

Contact

May 2018 Edition



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Where ever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.



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Have a photo or news item you want to share in the next issue of the CONTACT?

Send your info to **wuccupdates@gmail.com**

Due by May 25!

Some food for thought from Horizons Stewardship:

One of the most successful and spiritually enriching methods for increasing giving has nothing to do with budgets, buildings, dollars, or cents.

Imagine teaching about giving as a key station on the discipleship path. As children of God, created in God's image, aren't we born to be givers? Hasn't God blessed us immeasurably? What if we understood generosity to mean giving like God has given to us?

Generosity begins with God.

Although finance chairs and pastors might agree on the theological accuracy of this statement, they believe it is impractical for motivating their people. Often the rebuttal is, "But we have to talk budget. We have to let people know how far behind we are or they won't give." How has that been working so far?

The **most important stewardship verse in the Bible** has nothing to do with budgets, building, dollars or cents. The most important stewardship verse is this:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. – John 3:16 (NRSV)

God loves...God gives...And the world is forever changed! The same is true for us!

We love...We give...And the world is forever changed.

We were created in the image of a loving and generous God. Therefore, we become the people God intended for us to be when we love and give generously. God changes us when we give like God. Imagine your congregation full of people who are becoming the loving and giving people God intended them to become. Imagine the impact of your generosity upon the world.

Ok, you might be behind on the budget. Don't despair. Don't focus on budgets, buildings, dollars, and cents. Help people see themselves as born in the image of a loving and generous God. Provide a vision for growing into the generous people God intends for them to become. Give people an opportunity for transformation. In turn, they will transform the world.

- Scott McKenzie
<https://horizons.net/instead-of-despair-make-giving-about-god/>



Upcoming Events

May 6 Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM
Communion & Worship - Rev. Sallye - 11 AM
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM

May 8 Give Local 757 (see page 7)

May 10 Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM

May 13 **MOTHER'S DAY**

Older Kids in WONDER-land - 10 AM
Worship - 11 AM
"Left Behind, Looking Up" - Rev. James
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM

May 15 Adult Supper Club - 6 PM (see page 3)

May 17 Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM

May 20 **PENTECOST**

Youth Choir Rehearsal - 10 AM
Worship - Rev. Sallye - 11 AM
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM
3rd Sunday Luncheon and Congregational Meeting - Noon-ish

May 24 Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM

May 27 Older Kids in WONDER-land - 10 AM
Worship - 11 AM
"The Comm,unity of the Trinity" - Rev. James
Younger Kids in WONDER-land - 11 AM

May 28 **MEMORIAL DAY**

May 30 Book Club - 11 AM

May 31 Choir Rehearsal - 7:45 PM



Mark Your Calendar

June 21 - 23 Southern Conference 53rd Annual Gathering (see page 8)

* Gluten-Free Communion Bread is now being used to respect the health needs of many of our congregants.

3rd Sunday Luncheon

On Sunday, May 20th, we will have our 3rd Sunday Luncheon. It will be a Taco Lunch in honor of Cinco de Mayo! We need people to sign up to bring the following:

- soft and hard taco shells
- taco meat
- cheese
- tomatoes
- anything else you like on your tacos
- any other Mexican food you would like to prepare.
- lettuce
- salsa
- sour cream

If you have a special dish that goes along with the theme please consider bringing it.



Congregational Meeting - Continued

As you know we had a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 22nd. The Strategic POP presented the recommendation of a new church vision/mission and a recommendation of a revised Constitution.

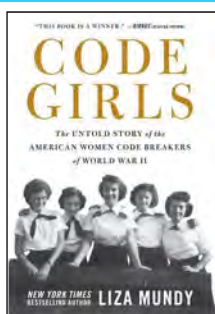
Unfortunately, some people left in the middle of the meeting. When that happened, we fell below the number of members needed to have a quorum. Without enough members we had to cease voting on anything.

During the 3rd Sunday luncheon on **May 20th**, we will have another Congregational Meeting to finish discussing Constitution changes. This meeting should hopefully be shorter as we have already covered a lot of the Constitution. I ask everyone to please come for this meeting as it is very important we finish this so the strategic planning POP can continue their work. **Everyone's input is needed.**

Thanks in advance.

Tim Holmes - Moderator

Book Club



CODE GIRLS, by Liza Mundy

Recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than ten thousand women served as codebreakers during World War II. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to Washington and learned the meticulous work of code-breaking. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history; now, through dazzling research and interviews with surviving code girls, bestselling author Liza Mundy brings to life this riveting and vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment.

Book Club meets on May 30th at 11 AM! All are welcome! Please join us!

