



# Peace Offerings

## Penelope Poppers, Director of Lucie's Place, to Speak on Sheltering Homeless LGBT Youth

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**Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.**

Penelope Poppers, the executive director of Lucie's Place, a non-profit organization in Little Rock assisting LGBT young adults experiencing homelessness in Central Arkansas, will be the speaker at the LR Pax Christi meeting on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30. This meeting will be held at Fitzgerald Hall at the Diocese of LR (2500 N. Tyler St.). Lucie's Place owns a four bedroom home where LGBT young adults can live free of charge while they work on developing the skills necessary for their future independence. Skills include money management, cooking, job preparedness, keeping a home, etc. Most of these residents did not come from stable home environments and these skills were not taught. Lucie's Place also operates a drop-in center in downtown Little Rock, where LGBT youth and young adults receive assistance with bus passes, cell phones & minutes, toiletries, clothing and case management. Individuals can work on job applications, resumes, continuing education or find a place to stay if they have nowhere else to go during the day.



**Penelope Poppers,  
Exec. Director of Lucie's Place**

Although only 5-10% of the general population identify as LGBT, 20-40% of homeless share this identity. Harassment and violence are often experienced by young adults coming out as LGBT at home. One study showed that nearly 1/3 of homeless youth left home due to sexual abuse by one of their parents. Once homeless, many young adults find survival sex necessary (sex in exchange for food, shelter, money, etc). (cont p. 2)

## Peace Offerings

## Penelope Poppers (cont.)

In 2009, an eight-city study was conducted that found "homeless youth and young adults who engaged in survival sex were 4.5 times more likely to have attempted suicide than those who had not engaged in that behavior."

The founders of Lucie's Place realize that society often does not accept the LGBT individual and that the plight of these young people is generally misunderstood and ignored. This is true in Little Rock, AR as well as larger cities such as New York and San Francisco. Lucie's Place is taking a stand, providing support, and changing the lives of this marginalized group of young people in our city. Pax Christi will continue to support all groups treated inequitably in our world, working to achieve peace through the just treatment of all people.

## PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

IS SPONSORING

### WELCOME HOME:

### AN INVITATION FROM THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO ITS LGBT BROTHERS AND SISTERS

THIS IS AN ONGOING SUPPORT GROUP FOR LGBT CATHOLICS AND ALLIES WHO MAY HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH AND WISH TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-CONNECTION WITH THEIR FAITH THROUGH PRAYER, CONVERSATION AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTION. OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS DIMINISHED BY YOUR ABSENCE. WE INVITE YOU TO COME HOME AND JOIN US IN GROWING OUR FAITH TOGETHER.

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 7 PM

**WHERE:** DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK-FITZGERALD HALL

**CONTACT:** SHERRY WITH PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK AT [paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com)



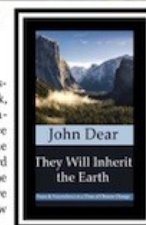
JOHN DEAR WILL BE SPEAKING ON HIS NEW BOOK:  
*They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace & Nonviolence in a Time of Climate Change*

Join us for an evening of discussion, reflection and book-signing with long-time activist, Jesuit priest, author and Nobel peace prize nominee John Dear. He will speak on his new book, "They Will Inherit the Earth," a landmark work which connects the way of active non-violence to our stewardship of Creation. He will show how our global epidemic of violence and war can only lead to catastrophic climate change and he will lead us in building up the global grassroots movement of nonviolence in order to protect creation. He cites Jesus' third beatitude as the basis for his meditation, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." John Dear will invite us to deepen our nonviolence and take new steps into active solidarity with Mother Earth and suffering humanity, doing what we can to welcome a new culture of peace and nonviolence.



Reverend John Dear is a long time peace activist, lecturer and teacher. He has written 35 books including *Thomas Merton Peacemaker*, *Lazarus Come Forth*, *Living Peace*, *The Non-violent Life*, and *The Beatitudes of Peace*. He has been nominated many times for the Nobel Peace Prize, most recently by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. John Dear works with CampaignNonviolence.org and the Vatican Nonviolence Initiative. He lives in New Mexico and travels throughout the world spreading his message of peace.

[www.johndear.org](http://www.johndear.org)



Wednesday, May 16th 2018

7:00 pm

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

12415 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72223

Questions? Contact [paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com)

SPONSORED BY:

San Damiano Ecumenical Catholic Church

Pax Christi Little Rock

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

## Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. At

our May meeting, we will be supporting **Rockefeller Elementary School** as Pax Christi's partner in peace. These funds will be used to provide backpacks filled with the required school supplies for all students, grades K-5, at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. You may mail donations to **415 N. McKinley, Little Rock, AR 72205** or make a donation at our next meeting. Please be generous with your contributions. Thank you for your support.



