



Pax Christi

LITTLE ROCK

Pax Christi Little Rock

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

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Rev. Dr. Anika Whitfield to Discuss Current Issues-Black Lives Matter Movement

Rev. Dr. Anika Whitfield is an activist and co-chair of the Arkansas Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (APPC). Over fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and several other civil rights leaders initiated the Poor People's Campaign to address the pervasive problems of systemic racism, poverty and militarism in the U.S. Today, the Poor People's Campaign (PPC) has picked up that unfinished work started by Dr. King. Across all 50 states, people are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

This campaign was launched nationally during the summer of 2018 across 40 states under the direction of Rev. Dr. William Barber. People throughout the country committed themselves to a season of direct action. What followed was the most expansive wave of nonviolent civil disobedience in the 21st century United States. In June 2019, PPC convened over 1,000 community leaders in Washington, D.C. for the Poor People's Moral Action Congress. This forum included the largest presidential candidates' panel of the pre-debate season, the release of the [Poor People's Moral Budget](#), and a hearing before the House Budget Committee on the issues facing the poor and low income people



**Pax Christi Little Rock
Welcomes**

**Arkansas Poor People's
Campaign: A National Call
for Moral Revival**
Organizer

DR. ANIKA WHITFIELD

**TO A LIVE MEETING VIA ZOOM
6:30 PM, THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17**

The Black Lives Matter conversation continues with a presentation and Q & A session by Dr. Anika Whitfield, organizer of the Arkansas Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Please join us for this online event as we work together towards an increased awareness of the structural and cultural issues that contribute to inequities in our society for people of color. If you would like to attend this meeting, you can use the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83494408635?pwd=aVJaOFpBd3o2ZVZzTjBxXkVQwOUVDZz09>

in the nation. This was followed by a 9 month Do M.O.R.E. tour (Mobilize, Organize, Register, Educate) across 25 states which led to an unprecedented [Digital Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington](#) on June 20, 2020.

In the coming year, PPC plans to broaden their efforts and rise together to demand that the 140 million people below the poverty level in our nation no longer be pushed to the margins of this country's political and social agenda.

Dr. Whitfield is working tirelessly in Arkansas to change the moral

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narrative in our country and state. She is committed to creating a new vision of love, justice and truth for America that says poverty can be abolished and change can come. Dr. Whitfield is specifically working through the Arkansas chapter of PPC with other groups to improve voter registration, address racist gerrymandering, re-define local and state policies to develop equitable treatment of the poor, increase decent neighborhood housing and work with people to avoid eviction during the pandemic, develop a means of universal healthcare for the poor and disenfranchised, insure no increase in the military budget, develop sensible gun laws, and implement state and local living wage laws. She is also reaching out via [podcasts](#) and local forums to educate others regarding the goals of The Poor People's Campaign in Arkansas.

If you would like to learn more about The Poor People's Campaign, you can visit their website at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org.



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.

Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

The **Arkansas Poor People's Campaign** came to our state in February of 2018, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Anika Whitfield and Solomon Burchfield. This movement emerged from over a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, environmental destruction, and other injustices. Currently APPC is working to increase its numbers so that it can effectively address and change the systemic racism found throughout the structure of our society.

If you would like more information, visit www.poorpeoplescampaign.org.

SAVE THE DATE

PAX CHRISTI LR BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 at 5 PM

ALL BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SENT AN INVITATIONAL LINK FOR THIS ZOOM MEETING. IF YOU AREN'T ON THE BOARD AND WISH TO ATTEND, EMAIL US AT paxchristilr@gmail.com.

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ARKANSAS PEACE WEEK 2020: SEPTEMBER 20-27

ARKANSAS PEACE WEEK: MAKE PEACE OUR NATURAL STATE

Arkansas Peace Week is a program of activities set up throughout our state with the mission of educating and promoting peacemaking in our society and raising awareness of organizations working to build a lasting peace in Arkansas. These events are planned in coordination with the nationwide [Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions](#). Peace Week is scheduled during the third week of September each year, in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace (September 21). Events include education, service, dialogue, and outreach activities with the goal of creating a foundation for sustainable peace through nonviolence in our society throughout the year.

