all of us to reflect upon that which we are grateful for. Yet, there are many in our land who are caught in deep feelings of fear and resentment, often lacking any gratitude at all. There is a certain dark energy to such emotions, an energy that people often feed by the news outlets they watch, the conversations they engage in, or groups they may be a part of. To understand this dark energy, let us tap into an ancient wisdom, perhaps Native American in origin, which goes like this:

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life: "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil—he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion,

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and faith. The same fight is going on inside you—and inside every other person, too.” The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied, “The one you feed.”

The wolf we feed will turn us toward evolving more deeply into people of compassion and love – people of the Light - or into resentful, bitter, and angry people – people of the darkness. Jesus recognized this fact. We will become that to which we give ourselves over to.

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity for us to refocus our lives and engage in the feeding of the good wolf. That is, to become people of gratitude, joy, and love. People of the Gospel. May it be so!

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

A Note from Elisabeth



Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:2 (NIV)

In this the month of Thanksgiving, how much do we really focus on giving God our thanks? Maybe a hymn can help!

One hymn that we know quite well is **Now Thank We All Our God** which is on page 715 in our hymnal. This hymn helps us remember all that God does for us from the past - even when we were babies! - continuing through life's challenges and situations and then forever on through eternity. All our praise and thanks are due to God – with our hearts, our hands, and our voices! The words in our hymnal have been altered from the original, but the traditional words can be found online or in an older hymnal. This hymn, which is certainly appropriate for November but also any time of the year, is a beautiful offering of thanks and joy for God's grace and presence in our lives.

And as we move into Advent and Christmas, let's remember the Scripture: Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! II Corinthians 9:15 (NIV). We progress from Thanksgiving right into remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus - and also all the busyness and commercialism it brings. Let's focus on being thankful every day and keeping Him first in all we do!

Caring, Sharing and Celebrating!



As we step into this vibrant season of fall, I wanted to share some exciting updates and upcoming events for our youth at Peace United Church of Christ that I am sure will warm your hearts!

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude for being called back to PUCC to minister to youth and families. As a former youth and children's worker (at West Market United Methodist Church for 12 years and at PUCC from 2015 to 2017) and as a dedicated social worker, I am committed to advocating for, educating, and empowering youth. I'm so honored to be a part of the faith journey of our current and future PUCC youth!

Youth represent our future and carry the potential to shape the world positively, in the name of Christ. They bring joy, innocence, and a fresh perspective to our lives. In the Bible, Jesus emphasized the significance of children. He showed love, compassion, and care towards them, even when society often overlooked them. One notable instance is when Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mark 10:14). This teaches us the value of nurturing and protecting the well-being of children, as they hold a special place in God's eyes and in the fabric of our communities.

Below is what we have happening and upcoming for our PUCC youth and families:

OCTOBER- Caring Stewards:

With the leaves turning brilliant shades and the air taking on a crisp edge, we're reminded of the beauty of change and of God's majestic creations. This season, we'll be exploring how being good stewards of all of God's gifts to us should be woven into the very fabric of our lives. We are learning lessons from the creation story in Genesis, from Dr. Suess' "The Lorax", growing and nurturing plants at home, determining how to best share our talents and money, and what Jonah teaches us about what to do when it gets challenging to be living our life for God.

NOVEMBER- Sharing Servants:

In November, we will have lessons on how caring leads to

sharing, how even a small group can show great strength for God like Gideon teaches us, and have an inspiring service project that encourages our PUCC youth to share their blessings and care for those in need. On 11/19 in Sunday School we will assemble winter warmth bags of hats, gloves, and socks to give to our newest neighbors most in need. We believe this hands-on experience will instill the spirit of compassion and generosity that we hold dear in our Christian faith. We will also focus on ways we can share every day with those in need in our community.