Adult Supper Club



1213 - C
George Washington
Highway
(757) 223-4261

May 15th
6 PM

Youth Choir



The Youth Choir will have practice on Sunday mornings,

May 6th & 20th
10 AM

Financial Update as of April 26, 2018

INCOME	
Total Expected Income - All Sources - 4 months	\$ 30,850
Received - Year to Date	\$ 37,506
Expected Offering Income - Pledged & Loose - 4 months	\$ 26,000
Received - Year to Date	\$ 35,062
EXPENSES	
Total Expected Expenses - 4 months	\$ 30,850
Spent - Year to Date	\$ 34,724
MISCELLANEOUS	
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 403 **
**Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds. Includes UCC Special Offerings.	
BOILER GRANT: Almost paid off! Lets finish by June 1st! We are seeking Council approval for an additional \$750 as a thank you gift!	

Building News...

Building Update

- Now that warmer weather is upon us, it is time to remind everyone that the A/C in the Fellowship Hall is not working. We have placed a sign on the thermostat to not turn it on, otherwise it will burn up the compressor and we don't need to add that to our list. We have an estimate for the needed pressure test, to locate the area that is leaking Freon, and I have had another HVAC provider look at the system as well. To date, I have not received the estimate. The pressure test will run several hundred dollars and then there will be the replacing/repair to the line that is leaking and then adding Freon again. So, as you can see this will be a major repair for us. As I get more information I will send updates through the eblasts.
- It's time for a Clean-Up date for the outside of the church. We need weeds pulled and the finishing of the butterfly garden as well as the clean out of the storage shed. I will set a date soon and will be asking for volunteers. Please consider letting me know if you are willing to help so I don't have to beg.

Barbara Harvey



THRIVE

THRIVE Peninsula will participate in Give Local 757 on **May 8**. Your donation through the Give Local Website can help THRIVE win cash prizes beginning at 12am through 11:59pm (minimum gift is \$10). We are seeking 50 donors to give \$50 or more and 100 donors to give \$10. Help us win the 9am - 10am prize, by giving your gift inside the hour. However - a gift of any amount at any time throughout the day on May 8 counts as one entry in the general prize pool. Visit www.givelocal757.org/thrivepeninsula to participate. Want a day-of reminder? Email contact@thrivepeninsula.org

See the flyer on the next page for more information!

PORT / LINK

The PORT Season (housing the homeless) has ended. LINK is in the process of moving some of these individuals into housing. Furniture is needed to help these families. If you have any anything that you would like to donate please contact Terry Costello, jrb351@msn.com or 757-570-8343.



Summer Camps



Camp Selah

<http://www.campselahministries.com/>
Nestled in the rolling hills of south-central Virginia near the North Carolina border, Camp Selah has a rich history of serving children and youth for over 25 years. With 37 acres of forests, meadows and creeks, Camp Selah is an ideal place to connect with nature, experience God's presence, build lasting friendships and make lifelong memories.

- June 22-24 - Primary Camp (K-2)
- June 27-29 - Performing Arts Camp (Middle Schoolers)
- July 27-29 - Elementary Camp (3rd - 5th Graders)

Brochures are in the church hall racks. Ask Rev. Sallye for details!
Generous scholarships are available.



DISCOVER Summer Camp Program

A Lilly Center program (headquartered on the Catawba College campus)
<http://catawba.edu/academics/resources/programs-centers/lilly-center/discover-program/>

- July 15-21 - Jr. High Youth
- July 22-28 - Sr. High Youth

FREE camping opportunity!

DISCOVER provides a remarkable opportunity to meet new people, explore Christ in new ways and discover things about yourself that will bring a new sense of joy, satisfaction and happiness to your life.

DISCOVER uses field trips and experiences to bring you closer to God's creation and love which will allow participants to push their own limits!



Johns River Valley Camp

<https://www.jrvc.org/>

JRVC -- etched into the foothills of North Carolina's Blue Ridge by a defining mountain stream -- hosts an outdoor ministry site of the Southern Conference (UCC). This outdoor ministry setting offers life enriching opportunities and summer camp activities for persons in rising grades 3-12.

- June 24-30: Middle High Outpost/Caving (Grades 7-9)
- July 1-7: Round Table Rendezvous (Grades 4-12)
- July 15-18: Beginner Camp (Grade 3)
- July 15-21: Junior Age Classic (Grades 4-6)
- July 22-28: Senior High Outpost/Adventure (Grades 9-12)

2018 Youth Work Mission Camps are also presently being scheduled. Contact Rev. Phil Hardy phardy.jrvc@gmail.com or (336-266-1617) or camp (828-754-7067) for further information.

