



Pax Christi

LITTLE ROCK

Pax Christi Little Rock

PCLR Board Members

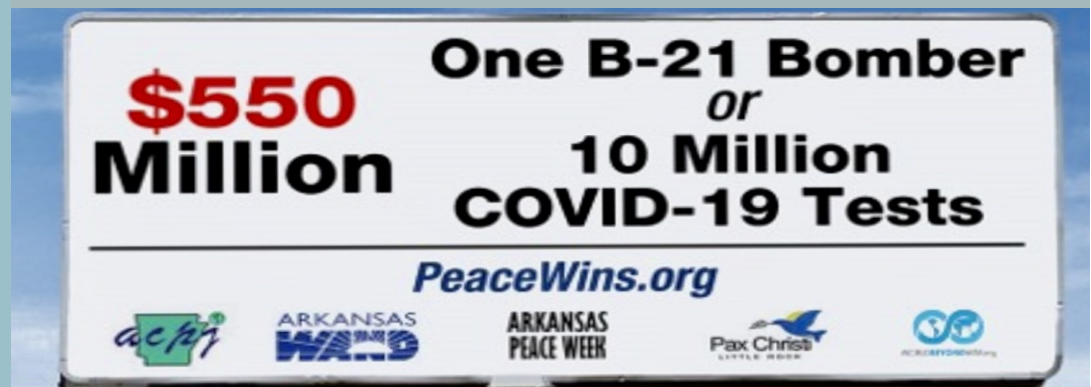
- Sherry Simon (President)
- Mary Hunt (V. President)
- Tamara Tahat (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Lee Bass
- Susi Blanco
- Sandee Haslauer
- Marian Paquette
- Martina Pierini
- Jan Pipkin
- George Simon

**Blessed are the
Peacemakers, for
they shall be called
the children of God.
Matthew 5:9**

Contact Information

- **Website:**
www.paxchristilittlerock.wordpress.com
- **Facebook:**
Pax Christi Little Rock
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Pax Christi LR Joins Local Peace and Justice Groups to Fund Demilitarization Billboard



Pax Christi Little Rock is working with Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, Arkansas WAND, Arkansas Peace Week and World Beyond War to promote an anti-war message to be displayed on a billboard facing west on 3rd Street and Markham near the Capitol building. A committee with representatives from each of these groups has been meeting for over two months to fine tune the message meant to convey the importance of funding healthcare over warfare. The United States' newest bomber program, the B-21, will cost \$97 billion, with a long history of cost overruns. Meanwhile, just a fraction of the B-21 budget could help fulfill the urgent need for testing during the COVID-19 crisis. \$550 million, the cost of one B-21 bomber, can

pay for over 10 million Covid-19 tests. After several meetings, the committee approved this message posted above. Including the logo of each organization involved is designed to send the message that there is a coalition of peacemaking groups that is supporting nonviolence and re-direction of resources to healthcare during this time of crisis. Information further defining each of these individual groups will be included on the PeaceWins.org webpage.

Pax Christi Little Rock is supporting this effort financially and has committed to helping fund the billboard for up to two months. Depending upon the success of the campaign and the feedback received from the public, the PCLR board will discuss the potential for ongoing financial support.

Peace Offerings

PAX CHRISTI BOARD AND FRIENDS PROVIDE FOOD FOR FAMILY DURING COVID-19 CRISIS



Marian Paquette

During the board meeting on April 16, Pax Christi decided to support Nicole, a single mom with eight children, by providing for her general food needs during these first few months of the COVID-19 crisis. To date, 14 PCLR members have donated food supplies for four weeks and will continue to fill the family's grocery list for weeks to come. Without fail, each person has completed their part of the food order with lots of extras!

Nicole fills out a grocery list every

two weeks and this list is separated into 12-14 categories so that volunteers can sign up for specific food

items. Pax Christi sends out this list to members every two weeks. All board members are involved as well as various other PCLR members.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this project, please email PCLR at paxchristilr@gmail.com with your intention. Pax Christi plans to continue contributing to this family for several weeks to come and would appreciate your involvement!



PCLR members donate

SAVE THE DATE

JOHNNY ZOKOVITCH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAX CHRISTI USA

JUNE 16, 2020

6 PM

ZOOM OR IN PERSON?

STAY TUNED AND

STAY SAFE!

Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. In May, we will collect donations for Pax

Christi USA, our parent organization, to support them as they continue their work in creating a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. Please be generous in your gift. If you would like to send a check, you can mail it to 415 N. McKinley St., #1040 LR, AR 72205. You can call 501-258-8653 to donate via phone.

Peace Offerings

PEACE PARTNERS

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



Holy Sews of Little Rock provides handmade infant burial clothing for families that experience the loss of their baby during gestational weeks 16-25. These micro preemie babies are much too tiny and fragile for any other clothing that is readily available. Holy Sews supplies hospitals and funeral homes with a stock of layettes that families can choose from. All of this is provided at no charge to the families that they serve.

During this time of COVID-19, Holy Sews has also added on a new mission. They are working to make "no-sew" masks to give to hospitals, nursing homes and residential care facilities. Pax Christi LR is working with this organization to keep up with the ever-growing demand for protective masks. To donate to Holy Sews, contact them at their [website](#) or visit them on their Facebook page.

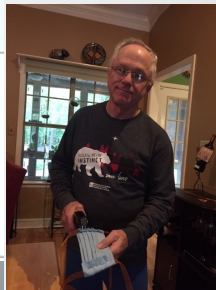
MASK MAKER, MASK MAKER,
MAKE ME A MASK!