We invite [all like-minded groups and organizations](#) to plan an event during Peace Week. Last year, Arkansas Peace Week included over 40 activities, hosted by dozens of organizations throughout the state. COVID-19 has presented some challenges, yet it seems that more groups than ever want to get involved in planning these events that promote nonviolence and social justice. Here are some of the events planned this year.



PEACE ACROSS FAITHS

[Peace Across Faiths Interfaith Service and Picnic](#)

is an annual program that features the International Day of Peace 2020 theme: “Shaping Peace Together.” It will take place at Allsopp Park on September 20 at 5 pm. This gathering of people from all different faiths and backgrounds will be a celebration of peace where all will pray together, share a meal together, and KICK OFF Arkansas Peace Week together.



SUN, SEP 20 AT 5 PM
Peace Across Faiths - Picnic & Interfaith Service
Allsopp Park - Little Rock

PEACE WEEK MURAL PAINTING

Arkansas Peace Week will add two [7th street Murals](#)

being painted by the community and Little Rock youth. “Patchwork

Peace and Protest” will have selected youth working on it and “Love is Greater than Fear” will be open to all ages. Scheduled painting sessions are:

Sunday September 20 8 am-noon

Saturday, September 26, 8 am-noon

Sunday, September 27, 8 am-noon

COVID- 19 protocols will be in place. The address is **2486 W. 7th Street #2300, Little Rock, Arkansas.** Make a difference!



SUN, SEP 20 AT 8 AM
Peace Week Mural Painting 2020
7th Street Mural Project - Little Rock

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ARKANSAS PEACE WEEK SUMMIT

Arkansas Peace Week Summit is an online event featuring organizations that make a difference in our community. In 2020, we commemorate the theme for the UN International Day of Peace, "Shaping Peace Together." Celebrate compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic as we stand together against attempts to use the virus and division to promote discrimination and hatred.

This event takes place on Saturday, September 26 from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. It can be viewed on Facebook via livestream video at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/arkansaspeaceweek/videos/>.

Schedule –Saturday, September 26

1:00 pm-Panel Discussion: BLM and Social Justice in 2020-Hosted by Kwami Abdul-Bey

1:45 pm-The Importance of the 2020 Election, Voter Access and Democracy-Presented by Indivisible

2:15 pm-Ecology and Climate Change 2020-Hosted by Tristan Norman

2:45 pm-COVID-19's Impact of the Poor and Underserved- Presented by Poor People's Campaign

3:15 pm-Panel Discussion: The Role of Nonviolence, Service, Compassion, Kindness and Hope in the Face of the 2020 Crisis



PEACE FEST 2020



PEACE FEST

arkansaspeaceweek.com/peace-fest/

September 27, 2020, 2 to 4 p.m.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site
2120 W Daisy L Gatson Bates Dr, Little Rock, AR

- Family friendly event with fun for all ages!
- Sidewalk Chalk Art, Crafts, Free Ice Cream & Snacks, Music, and Fun
- Lessons for youth and adults to take concrete steps to counter the violence that threatens the safety of our children
- Covid-19 safety protocols are in place — guests are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing

PEACE CURRICULUM IN THE SCHOOLS

Three years ago, Pax Christi Little Rock worked with school counselor Mildred Calhoun to develop a peace curriculum for Rockefeller Elementary School that was first imple-



mented during Peace Week 2017. Since then, this peace curriculum has been expanded in scope and has been incorporated by the Little Rock School District, Pulaski County School District, and Arkansas Catholic Schools. With the assistance of Bob Estes and Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, the majority of the elementary schools in the state now

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have access to this curriculum of nonviolence.

In 2020, we invite all Arkansas schools and youth groups to participate in presenting these lessons teaching peace-making skills to the youth in our state.

If you are interested in reviewing this curriculum for your students, you will find it at arkansaspeaceweek.com.