## Peace Offerings

### PEACE PARTNERS

Peace Partners highlights various peace and social justice organizations, individuals and other entities who share our vision: active promotion of peace in our neighborhood, state, country and world. The goal is to increase awareness of the many organizations that work for peace through social justice and invite joint ventures between these groups to increase the effectiveness of our mission.



Pax Christi Little Rock continues to pursue mission development in Puerto Rico. Contacts on the ground associated with the Collegiate Churches of New York City have agreed to attach PCLR to their current mission in the rural, mountainous municipality of Orocovis. They have adopted the village of Miraflores and are in process of assessing the needs of nearby villages so that Pax Christi can adopt a village and partner with them to improve their quality of life post-hurricanes Irma and Maria. We understand that much of central Puerto Rico still has no electricity and that they are relying on individual water filtration systems for drinking water. Many homes have no roofs and are using canvas tarps for protection as hurricane season approaches once again. According to news sources, it is clear that our government has been disorganized and under-responsive to the needs of this island commonwealth.

Pax Christi members will be taking a trip in early July to speak directly with village leaders and ascertain ways we can work with them. We will use funds to help purchase needed materials and partner with the village to repair the hardest hit areas.

### PAX CHRISTI AND HONDURAS MISSION WORK AS REXFEST PARTNERS



Pax Christi Little Rock and the CTKLR Honduras Mission made the decision to work together to support Rexfest 2018 by selling cold drinks at two different booths during the carnival held on Sunday, May 6 from 11:30-3:30. Volunteers worked throughout the day providing much needed, cold refreshments for carnival goers. In addition to selling cokes, the Honduras Mission and PCLR sold t-shirts, and the mission sold wooden boxes made in Honduras as fundraisers for each of the non-profit organizations.

Members of both groups have something interesting in common. They all have "missionary spirits." PCLR is making plans for a trip to Puerto Rico in July to assess needs following Hurricane Maria. The Honduras Mission is making it's 22nd trip to Trujillo, Honduras in 2019. Needless to say, all volunteers worked beautifully together and the work/fun balance was tilted in the right direction! PCLR is learning so much from these experienced missionaries. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

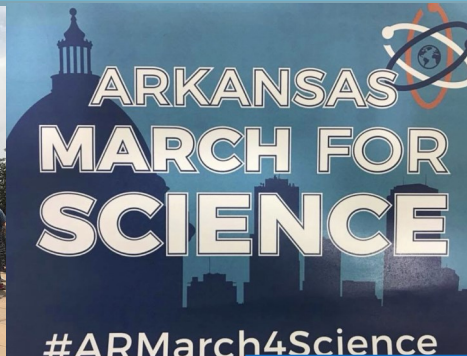
## SAVE THE DATE

**Nicole Lashbrook**, Executive Director of **The Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center**, will be the featured presenter at the PCLR meeting on Thursday, June 14 at 7:30 at Fitzgerald Hall (Diocese of LR, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock). Ms. Lashbrook will provide information on services which include medical-grade pregnancy testing, first trimester ultrasound to determine gestational age of baby, information on STI's, and Community referrals for parenting support and adoption services. Please join us. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided.



## Peace Offerings

# ARKANSAS MARCH FOR SCIENCE



Pax Christi Little Rock marched to the Arkansas State Capitol along with approximately 300-400 other participants in the March for Science on Saturday, April 21 at noon. This demonstration was part of a national series of rallies held to celebrate science and the role it plays in everyday life. The goal of this march was to emphasize that science upholds the common good and to call for evidence-based policy in the public's best interest. Glen Hooks, director of the Arkan-

sas Sierra Club, was the lead organizer for the 2018 march. He made the decision to coordinate with Earth Day this year to emphasize the importance of environmental issues being addressed in the natural state. Science teachers and students were honored, with the list of speakers including a local medical professional, high school science teachers, graduate students and Katina White, Sherwood's Educator of the Year for 2018.

## REMEMBRANCE VIGIL: MEMORIAL OF THE 2017 SCHEDULED EXECUTIONS OF 8 MEN IN 10 DAYS



The Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty held a remembrance vigil in front of the Arkansas Governor's mansion on April 17, the week anniversary of the scheduled executions of 8 men in 10 days in Arkansas last year. There were several speakers who remembered the men

who were executed. Prayers were offered for the men who were executed, the men who remain on death row, and the victims and their families. PCLR led in the singing of several hymns as part of the memorial. Judge Wendell Griffen was present again to dramatize the deaths.