On April 9, several Pax Christi Little Rock members began working with Stephanie Byers of Settled Souls and Regina Binz of Holy Sews to make "no-sew" masks for local hospitals including UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital. Due



Jan irons in pleats

to the demands caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a shortage of masks at local medical facilities. Holy Sews almost immediately began video training people to make these efficient medical masks out of



Tony staples edges

double layers of blue shop towels. Holy Sews provides the towels, ribbons for tying, and wire for structuring the top of each mask. Volunteers simply need to supply a glue gun, stapler, hammer, and iron. After four weeks of mask



Ella and Sherry

making, Pax Christi members have made over 500 masks for both UAMS and Arkansas Children's Hospital. Volunteers will continue to coordinate with Holy Sews to deliver



Noah and Ella

masks as long as there is a need in local hospitals and nursing homes.



Family Project

Peace Offerings

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT

ANONYMOUS

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.

For some that live alone, they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest and time with their mother, father, sons and daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment, some are bringing more money into their households that when they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread milk, and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours a day helping their child with online schooling

while others are spending 2-3 hours a day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near-death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.

Realize that and be kind, please.



Peace Offerings

Backpacks Are Out, But School Supplies Are In!

In these uncertain times, it has been very difficult to plan for long-term projects. This has been particularly true for our “backpacks filled with school supplies” mission that we have sponsored for the past three years. Given the uncertainty of schools re-opening, the need to order supplies well ahead of time, and fundraising shortages, it has been helpful to speak with school officials like Kristy Dunn, principal at St. Theresa’s Catholic School and Denise Troutman, principal at North Little Rock Catholic Academy to better assess their needs for the upcoming year. Both principals have been extremely helpful in providing a core list of sup-



plies that students in each grade would benefit from whether students were remote or back in the classroom. Ms. Dunn and Ms. Troutman indicated that backpacks would not be necessary and that the supplies provided for each student were the main concern. Officials at Rockefeller Elementary will also be consulted to calculate their exact supply needs as they make a determination on whether or not to re-open Little Rock Independent School District.

Pax Christi LR currently has a budget of approximately \$5000 for the school supply mission. Given fundraising constraints, this is significantly lower than last year. However, without the necessity of buying the backpacks, it looks like it will be possible to provide school supplies for all grades at all three of Pax Christi Little Rock partner schools.

SAVE THE DATE
PAX CHRISTI LR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 14 at 6 PM

**AN INVITATION WILL BE SENT TO ALL
BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND A ZOOM
MEETING. OTHERS MAY CONTACT PCLR
AT 501-258-8653 IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND.**

Peace Offerings

THE GIFT OF PAX CHRISTI

There is an old Hasidic story that I came across just the other day during a time when I was worrying about what was going to happen to our young Pax Christi Little Rock chapter and whether it could survive these challenging days of COVID-19. Over the past six weeks, I have seen so many of our projects put on hold and our opportunity to gather in communion vanish as we isolate to protect one another. Certainly, we have found other ways to be of service, but at first they seemed so small compared to some of the projects we had grown over the past three and a half years.

And then I found this story and, in retrospect, realized what has actually been happening in the midst of Pax Christi since the virus arrived.

An old Rabbi once asked one of his pupils how they could tell when night ended and day had begun.

“Could it be,” asked one of the students, “When you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?”

“No,” answered the Rabbi.

Another asked, “Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it’s a fig tree or a peach tree?”

“No,” answered the Rabbi.

“Then when is it?” the pupils demanded.

“It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.”

In reflection, I think that perhaps this transition caused by the pandemic has given us an opportunity to learn more about moving from night into day.

I know many of us have switched from rushing around trying to get it all done in our daily lives to taking moments to draw closer to others or just take some quiet time. This has been a vital reminder of how Christ modeled giving peace to others, often one person at a time. I’ve been hearing so many stories of people taking the time to talk with an aging parent or actually spending time doing things with their spouse and children. It seems that when we slow down enough, we might just fall into that present moment where Christ, and the peace He brings, resides.



In search of peace

Peace Offerings

Back in March, which seems a very long time ago now, I remember being pretty stressed and wondering how all of us in Pax Christi were going to get everything done. At that time, I wasn't looking into very many people's faces in any real way. I didn't think I had time! Suddenly, when everything fell off the calendar, there was time to be more intentional about day-to-day interactions. At first, it seemed there was nothing to do. I felt really guilty about that! Then, Pax Christi members began to find avenues to help in small ways, one person at a time. We gathered and delivered food for some people who had no shelter in conjunction with Street Ministries and then we adopted our family of nine that we visit with (at a distance) every couple of weeks. And even with the masks we are making for medical personnel, we only make one mask at a time and there is no rush. This has turned into a meditative, in the moment task, leading to reflection on who might wear this mask to help and praying for their health as they fight on the front lines of this pandemic.

So, another understanding that has come from this strange time is that God always has something to teach

us, and his ways are definitely not our ways. I'm beginning to understand that bigger is definitely not better and that the gift of Pax Christi occurs when there is a personal, intimate connection between two or more people. In addition to just being in the same room at the same time, I think both people must be drawn to the present moment together, either by great love or great pain. They must actually see one another, look into one another's eyes. It is when this happens that we know we are in the right place at the right time, ready to give it all away, standing in the light with our brothers and sisters.



PCLR Food Collection

Sometime in your life, hope that you might see one starved man and the look on his face when the bread finally arrives. Hope that you might have baked it or bought or even kneaded it yourself. For that look on his face, for your meeting his eyes across a piece of bread, you might be willing to lose a lot, suffer a lot, or die a little, even.
Daniel Berrigan