Going Green POP

As a result of the recent Church Survey, many members have expressed interest in the area of recycling and becoming more environmentally friendly. It is time for us to form a POP that can come up with ideas and put into place programs that will facilitate recycling, reducing, and reusing wherever possible. At the moment we are in the process of creating a coffee mug wall so we as a Church and the recovery groups that use our building, can reuse cups instead of disposable ones.

Emmelia McIlhinney will be purchasing and labeling designated bins for recycling as a Service Project which will help her meet requirements for her Girl Scout Journey. Please contact Courtney Walden if you wish to help in this area. At the moment we'll be needing volunteers to take recycling to City drop off locations. We would also love any input on how we can take steps towards becoming "greener", and help implementing those suggestions.



Stewardship POP



We are gathering a Stewardship POP to help grow a spirit of generosity at Warwick UCC! This POP will be responsible for an annual pledge drive, fundraising for special events and programs, and most importantly, encouraging people to give of their time, talents, and financial resources out of gratitude for God's goodness.

Do you feel called to cultivate a spirit of giving at Warwick?

Please contact Pastor James at JASDarnellUCC@gmail.com or 202-560-3246.

Strategic Planning POP

- As most of you know the Strategic Planning POP presented their recommendations for amending the Constitution. As a reminder, the need to do this is three-fold:
 - The Constitution has not been updated in over 14 years.
 - In order to move on with fundraising for building needs (handicap bathrooms, etc.) we needed to update the Constitution to reflect who WUCC is now, not how we used to be.
 - We need to update the church profile so we can begin a pastoral search.
- We did not make it through all of the changes at the recent Congregational Meeting – there was a lot of good discussion and there were many points that were covered. So, Tim Holmes, our Moderator, set another Congregational Meeting for May 20th – third Sunday. Please mark your calendars. We need a quorum of 20 members. Without a quorum we cannot transact any church business and we really don't want to delay our momentum too long.
- We will also discuss the recommended mission/vision statement at the May 20th meeting.
- If you need a copy of the recommended amendments or a copy of the proposed mission/vision statement, please let me know and I'll ensure you get one.



give
Local
757!
MAY 8

THRIVE PENINSULA

Great Hour of Giving

All day, your gifts help us win cash prizes from Peninsula Community Foundation

Your timely gift of \$10 or more between 9am - 10am could help us win \$757 in prize money! Your gift of \$50 or more given before 12noon could help us win \$1,000! All other gifts given 12am - 11:59pm count as one entry in the general prize pool.

MAY 8TH
9-10 AM

Funds will help THRIVE provide Peninsula families with emergency resources during their time of crisis.

HOW TO GIVE

- 1) Visit www.givelocal757.org/thrivepeninsula
- 2) Fill out form with your selections and click "Add to Cart".
- 3) On the next screen click "Check Out".
- 4) Scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Donate As Guest". Add your information on the next page and click "Submit" THANK YOU! Questions? Call us 877-6211 x2



March 27, 2018

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.” (Psalm 51:10,12)

“Renew, Restore, Refresh”

Brothers and Sisters of the Southern Conference,

Grace! Mercy! and Peace! Be unto you, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for all of you.

This is your **Official Call Letter** inviting you to attend and participate in the Southern Conference 53rd Annual Gathering, June 21-23, 2018, hosted by the Western North Carolina Association. This year’s event will be held at the beautiful **Canterbury School in Northeastern Greensboro, NC**. Our theme is **“Renew, Restore, Refresh”** (Psalm 51:10,12). It will be a celebration of what God has done and is doing in the life of the Southern Conference. Every Local Church and related Institutions are invited to attend.

Come join us as we are planning an excellent agenda of education, fellowship, great food, relationship building, praise, worship and business. On Thursday morning, we will be offering a pre-gathering **Boundary Training** workshop for all clergy and other workshops such as “Safe Church” for both laity and clergy. That evening we will have our opening worship service with The Rev. Kim Hodges, Lynnhaven Colony Congregational Church UCC in Virginia Beach, VA. Friday and Saturday will be filled with additional educational learnings and panel discussions. The Southern Conference Celebration Dinner will be at 7:00 pm on Friday. Saturday, there will be a discussion on the **Three Great Loves** initiative and our closing reflections will be given by The Rev. Angela Roberson, Congregational UCC in High Point, NC.

The highlights for our meeting include: Thought-provoking and engaging workshops focused on education and training for the purpose of being prophetic and putting flesh on the gospel; Time for fellowship with members of the Southern Conference at our **“pig pickin”** outdoor casual celebration dinner featuring a **Bluegrass Band**; Youth Mission activities and a conference choir.