## Peace Offerings

## LESSONS ON PEACE: CHRIST MODELS HEALING POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

Christ's understanding of the human condition unites our understanding of psychology, spirituality and biology. He knows us intimately, as we know from the mystery of incarnation. So, Christ sees and experiences our "brokenness" and understands what we need to heal (love). In so many examples throughout Scripture, Christ reveals how he healed others in the context of *relationship*. Perhaps we can learn from His example and begin to infer lessons in our own life that can help us to connect in such a way to begin the healing of both ourselves and others. Of course, Christ is the Son of God and thus has incredible insight and power beyond our comprehension. However, I must believe that he came down here to show us how to relate in peace with one another and thus find our path to God. Here are five principles illustrated in Scripture that may help us in this endeavor:

### Even More Corks Shipped to Soles4Souls



PCLR shipped an additional 1,152 corks to their peace partner, Soles4Souls, this past week. Total shipped has reached 4,604. Pax Christi works to joyfully achieve increased justice in the world, one person at a time.

### Reflections on the Speck-Beam Theory

At the outset of any relationship, we can't really know or understand the other person for who they really are. So, we have a tendency to project upon that person our own strengths, weaknesses, needs, etc. Therefore, before we can adequately deal with the other, we must reckon with our own brokenness/issues first. Reckoning with the "beam" in our own eye permits making more objective, accurate, potentially helpful judgments about what is really going on with another person. Once we know and understand ourselves, we can better "see" the other for who they truly are. A non-judgmental, unbiased encounter facilitates the natural drive towards "communion" of two souls and paves the way for the healing power of love.

### Benign Confrontation

Once your own heart is cleared (in the present moment) of past/present pain and the impetus towards violence, you can more assertively let a person know your assessment of their problems without the emotionally loaded tone of recrimination and judgment. You must be sure that you are not being triggered by the words of the other and can maintain a peace that reveals a desire for them to prosper and grow. Love, the creative force, must be present. Only then can your words be trusted. Christ exhibited the peace that was in His heart during his interaction with others throughout the Gospel. This was evident in



## LESSONS ON PEACE (cont)

His confrontation of others on multiple occasions. Matthew 26: 20-25-confrontation of Judas at the Last Supper. John 4: 7-26 The Samaritan woman at the well. John 8: 4-11 – the woman caught in adultery.

### What to Do With Pain

**“All spirituality is about what we do with our pain.”**

**Richard Rohr**

Those traumatized in life (all of us!) tend to repeat the trauma cycle. We tend to either pass the pain and hurt onto others or we continue to traumatize ourselves. Or both. Carl Jung said, “If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.” Rather than covering our suffering with medication or addiction or denial or aggression, we must find some deeper meaning to our pain, and find that God is somehow in it and can even use it for good. By identifying our pain with the wounding and suffering of Christ, we find the deeper meaning of life. Picking up our own crosses, we participate in the sadness of God. Within this meaning, we can create something new and good while neither playing the victim nor making victims of others. We can learn to be channels of grace.

### Sacrament of the Present Moment

We can see more clearly when we do our best to simply experience without judgment what is around us, whether good, bad or ugly, and allow the experience to transform us. Be purely present. Reality is always a mixture of positive and negative, dark and light, life and death. This is the truth of our existence. We must do our best to say yes to it all. To not allow our ego to turn it against us or others. Attempting to find meaning in every moment and allow it to inform our next moment. Being present in this way will open us up to the Real Presence.

## The Peace of Christ:

### Secret of Spiritual Empowerment

**John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

Our minds are wired to take on a life of their own. A negative, fearful life where we must always be vigilant and anxious about what is coming. And our mind tells us stories about ourselves and others that go along with the negative messages in our lives. Christ invites us to quiet our egoic, fearful mind and invite in the peace that he offers. This metanoia usually only occurs during/after times of great joy or great pain. It is in these times that we may get a taste of that peace that is promised, for we have been forced to let go of our usual ways of coping with the world. Only when we are empty of ourselves can we allow God to enter. This is an opportunity for transformation and spiritual growth.

## CALENDAR OF PEACE

### MAY/JUNE EVENTS

**May 10 - PCLR Board Meeting (6 pm) and Speaker**

**Penelope Poppers (7:30 pm)**

**May 16 - Father John Dear speaking on his new book,**

**They Will Inherit the Earth: Peace and Non-Violence in a Time of Climate Change (7 pm St. Michael's Episcopal Church)**

**May 17 - Welcome Home: An Invitation from the**

**Catholic Church to It's LGBT Brothers and Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall**

**May 23 - Meeting with Tamara Blaylock (LR School**

**District-3 pm) to discuss Nonviolence Curriculum during Peace Week)**

**June 14 - PCLR Board meeting (6 pm) and speaker**

**Nicole Lashbrook of the Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center (7:30 pm)**

**June 21 - Welcome Home: An Invitation from the**

**Catholic Church to It's LGBT Brothers and Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall**