

...BRIEFLY

Be Bold: Nonviolence Works

Vol. 76 Summer 2020

presbypeacefellowship.org @presbypeace

PPF Peace Camp Accompanies Virtual GA

“Time for Remorseful to be Resourceful”

Connection. Purpose. Gratitude. These words came from some of the 432 Presbyterians who registered for PPF's Peace Camp June 18-27 during the virtual General Assembly. Others added: “Peace Camp salvaged GA for me” and “In the face of the pandemic, it was like dancing across technology.” For the PPF Peace Breakfast on Facebook Live on June 24, over 1900 persons watched and 934 made comments to share their location and love.

Using Zoom and Facebook, Peace Camp offered two Vigils, 11 daily Devotionals, five Teach-Ins and other events. Find the Devotionals at presbypeacefellowship.org/blog and view events/Teach-Ins at facebook.com/presbypeace



Above, Colleen Earp (VA) lights vigil campfire while Matt Black (IL) leads “This Little Light of Mine.” Baltimore Presbytery’s Hands and Feet interns Melva Lowry (MD) and Liv Thomas (MD) use art in their Devotional. Past GA moderators Bruce Reyes-Chow (CA), Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri (FL) and Cindy Kohlmann (MA) offer morning emailed Devotionals. Find all 11 Devotionals on the PPF blog now.

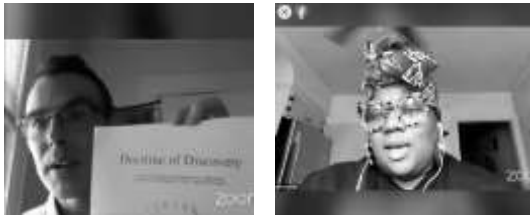


Above, The Peace Breakfast! Welcome from Gloria Mencer (TN), Sunny Kang (CA), Ashley DeTar Birt (NY), Rick Ufford-Chase (NY) and Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson (KY). New PPF video on 2019 Peaceseeeker congregations and gun violence prevention. Warren Cooper (PA) sings: “Time for remorseful to be resourceful, right here, right now.” Michelle Muñoz-Vega (PR) accepts 2020 Peaceseeeker Award. Keynote by José González-Colón (PR). **GA Rock** new video on how a normal GA works! Thank you to volunteers, staff, interns, special guests and all Peace Campers!

Enjoy The Peace Breakfast and all Peace Camp Devotionals, Teach-Ins and events now on Facebook or YouTube at Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, including permission for church use.

GA & Peace Camp, Cont.

Weeks after the murder of George Floyd, GA grappled with racism. While no justice issues were to be considered, the Assembly did create one action on overcoming racism. The action failed to lift up Black girls and women who are abused by both racism and sexism. GA did approve reports on Native American sovereignty, human rights and reparative support for Native American church buildings. *Below, Peace Camp Teach-Ins with Antonio Trujillo and others from the PCUSA Native American Coordinating Council and Contina Lundy on Family Leave and Peacemaking.*



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A Peacemaker's Calendar

July 24 & July 31, 1:15 PM ET PPF Virtual Coffee Hours. See presbypeacefellowship.org/events

July 25 Jim Atwood Celebration of Life, streamed from St. Andrews Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. For link, contact janoh4@aol.com

Aug. 6 & Aug. 9 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki Atomic Bombings

Aug. 6, 8 PM ET What is the PPF Activist Council? How to get more involved. Register at presbypeacefellowship.org/events

Aug. 15 PPF Virtual Book Club starts. Order now: *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. Ordering info and registration (175 PPFers signed up already!): presbypeacefellowship.org/events

Aug. 19, 8 PM ET Presbytery Fossil Fuel Divestment Training -- Where to Start? See p. 3

Sept. 2, 8 PM ET Board of Pensions and Fossil Fuels Training about how you can help shape the BOP portfolio as a member. See p. 3

Sept. 6-Oct. 4 Season of Peace and the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering PCUSA
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace

Sept. 24-26

Activist Council Virtual Annual Gathering

Join other PPF peace activists in training, worship, community and planning for 2021. This will be a creative virtual event to join from home.
 See presbypeacefellowship.org/events

Sept. 25-Oct. 19 International Peacemakers Tour with global mission partners from across the world. See presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking

Oct. 9- 12 & March 20-23 Accompaniment Learn & Discern Training for Colombia and the Border.
presbypeacefellowship.org/events

Late Fall

Barstow Driver Award Honoring Linda Eastwood!