DECEMBER- Celebrating Saints:

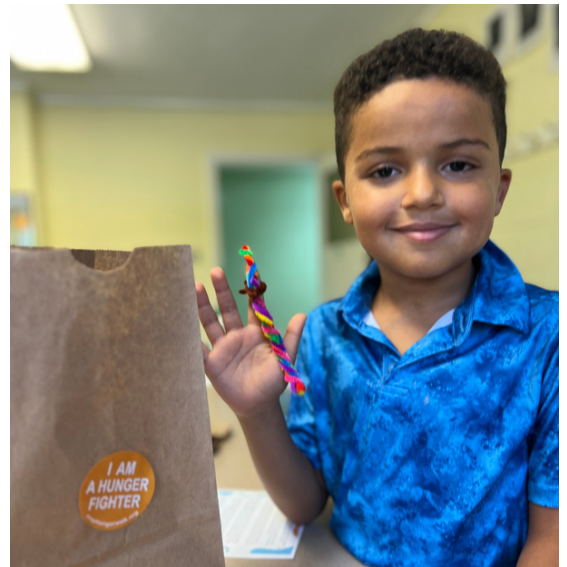
As we enter December we will be focusing on preparing our hearts and minds for the joyous celebration of the coming of Jesus. Together, we'll embark on a journey of reflection, prayer, and gratitude, as we await the birth of our Savior. On 12/3 each PUCC family with youth will be gifted with a special "Advent To Go" box! These will be a fun and simple way for families to grow spiritually together this Christmas season with devotional cards and materials for a hands-on, tangible way for youth to learn through the Scriptures and invoke discussions as a family. And I am especially excited for our 12/24 Christmas Eve service where our PUCC youth will help lead in an interactive and special celebration of the most Holy Night!

I am incredibly grateful for the support and enthusiasm our congregation brings to our church community, especially for our youth. Your involvement and dedication make a significant difference! Please stay tuned for more details on these events and activities. I am looking forward to embracing this season of Caring, Sharing, and Celebrating with our PUCC youth and our wonderful congregation!

Warm regards,

Rhiannon Kelly

P.S. If you have any questions or would like to get involved in any way with our PUCC Youth, please reach out. I value your input and participation! My cell number is 336-254-5839 and my email is youthdirectorpeaceucc@gmail.com



Spotlight on the Women's Fellowship: What is it and what does it do?

The PUCC Women's Fellowship strives to unite the women of the church for fellowship and service to the church. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August, at 10 AM in the Parlor. Generally, after our meeting, some of us go out to enjoy lunch together.

The Women's Fellowship (WF) is led by the Executive Committee which includes Co-Chairs, Abbie Wheeling and Debbie Shiner, Co-Treasurers, Cindy Spillers and Jeanne Bryan, and Secretary, Nora Norred.

Our meetings open with devotions. For years, we had meditations, short lesson studies, and hymn stories led by Doris Yeattes. Now, we are thankful to have Jeanne Bryan who continues to share the history of some of our oldest and most loved music.

We follow the general meeting format to approve our minutes, receive the financial report, and discuss our old and new business. An important part of our financial report is the funds collected in our monthly dues. A portion of these funds are immediately approved to be donated to a local, state, national, or international charity. The amount is generally a minimum of \$100. In addition, witness projects are decided monthly and arranged from our Peace Love Fund to national disasters. In 2023, we have given monthly to support missions such as Duke Power Share the Warmth, Pathway, YWCA Family Shelter, Samaritan's Purse, and others.

This is just a small but powerful introduction to the broad range of activities which are taken into consideration at every meeting. The Women's Fellowship does so much more.

Ongoing committees monitor the day-to-day needs around the church. This may include small functions like providing needed pantry items, maintaining the kitchen, or decorating for Advent. But it also includes more complex and/or costly improvements for inside the church and all around our grounds.

Each year we try to plan a major project that will benefit our church. In 2020 we had beautiful landscaping done in the areas adjacent to the portico. In 2021, we coordinated the donations of two new benches for that area. This year, we had a handicapped-height toilet installed in the main floor ladies' room. This year, we also purchased three solar panels in memory/honor of the past and present WF members.

As mentioned previously, the Women's Fellowship is involved in many programs. The WF annual budget is supported by contributions from members and friends. It includes outreach to

missions like Mobile Meals, the Southern Conference Church Women (an ecumenical church women's movement), and others.

The WF is the primary donor for Hands-On, a huge outreach program involving PUCC volunteers making pillows for hospitals and nursing homes. Its accomplishments are regularly noted by church members, recipients, and the institutions that distribute the pillows.

