

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

February 2023

Calendar Items

Sunday, February 5 , 5 p.m.

online - Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Inventory of

Conscience Workshop- This

workshop will be based on the [Inventory of Conscience Survey](#),

It will include journaling and small group discussions. Sharing will be voluntary and without judgment.

To Register go to

presbypeacefellowship.org

Sunday, February 26 - GIPL's

Green Team Summit - Temple Sinai, Sandy Springs from 2-8

pm. The Green Team Summit is an opportunity for Green Teams, faith leaders, and environmental activists from across the state to gather for a time of fellowship and shared learning. The Summit will feature a series of workshops, speakers, and a shared meal. A full schedule and more information at gipl.org/events.

Sunday, March 5 -anti-war

activist and author **Medea**

Benjamin will speak about the war in Ukraine and have a book signing (see separate article)

Info on Becoming a Peace Church

For congregations that want to take their peacemaking efforts beyond the Commitment to Peacemaking, they can consider becoming a **Peace Church**, deepening their peacemaking witness to reject violence and war and embrace Jesus' way of nonviolence. A Presbyterian Peace Church commits itself, after the manner of Jesus and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to:

- work diligently to dismantle and disavow structures and systems of violence
- opposes militarism, the global expansion of the U.S. military and the war economy
- disavow war, weaponry, and violence in all circumstances as a means to resolve conflict
- promote the use of nonviolent means of conflict resolution including mediation, conciliation, and peaceful resistance
- stand against propaganda and actions that promote ill-will between nations or peoples and lead to war
- foster respect and dialogue to strengthen communities, build resilience, and resolve conflicts
- care for the marginalized and oppressed through ministries of justice and reconciliation so as to prevent the escalation of conflict into violence and war
- affirm conscientious objection in all its forms as a proper faithful expression of non-participation in warfare,
- equip people as they discern their Christian response to war
- accompany and be in solidarity with those who have declared themselves to be Conscientious Objectors, and
- act in additional ways, guided by the Holy Spirit, that are consistent with being a Presbyterian Peace Church in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).for more info, contact Presbyterian Peacemaking Program at peacemaking@pcusa.org. [Download Curriculum](#)

April 5-27 Ecumenical Advocacy Days

The theme for Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2023 has been announced. It is "Swords into Plowshares: Achieving Enough for All & Pursuing Peace." Keep an eye out for more details about the virtual conference, which will be April 25–27 and include worship, workshops and plenary speakers.

Calendar Items Continued

Sunday, March 12 - Atlanta Community Food Bank **Hunger Walk** - www.acfb.org

March 16 - 18 - Just Creation Conference: Shalom For Our Common Home - at **Columbia Seminary** - Focused on environmental justice, theologians, scientists, artists, and activists will reflect on how the church moves forward in a time of precipitous climate change.

REGISTER

Support undocumented scholars at Freedom University

Freedom University in Atlanta is unique not only because they are the only school for undocumented students in the world, but because their students choose the subjects they want to study! This semester, in order to make classes as accessible as possible, there is no tuition. Students are provided with free laptops, all of the books and supplies they need, healthy food and snacks, and safe rides to and from class.

On January 21, Freedom University welcomed a class of 16 students (15 of whom are women!) to their Spring 2023 program. To support their program, go to freedom-university.org

Author Medea Benjamin to speak at Atlanta Friends on March 5

The Atlanta peace and justice community will have an opportunity to hear national anti-war activist and author **Medea Benjamin** speak about the war in Ukraine on Sunday, March 5, 1:30 pm, at the Friends Meetinghouse, 701 W. Howard Ave., Decatur, Georgia 30030. A light lunch will be served at 1 pm. Benjamin will speak about her new book, ***War in Ukraine: Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict***, co-authored with Nicolas J.S. Davies, focusing on the background of the conflict and the need for negotiations. The event, part of her 50-city book tour, will be hosted by the Social Concerns Committee of the Atlanta Friends Meeting and sponsored by Atlantans for Peace in Ukraine. Aware of divergent perspectives on the war, she looks forward to engaging in dialogue about the global crisis we all face. Following the program, she will sign copies of her book which will be available for purchase.

New Report Issued on Solitary Confinement

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 24, 2023 – **Unlock The Box**, a national advocacy campaign and coalition to end solitary confinement in the United States, today released ***Banning Torture: Legislative Trends and Policy Solutions for Restricting and Ending Solitary Confinement*** throughout the United States, the first-ever comprehensive, nationwide analysis of legislation related to solitary confinement.

In light of the growing awareness that solitary confinement causes severe damage, increases the risk of death, and worsens safety for everyone, jurisdictions across the country have been introducing legislation to ban or restrict the practice. Among the significant trends found in the Banning Torture report include initiatives to: (1) end solitary confinement for young people; (2) end solitary confinement for pregnant people, people who are living with physical and mental disabilities, and those with medical conditions; (3) prohibit solitary confinement beyond 15 consecutive days in accordance with the UN's Nelson Mandela Rules; (4) create independent oversight mechanisms to promote effective policy implementation; and (5) fully end solitary confinement for all people. For more info or to download the report go to www.unlocktheboxcampaign.org

Info From Presbyterian Historical Society

Each month of 2023, the **Presbyterian Historical Society** is bearing witness to the lives of African American leaders throughout the history of the PC(USA). The first of this new series is a biography of **William Lloyd Imes**, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church in Harlem, New York. [Click here to read more about Imes.](#) To follow the series, go to history.pcusa.org