

# PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

October 2020

## Calendar Items

**Saturday, October 3 -**  
**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**  
**Town Hall - Dismantling**  
**Racism, Session 2** event -  
 10-11:30 am (ET) via Zoom -  
 contact Karen -  
[kt2654@gmail.com](mailto:kt2654@gmail.com) for zoom link.

**Saturday, October 17 - Peace**  
**& Global Witness Partnership**  
**Meeting**, 10 a.m. on ZOOM,  
 contact Karen -  
[kt2654@gmail.com](mailto:kt2654@gmail.com) if you would  
 like to attend

### Contact for Resource Organization - Presbyterians for Earth Care

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) invites individuals and congregations to participate in the growing earth care movement within the PC(USA). PEC is a national eco-justice network that cares for God's creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring Presbyterians to make creation care a central concern of the church. PEC is celebrating their 25 year anniversary this year! website - [presbyearthcare.org](http://presbyearthcare.org)



### October 4 - Special Offering for Peace & Global Witness - Thanks to all the congregations who take this offering!

*In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we also encounter ongoing "pandemics" of racism, hunger and poverty. Trusting in God, we pray in thanksgiving for all partners and Presbyterians, grassroots communities and worshipping congregations who do their part to pursue justice, peace and healing in their own corner of this world. Together, across the country and around the globe, we face these difficult times with faithful companions and holy work. (quote from Rebecca Barnes, coordinator, Presbyterian Hunger Program)*

Following are a few of **"Practices for Peacemakers"** from the PCUSA Seasons of Peace....

*As we approach World Communion Sunday, ask yourself: Is there a neighbor with whom you have been reticent to connect? Allow the inspiration of World Communion Sunday's bold and inclusive spirit to guide you to make a connection.*

*For the next few days, try to start your conversations and meetings with one internal thought: "This person is a beloved child of God!" Let that thought peel away initial feelings of resentment and worry, and drive you to interact with the grace and appreciation that is shown to each of God's children.*

*When was the last time you stopped and listened to the birds speaking their language? What were they saying? When the sun is hiding behind billows of clouds, and the rain is pouring, how do you connect to God? Take the time to be still, listen and find peace and strength from the Earth that surrounds you.*

## October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### Book Review Coming Up

At the Partnership meeting on Saturday, October 17, member Doug Langdon will review ***Virus as a \Summons to Faith*** by **Walter Bruggemann**. There will also be a report in the November newsletter.

### Two Suggestions for a Movie Night....

-- ***Just Mercy***, which is available now for purchase or rental on streaming services. *Just Mercy* is based on the story of Bryan Stevenson, a Harvard educated lawyer who has devoted his life to representing the wrongfully accused who have been sentenced to death.

-- ***The Report***, now streaming on Amazon Prime. *The Report* is the story of the U.S. post-9/11 CIA torture program, and the political drama of the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation which led to the U.S. passing new laws banning torture in 2015. National Religious Campaign Against Torture advocated for an end to U.S. torture throughout the period depicted in the film, and was a key part of this victory. (*The Report* has graphic scenes of torture, so it's not suitable for young children.)

## Report from Ministry Partner El Refugio

The Peace and Global Witness Partnership supports the ministry of **El Refugio** in Lumpkin, Georgia as they minister to detainees in the Stewart Detention Center and to the families of the detainees who travel there for visits. Recently partnership member Anne Hughes received the following report from Amilcar Valencia, Director of El Refugio:

Some of the current issues at Stewart include the inability to practice social distancing; lack of medical care and testing; lack of PPE/hygiene products; inconsistent meal times/lack of food; lack of access to phones

### COVID-19 Cases at Stewart

- 337 Detained immigrants tested positive for COVID-19 (09/14/20)

- 79 CoreCivic employees tested positive (08/09/20)

- 2 ICE staff tested positive (08/09/20)

- 2 detained individuals died at SDC due to COVID

### Complications

- Santiago Baten Oxlaj died on May 24, 2020

- Jose Freddy Guillen Vega died on Monday, August 10, 2020

El Refugio's main actions during this pandemic include *Sending Love in the Time of COVID-19* letter-writing campaign; promoting a Pen-Pal Program; providing funds for commissary, phone fees and travel bags; preparing family solidarity kits; assisting families and people detained via hotline; advocating for release of detainees; letters sent to CDC and Georgia Department of Health

For more info, go to [elrefugiostewart.org](http://elrefugiostewart.org)

## October 11 - 18 - Food Week of Action

**Hopeful Harvest** is the theme of this year's **Food Week of Action, October 11 - 18**. A Hopeful Harvest relies on family farmers, fishers and others producing in agroecological ways that lead toward food sovereignty. As communities around the world face the pandemic and vulnerable food chains, people are realizing the necessity of more resilient agricultural systems that put workers and people first and that protect and cool the planet. Food Week will highlight groups and initiatives that are building an equitable and sustainable food-farm system – while also tackling the economic and racial drivers of hunger, poverty and oppression.