Our church shut-ins receive a monthly card, a birthday card, and an Honor Card at Christmas. For Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Women's Fellowship plans inserts in the bulletin honoring or remembering loved ones. Contributions from these events are used to support a charity chosen by our members.

We are now scheduling speakers from outside of our group for interesting programs that are open to all church members. We have recently had a director from the Interactive Resource Center give us a better understanding of their contribution to our homeless community. At another meeting, a City of Greensboro employee came and led us in a great discussion on their recycling program. We exceeded our usual attendance for both of these presentations, and plan more for 2024.

There are two luncheons, one in July and one in December, which include any church members who wish to attend. We are reminded always to enjoy the fellowship of each day and each person in our group, and we praise God for the opportunity to be a part of Peace UCC WF. We continue to have fun as we work and look forward to new ideas coming soon.

--By Abbie Wheeling



BRUNSWICK STEW
SALE!!!

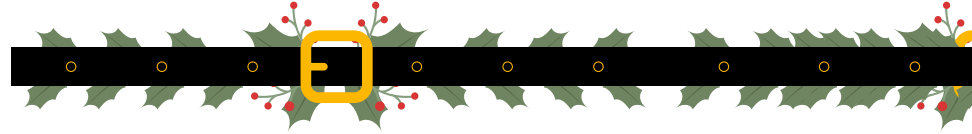
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NOVEMBER 18TH
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Mission of the Month: GUM Holiday Honor Card



Since 1983, Greensboro Urban Ministry has presented a holiday honor card as a meaningful way for individuals to honor a friend or loved one by providing a gift that honors them and also helps neighbors in need. This year's card is titled "Victoria's Kindness", designed by local artist Maria Santana. The holiday season reminds us all to show kindness to one another. Cards will be available in the Narthex for \$5.00 each.



2023 Crop Walk Fun...and a Huge Success

For over 20 years, Peace Church has proudly participated in the Church World Service/Greensboro Urban Ministries three-mile Crop Walk to help end hunger locally and worldwide. Every year church members “hiked” up and down hills in the neighborhoods surrounding the Greensboro Coliseum catching up with each other and making new connections. You can say it is a fun cardio workout for a cause.

But what about the active older members who always wanted to engage in this cause, but the three-mile walk and the hills prohibited participation? Enter Nora Norred, with help from Russ Haver, who came up with the idea of having a mini crop walk on the grounds of our church.

Through the participation of walkers at the coliseum and the church, Peace was able to surpass our goal of \$2,000 with \$840 received through online sponsorships and \$1,817 through in-person sponsorships for a total of \$2,657. Thank you to all who donated and walked this year!



Conner Hughes, Pastor Tom, Audrey, Melinda, & Hannah Summers, Larry Clapp, Anne Badgett, and Russ Haver all smiles before walking the course from the coliseum.



Deb Shiner, Doris Yeattes, Jane Ford, Sue Brittain, Trish Larimer Jeanne Bryan, Larry Clapp and Nora Norred all smiles at the conclusion of the mini walk.



Theo Scott caught in action walking in the mini crop walk.



Did You Know?

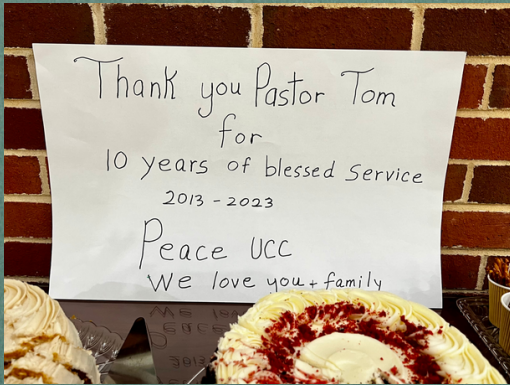
Did you know that one of our founding reformed ministers, Rev. J. D. Andrews, was Ruth Doggett's uncle who baptized her? Ruth is one of our long time active members who now resides at Guilford Friends Homes.

This column was suggested by Abbie Wheeling and will be prepared each month by Nora Norred.



Peace Church Shows Appreciation to Our Fabulous Pastor!