April 20-29, 2021 Peacemaking Program Travel Seminar to the Native Lands of the American Southwest: The Doctrine of Discovery & Its Legacy.
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/travel-study

Join the PPF Activist Council!

The ABCs of the Activist Council are: **A**ffirm the nonviolence of Jesus, **B**e active in PPF, **C**ontribute each year as generously as you are able.

The AC gathers virtually and in person to encourage one another in the work of nonviolence in our local churches and communities and to set the direction of PPF's work. More info at presbypeacefellowship.org/AC

FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT & Your Presbytery

With the virtual GA over, let's help our presbyteries and local Presbyterians lead the church by divesting from fossil fuels. This new campaign launches this summer with two training events, open to all who register.

On Wed. Aug. 19 at 8 PM ET, join with activists in many presbyteries to learn how to get started and to share our experiences. Register at presbypeacefellowship.org/events

On Wed. Sept. 2 at 8 PM ET, learn how members of the Board of Pensions can impact BOP investments. Register at presbypeacefellowship.org/events

Find action tools at fossilfreepcusa.org/facts-action



Left, abby mohaupt, Co-Moderator of PPF, in Peace Camp Teach-In on Fossil Fuel Divestment & Black Liberation; Climate Change author and activist Bill McKibben offers Peace Camp devotional, see below.

"The PCUSA would have divested at GA. That's not going to happen now. It's a reminder to your leaders that delay is not a good idea. We don't know what's going to happen or how much time we have. Events can come as a 'thief in the night' and upend our plans. We should have moved faster and quicker. I'm grateful to you for making the case for divestment again and again. It's crucial to get regional bodies to divest.

The Coronavirus reminds us that reality is real and there's no negating a CO² molecule any more than there is with the virus. Speed matters. If we flatten the virus curve or the carbon curve early, then you have less trauma down the road. Social solidarity matters. We need to get everybody engaged in this fight.

We have to get rid of ideas that have haunted our political life ---that markets are going to solve our problems or that individual people are the only unit that matters. The only good thing about the virus is that there wasn't a trillion dollar industry whose business model had us all dying from the virus. But there is that industry whose business model demands that we not take climate change seriously.

I will keep you in my prayers. It's the Lord's work --- your unstinting efforts. On we go."

--See Bill McKibben at presbypeacefellowship.org/blog

Jim Atwood *iPresente!*



by Jan Orr-Harter (TX)

As one tribute said, Jim Atwood *takes his place among the better angels*. Our friend, mentor and PPF Activist Council member died from Covid-19 on June 26.

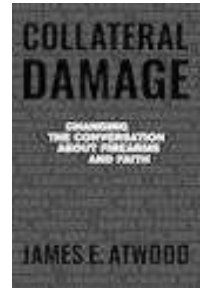
At the Peace Camp closing vigil the next day, PPF Coordinator of Gun Violence Prevention Deanna Hollas said. "We in the PCUSA, along with others, can rise up to

honor Jim Atwood, a giant of the gun violence prevention movement, by finishing the work he started."

Along with his wife Roxana, Jim served as a mission worker in Japan. Later, while a pastor in Virginia, a parishioner was killed by gun violence. This led Jim to a lifetime of work for gun sense change and to write three books on gun violence prevention. Jim loved sports, hunting, his family, good food, faith, laughter and PPF. He was the founding chairperson of the PPF Endowment Fund in 2005, interfaith chair of the Million Mom March against gun violence in 2000 and chair of the board of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

Mike Beard, President Emeritus of the Coalition wrote that "Jim was the heart, soul and moral compass of the movement to stop gun violence over the past half century. He could discuss controversial issues without rancor. He had a disarming wit, honed by a keen sense of justice and he backed up his beliefs with acts of courage."

The day before his death, Jim, along with Deanna Hollas and author Donald Gaffney, received the PCUSA Crystal Teardrop Award at the virtual General Assembly. "Jim was a big voice trying to eradicate gun violence in the streets," said Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, "I'm going to miss him as a brother... He was faithful to Jesus Christ and gave himself to the fullest."



See p. 2 for info on Jim's celebration of life on July 25.

