

# PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2021

## Calendar Items

**Wednesdays in March - Interfaith Atlanta/FAMA continues its weekly 30- minutes midday respite of Peace, Compassion & Kindness: A Contemplative Series.** Every Wednesday 12:00 - 12:30 pm ET - for zoom link go to [faithallianceofmetroatlanta.org](http://faithallianceofmetroatlanta.org)

**Sunday, March 14, 4 pm - Interfaith Atlanta Town Hall Meeting** - a celebration of ongoing and upcoming interfaith work in Greater Atlanta and the first-ever presentation of the **Jan Swanson Outstanding Interfaith Achievement Award.** [Register Here!](#)

**Saturday, March 20 - Peace & Global Witness Partnership Meeting - 10 a.m.** contact [kt2654@gmail.com](mailto:kt2654@gmail.com) for ZOOM invite

**March 27 & April 17 - Upcoming sessions of Lombard Mennonite Peace Center workshop - Healthy Congregations** uses the insights of family systems theory to help church leaders become more effective stewards of their congregations. Register online via [TicketSpice](#), or contact LMPC office at [630-627-0507](tel:630-627-0507).

## PC(USA) Peacemaking Travel Programs

Travel study opportunities through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program are expected to resume this year. Peacemaking is offering a travel study seminar to **Puerto Rico** from Aug. 16-23 as well as one to the **American Southwest** from Sept. 17-26. A third seminar, focusing on human trafficking and forced labor, is set to take place in the **Philippines and Hong Kong** in 2022.

May 7 is the application deadline for the Puerto Rico seminar, which is being co-hosted by [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#). Participants will be able to see how the U.S. territory has rebounded from natural disasters and to hear about Puerto Rico's other challenges, such as food insecurity and structural racism.

June 1 is the application deadline for the travel study seminar to the Native lands of the Southwest, designed to give participants an appreciation for the rich history, culture and resilience of Indigenous people in the Southwest. Participants will learn about the Doctrine of Discovery as well as issues such as land and water rights, intergenerational trauma, poverty and addiction, and environmental racism.

For registration info on these travel study seminars and others, click this link - [the seminars](#)

## Film Review - *One Night in Miami*

by Partnership Co-Chair **Dr. Brenda Smith**

The film *One Night in Miami* directed by **Regina King**, chronicles the relationship between four African American men, from different religious communities and class. Yet there permeates a sacred bond between them that serves to strengthen each in their own personal journeys while at the same time poses critical challenges to whom they perceive themselves to be and what ultimately is their ephemeral duty in the world, particularly in the times of 1960's America.

The film opens with scenes of **Cassius Clay** (later known as Muhammad Ali) preparing to fight Sonny Liston in Miami, Florida. After winning and proclaiming that he is "the greatest",

**Saturday, March 27 - Webinar - Why Justice Matters: The Case for Palestine** - 10 am - noon -Keynote speaker - **Omar Barghout**, founder of BDS movement - Registration: [bit.ly/vjpwhyjustice](https://bit.ly/vjpwhyjustice) - Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/1fwhqGMJC>

**April 18 - 21 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days** - (a virtual event) - theme - **Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored** a gathering of Christian advocates and activists to worship, delve deeply into the pressing issues of the day and lift our voices by speaking truth to power on Capitol Hill. For more information, go to [advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org).

**Wednesday, April 28 - 11:30 am - Interfaith Community Initiatives (ICI) virtual luncheon** - keynote address - *Interfaith Friendships: Confronting Racism and Howard Thurman* - guest speaker **Rev. Dr. Luther Smith, Jr.** Professor Emeritus of Church and Community, Candler School of Theology, individual ticket - \$25 - for more info, [www.interfaithci.org](http://www.interfaithci.org)

**PC(USA) Webinar to Watch** - Click this link for **the second episode of the webinar series "Where Do We Go from Here?"** presented by the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness/Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. The **Rev. Denise Anderson of the Office of Racial and Intercultural Justice** and **Sue Rheem of the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations** joined former **Co-Moderator Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri** for a frank, personal discussion of white supremacy and gender inequality

Clay accompanies his friends **Jim Brown, Sam Cooke**, and **Malcolm X** to a hotel party hosted by the latter. Each of these men in their own right would cast a shadow upon American history - two of them, Jim Brown and Cassius Clay as sports figures, Sam Cooke, a genius in musical composition and song and Malcolm X whose prophetic preaching echoes Langston Hughes' perennial prose entitled "A Dream Deferred".

Notwithstanding Cassius Clay's spectacular win over Liston, the film centers around the supposedly celebratory party. The celebration is not what Cooke or Brown had in mind, nor for that matter Clay who had not fully transitioned into the Muslim faith and thereby still preferred the secular world for all its enchantments and pleasures. In the film director Regina King makes cogent reference to Clay's worldly interest. Nonetheless, according to the film he goes along with the Malcolm X party plan. Although the group is restless, they engage in gracious talk, deep introspective dialogue about their friendship and what it means to them. Later scenes foreshadow each man's personal struggle...for Cassius Clay at what it may mean to change one's name, to be despised and jailed for refusing to serve in the military. For Malcolm X what it means to be scorned by one's own religious community and for the remaining two men, haunted by the psychical shadows of their own emotional conflicts, yet each would sour despite the injustices evidenced in the world around them.

The film is a wonderful tribute to the lives of these four gifted human beings who sought to live out their stories with conviction, hope and promise.

The actors captured the unique characters - **El Goree** as Cassius Clay, his soft voice juxtaposed against a cocking expository of courage, confidence, and humor; **Leslie Odum** as Sam Cooke sends chills through the listeners' souls with his beloved hymn. *A Change is Going to Come*. **Aldis Hodge**, portrays Jim Brown as a pragmatic realist- wise and ethical - who speaks with clarity urging each to place emphasis upon what it means to be a part of a fellowship in which the individual though treasured is elevated by the community of friends. Actor **Kingley Ben-Adir** as Malcolm X , though not an entertainer or sports person, is characterized in various scenes in the film as out of step with the genre of black maleness in the 1960's America.

The film ends with scenes of party seekers in Miami... Malcolm X's home being firebombed, his family having escaped finding refuge in another hotel room. The film's musical tone resonates with Sam Cooke's legendary song...**A Change is Going to Come**