July 1st marked the tenth anniversary of Tom Warren as the pastor of Peace Church. While we missed the opportunity to show our appreciation for all he does for our "small but mighty" church that month, we couldn't let this milestone pass by without acknowledgment. October was National Clergy Appreciation Month, a time set aside to recognize the contributions and service of pastors to their churches, and on October 22nd our church recognized Tom for his ten years of service to our church. It was a day to show Pastor Tom how much he is loved and valued by the congregation for what he is to each of us personally, but also what he continues to bring to Peace UCC. We are very blessed to have Pastor Tom shepherding our unique flock and look forward to many years of working together to do the good work of the gospel in our church, in the community, and in our world.



Thank You



Southern Conference Helms Youth Event

The Southern Conference of the UCC is announcing that it will host the Southern Regional Youth Event that will be held July 23-26, 2024 in Virginia Beach, VA. This event will include youth, rising 7th-12 grades in 2024, from the following UCC conferences: South Central, Southeast, Florida, and Southern. The theme is in 2024, from the following UCC conferences: South Central, Southeast, Florida, and Southern. The theme is **Equip. Engage. Evolve.** The Southern Conference hopes to have 500 youth from our conference in attendance. This comes as a response to many churches across the UCC that struggle with getting and keeping youth and young adults engaged. The result is a new program called Y.E.P. (Youth Empowerment Program. According to the press release, this inaugural event will be a time "of conversations, fellowship, fun, and worship, along with the youth, we will develop our collective strategy that will hopefully be a start to meeting the needs of the youth now and for the future. Our speaking with youth is vital to us learning how best to meet their needs."

The Southern Conference will be offering a \$100 scholarship to the first 50 youth who register when registration opens.

- **Wednesday, November 1st**

All Saints Day.

- **Sunday, November 5th**

Sharing the Joy of Christmas Committee meets in the Parlor after worship.

- **Tuesday, November 7th**

Women's Fellowship meets in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

- **Wednesday, November 8th**

Hands-On meets in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.

- **Friday, November 10th**

Veterans Day Observed

Important Dates

2023 NOVEMBER						
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		

- **Friday, November 11th**

Veterans Day

- **Sunday, November 12th**

Stewardship Sunday! Please turn in your pledge cards for 2024.

- **Saturday, November 18th**

Brunswick Stew Sale 10:00 am-2:00 pm

- **Tuesday, November 21st**

Annual NAI Thanksgiving Dinner

- **Thursday, November 23rd**

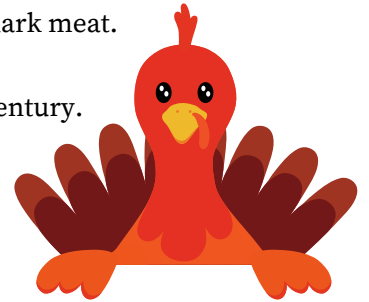
Happy Thanksgiving!

Church office will be closed.



Fun Facts About Turkeys to Share at Thanksgiving

- The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog.
- A 15 pound turkey usually has about 70 percent white meat and 30 percent dark meat.
- The wild turkey is native to northern Mexico and the eastern United States.
- The turkey was domesticated in Mexico and brought to Europe in the 16th century.



- Turkeys lived almost ten million years ago.
- Turkeys can see movement almost 100 yards away, but they do not see well at night.
- Male turkeys gobble. Hens do not. They make a clicking noise.
- Gobbling turkeys can be heard a mile away on a quiet day.
- A 16-week-old turkey is called a fryer. A 5-to-7 month old turkey is called a young roaster and a yearling is a year old. Any turkey 15 months or older is called mature.
- Turkeys are related to pheasants.
- Commercially raised turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 mph and can run 20 mph.
- Wild turkeys spend the night in trees. They prefer oak trees.
- Wild turkeys were almost wiped out in the early 1900s. Today there are wild turkeys in every state except Alaska.

Sources: University of Illinois Extension and on their site- National Turkey Federation, U.S.D.A., United States Census Bureau, Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and Canadian Turkey Marketing Association

- **5th - Mick McGrogan**

- **7th - Trish Larimer**

- **8th - Patty Murray**

- **18th - Linda Forotan**

- **21st - Eddie Small**

Abigail MillerWarren

- **25th - Barbara Small**

- **30th - David Fesperman**