Honored by the Presbyterian Writers Guild, Jim's new book is **Collateral Damage: Changing the Conversation about Firearms and Faith**, Herald Press. Find a Study Guide at heraldpress.com/study-guides

Right, Lindsey Coxe (CA), Doug Hunt (CA), Andy Torres (NY) at Peace Camp Gun Violence Prevention Teach-In



Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Annual Report **2019**

2019 Donors – **THANK YOU!**

PPF began out of the idea that we could have a world without war. It seemed--and seems--impossible to many, yet together we continue in that tradition of imagining and building a future that does not yet exist: a world without war or gun violence or police brutality, a world where people do not profit from the destruction of the Earth. It's a world where collaboration and justice are the values, not domination and greed. As you'll see in this list of supporters, the way PPF is funded is by the collaboration of many people through gifts of all sizes. Here are things to celebrate:

- In a pandemic and economic crisis, PPF has been blessed by generous and steady donors. Thank you.
- Our 2019 75th Year Endowment Campaign was a great step forward for PPF. In celebration of the generosity of 219 households, the first fruits of the enlarged endowment will supplement funds given during our Pentecost appeal to allow PPF to share mutual aid of \$10,000 with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a community organization of farmworkers in Florida who are being hit especially hard by the pandemic. Thank you, all.
- Your ongoing support--through direct donations and gifts to the endowment--allows PPF staff and volunteers to stay focused on this **movement moment in history**. We have been finding new ways to connect with people online through the Peace Camp and we are taking seriously the call from Black grassroots organizers for white people to put some skin in the game in the fight against police brutality by defunding the police.

PPF offers a vision of both a world without violence and a world that bears the fruits of peace. We are called not only to dig up and uproot the forces of violence and white supremacy, but also to water and nurture the budding plants of the *kingdom* of God. To all who have given of your time, energy, and financial resources to do this messy, difficult, and faithful work of nurturing a new world into being: Thank you,



Emily welcomes Peace Campers to the Teach-in on *Pandemic, Pentecost & Possibility*. At the Peace Breakfast, Jessie lifts up the offering and other ways to support PPF.



Rev. Emily S. Brewer, Executive Director, NY Rev. Jessie Light-Wells, Moderator, PPF Development Working Group, TX

Thank you to each 2019 donor for your support —759 households giving together !
Please forgive and advise PPF on any mistakes or omissions. All 2020 donors will be included in next year's Annual Report.

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**To learn about PPF's PeaceSeeking Church Network, contact Art Hunt
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Thank you to Shannan Vance-Ocampo who completes her term as PPF Co-Moderator!

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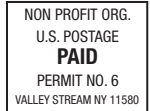
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Annual Report Issue



See Peace Camp now @presbypeace

Above, The virtual Peace Breakfast June 24 with Rutgers Presbyterian Church choir (NY) singing PPF's 75th year Hymn, "You Turn Mourning into Dancing" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Defund the Police



Many in PPF responded to the brutal murder of George Floyd with action for racial justice and for change in American policing. PPF's Activist Council has begun a new initiative to respond to **#BlackLivesMatter** calls for defunding police departments and re-allocating funds to mental health, violence reduction, economic development and other nonviolent ways to solve our problems. PPF staff Alison Wood, *left* at Peace Camp, is coordinating a survey for you to indicate your interest in learning more or in being part of an "Action Circle" in your community. See presbypeacefellowship.org/defund or the Peace Camp Devotional on Juneteenth @presbypeace

A Planet to Save & Very Little Time

-from the Keynote by José González-Colón

It is poor people who are the first waves of those affected by climate breakdown: migrants from the dry triangle of Central America, citizens of the nation of Bangladesh who will soon belong to a country that is mostly underwater, communities all over the world who are losing their homes because of the voracious thirst and appetite for oil fields. It's now affecting the next tier in the social ladder. You may live in a nice suburban neighborhood, but a loved one is unexplainably sick. It may be a refinery. It may be a mine. It could be an old pipeline a few miles from your home.

This pandemic began with the invasion of frontier lands inhabited by species that protected us from lethal viruses. As we began to hunt them down for food or for profit, we have opened a Pandora's Box of pestilence. We must ask where we will be the next time there is another hurricane, another massive mudslide, another pandemic or just another brush fire? Are you going to send a Love Offering? Or are you going to truly take the concrete steps to correct the wrong?

We must tell the truth about the climate and the injustices created by the fossil fuel companies. But we really need you and me to *bear* the truth in our lives. We need more truth bearers ...Now I am an optimist because I believe that these people are all over the church and there in every community. The real truth bearers ---they're going to find ways to usher in the new age. Friends, this is our *kairos*, the in-breaking interrupting presence of God unfolding before our eyes. For you who are going to be the truth bearers, I'm ever so hopeful and thankful. *Abrazos, Paz*"

See the full speech at The Peace Breakfast on YouTube or at facebook.com/presbypeace