Like last year, you are invited and encouraged to register online. The deadline for registration is **Monday, June 11, 2018**. The registration form, online registration information and hotel accommodations will be sent out in a follow up letter and posted on our website: www.soc-ucc.org.

Come and be a part of what promises to be a wonderful move of God. **You don’t want miss it!** And, may the Lord find favor on you and your families and bless you abundantly!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis, Conference Minister
Southern Conference UCC

The Death of Whiteness and the Five Stages of Grief

April 25, 2018

Written by **Molly Baskette**

"Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly . . . seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices, and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator." - Colossians 3:5

A year or so ago a Facebook friend asked me to relinquish my whiteness. What? Could I slip my skin, leave it by the roadside and be free of the blessings and burdens of white privilege forever?

God loves to shut down my snarky hypotheticals. Minutes after asking "How can I not be white anymore?" God answered my question with an insight: I was in denial, the first stage of grief. Here's how my grief unfolded from there.

Denial: I can't help it that I was born white, can I? I get that I drank the water and ate the food grown in the soil of a slave-owning country, but I'm not RACIST racist.

Anger: Those \$%&! white supremacists with their torch parades and preppy haircuts! They are ruining it for everybody! What's that, God? How am I part of the system? Why would You go there?

Bargaining: I grew up poor, God. Can't I enjoy a couple of the fruits of middle-class white privilege before I'm done with them forever: the pristine beach filled with blindingly pale flesh, the well-funded public schools for my kids?

Depression: The blood, sweat and tears of systemic racism have poisoned every ordinary joy. I am heartbroken for what my siblings of color have suffered and continue to suffer (and, petty, I still feel sorry for myself). I am in mourning.

Acceptance I: I have new joys, of a different order, emerging. New friends. Pleasures and gifts not dependent on a permanent underclass or a racial scapegoat. Music and dance, sunshine, lighthearted hope that we can change, after all, and the gift of blessed dark comedy when hope flags.

[inevitable cycling back through the first four stages]

Acceptance II: Arriving someday, when we finally fulfill the scripture that destroys binaries, false constructions of race and every other shallow attribute, because Christ is "all in all."

Prayer

Lord, your son James Baldwin taught us that "learning to be white is an ethical choice, not a biological destiny." Help me relinquish my whiteness, and come into the best joy you intend for me, and every one of your children. Amen.



About the Author

Molly Baskette is Senior Minister of the First Church of Berkeley, California, and the author of the best-selling *Real Good Church* and *Standing Naked Before God*.

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_the_death_of_whiteness_and_the_five_stages_of_grief

Lectionary Readings for May 2018

May 6, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 13, 2018

Seventh Sunday of Easter

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Ezekiel is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.



May 20, 2018

Day of Pentecost

*Acts 2:1-21 - or - Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 - or - Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27, 2018

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Prayer List (Names given verbally are spelled to the best of our ability)

Mickey Allen	USS Fitzgerald & Family	Miguel O
Anderson Family	Michelle Flores & Family	Terry P
Anthony	Stephanie Fraizer	Larry Paccone
Mike Barnes	Hal & Marge Giesecking	Ted & Michelle Paccone
Amanda Bartley	+ Gosser Family	Puerto Rico & USVI
Kelly Bennett	Barry Graham	+ Ryan Family
Geraldine Bolden	Pat Grant	+ Sample Family
Tristen Brown	Hall Family	Jesse Saunders
Trudy Burdge	+ Pikul/Harvey Family	Nancy Simpson
Larry Burns	Dianne Howe	Will Smith & Family
Carter Family	Hurricane Victims	Bob Snaz
+ Christensen Family	Sandra Ingari	Jeffrey Spielberger
Carolyn Clayton	Island of Kauai, Hawaii	+ Spielberger Family
Tony Colden	Mike Kelpaul	Cynthia Thomas
Costello Family	Cindy Kilgore	+ Thomas Family
Kevin Court	Ann Lange	+ Donal VonGryffn
Eleanor Darnell	Donna Langston	Meredith White
+ Dinges Family	Heidi & Mike Lord	+ Winter Family
Martha Dunn & Family	John Maclean	Rachel York
Dvey Family	Linda Mann	Students & Teachers
Emerson Family	Mrs. Martinez	
Yvette Ferguson	USS McCain	
Celena Forukem	John McInery	
Aubrey Fitzgerald	Audrey Noble	

+ Pray for the families who have lost loved ones in the past year.