

Voices to the Capitol



Meditation

October 2014

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Ps. 46:1

Justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide... the effect of righteousness will be peace.

Isaiah 32:16+17

Prayer For Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace.

Praised be your name forever.

We know it is you who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.

Hear our prayer in this time of crisis.

Your power changes hearts.

Muslims, Christians and Jews remember, and profoundly affirm that they are followers of the one God, Children of Abraham, brothers and sisters; enemies begin to speak to one another; those who were estranged join hands in friendship; nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by the way we live.

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and

Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love. Amen.

--- Source: Pax Christi

In whose strength are we putting our trust?

“They fly like a vulture, swooping to devour; they all come bent on violence.... Then they sweep past like the wind and go on— guilty men, whose own strength is their god.”

Habakkuk 1:8b-9a, 11 (NIV)

David Wildman from the General Board of Global Ministries writes in his article “Drones – Targeting Ethics, Targeted Communities”:



“There is a great temptation to embrace the latest military technology, such as the drone, as a savior of civilization and “our way of life.” In biblical times, the war horse and chariot were the hi-tech weapons that leaders felt would save their empires from external threats. Yet the Psalmist warns, “The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.” (Psalm 33:17,NRSV)

Empires, then and now, advocate an ethic that considers the lives of their citizens to be more valuable than those of villagers far away. To empires, their own violence is just, while the violence of others is terror. In calling for an end to drone strikes, we are also seeking to challenge an ethic that divides God's children into "us versus them." - See more at: <http://www.umcmmission.org/find-resources/new-world-outlook-magazine/2014/september/october/1006drones#sthash.NxpbUILC.dpuf>

Arrested While Dancing at Beale



Earlier this month, United Methodist Rev. Sharon Delgado was arrested together with eight others at Beale Air Force Base while demonstrating peace through the Dances of Universal Peace. In her blog, she writes:

"As a nation and as a culture, our priorities are wrong. It is time to repent, to change direction, to turn around. It is time to focus on peacemaking, on feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger, on healing the earth. This will take a major shift in values, in investments, and in systems of power. It will take a great awakening of the earth's people, sustained resistance, and ongoing demonstrations of peace."

"This transformation is already taking place, and I am certain that God is with us in this struggle. This is a struggle worth living and dying for. We need you. Wherever you are, there are kindred spirits nearby. I invite you to join us."

To read her blog, go to <http://sharondelgado.org/2014/10/03/arrested-while-dancing-at-beale/>

November 9th, 2014 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. For worship resources from the General Board of Discipleship of the UMC go to <http://idop.org/en/>

Legislative Action

Contact your senators, representatives and the White House by letter, e-mail or phone urging them to

1. End drone strikes and end this war.

Sample Letter: Dear (Decision Maker),

I oppose the new U.S. military strikes against the Islamic State in Syria. The world community must respond to the killings in Syria and Iraq, but military action is not the answer. The efforts to achieve a political solution to the crisis in Iraq and Syria are essential.

A new, long-term war on the Islamic State will be ineffective at ending the bloodshed in the Middle East. Congress must debate and vote against authorizing U.S. military action.

(For more information you can go to <http://fcnl.org/action/>)

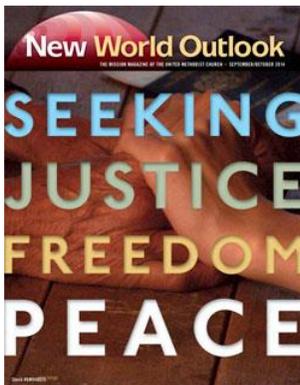
2. Put pressure on Israel to end the occupation of Gaza so a true peace process can take place.

- ❖ There are several people in Kansas and just a few so far in Nebraska who are receiving a several e-mails every week with sample tweets or information to use in e-mails. This is an activity encouraged by the General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist KAIROS Response. Even if you are only able to participate once or twice a week this will be so important. All you have to do is substitute the names/addresses of your legislators and tweet or send out the e-mails.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SO I CAN GET YOU ON THE E-MAIL LIST!

Additional Action Step:

- Read the September/October 2014 issue of New World Outlook which focuses on “Seeking Justice Freedom Peace” and share with others.



To read past issues of *Voices to the Capitol* go to:
<http://www.greatplainsumc.org/peacewithjustice>

Thank you peace advocates for all you do for peace with justice! Andrea

Voices to the Capitol is a resource with an alternating primary focus on peace/non-violence in one issue and on hunger/food justice in the next. It includes an invitation to use the gift of our voices to speak out on these issues by contacting our representatives and senators in Washington.

Voices to the Capitol is an electronic newsletter published by Peace with Justice Ministries, Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church.

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To look up addresses of stateside offices, go to:
<http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>