YOUTH PLEDGE OF NONVIOLENCE

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our school.

_____ and each member of _____ school commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people:

To Respect Self and Others

To respect myself, to affirm others and avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical and emotional attacks, negative peer pressure, and self-destructive behavior, including abuse of alcohol and drugs.

To Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger and other emotions, to work at solving problems peacefully, and to encourage an open system of communication throughout the school.

To Listen

To listen carefully to others, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs as valid as my own.

To Forgive

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things with respect and care and promote environmental concerns in our school.

To Recreate Nonviolently

To select activities and entertainment that strengthen my commitment to nonviolence and that promote a less violent society, and to avoid social activities that make violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

To Act Courageously

To actively challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work or in the community and to stand with others who are treated unfairly, even if it means standing alone.

“Eliminating violence, one school at a time, starting with our own.”

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PAX CHRISTI VOLUNTEERS COME TOGETHER MONTHLY TO ORGANIZE FOOD PANTRIES

Ever since Pax Christi joined forces with Jericho Way and Settled Souls to supply initial food for the pantries of previously unsettled residents moving into their new homes, there has been a steady increase in the number of people volunteering with this organization. On the first Sunday of each month, volunteers are asked to bring the food they've purchased to organize and pack all of the pantry boxes for one month of move-ins (4-5 residents). Although there have been only



Packing Pantries



Sample Pantry Box

Mary's to assist with the October

two packing sessions so far, the masked and distanced group was almost double the size of the initial gathering, with promises of teenage volunteers from Mt. Saint

packing project.

In these days of COVID-19, several people have said that they are looking for different worthwhile projects in which to become involved. Additionally, this is the first project

Pax Christi has taken on that requires ongoing, consistent participation at a high level. Most of the bigger projects in the past have required significant effort, but generally take place one or two times a year, i.e., Backpacks Filled with School Supplies, Peace Week, Pilgrimage

for Peace, Puerto Rico mission, Christmas gifts to family).

It is in these ongoing interactions with one another

that volunteers will bond and become more engaged and involved with both fellow volunteers and the residents they are assisting on a weekly basis.



Mary and Jan



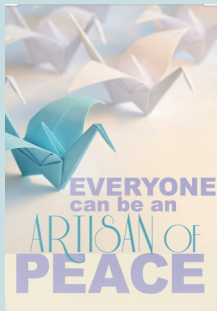
Donated Food to

I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man who has enough of this world's goods yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need? Little children, let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it. This is our way of knowing we are committed to the truth and are at peace before Him. No matter what our conscience may charge us with. I John 3:17-19

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JUST PEACE

BISHOP ANTHONY TAYLOR



Since the time of St. Augustine, the Catholic Church has used the Just War theory to help discern when and how force might be applied in the defense of the nation in time of conflict. The teaching of the Church regarding war and peace is spelled out very clearly in articles 2265-2267 and 2302-2317 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). According to the Just War theory, all of the following must be in place before a military response could be considered legitimate: 1) It can only be undertaken in defense (CCC 2263-2267) against an aggressor bent on inflicting damage that is lasting, grave and certain, 2) all other means of putting an end to the conflict must have been shown to be impractical or ineffective, 3) there must be serious prospect of success against the enemy, and 4) the use of arms must not produce evils greater than the evils to be eliminated. And then once war has begun, the acts of war 1) must not target the civilian population and 2) must not target enemy combatants who have surrendered or otherwise no longer present

an immediate lethal threat. The Just War theory sets high standards for a legitimate entrance into a war and even higher standards for right conduct within a war, standards that no armed conflict in recent memory has ever met—indeed, probably very few in the last 1600 years since St. Augustine! Therefore, the time has come to recognize that since the Just War criteria are almost never met, conflicts need to be resolved through nonviolent means instead.

There are now many within the Church who recognize that the Just War theory is inadequate. First of all, the thought that a war might be just is not only an illusion, it also makes war less unthinkable and thus plays into the hands of those who invent justifications for their aggression, often portraying it falsely as self-defense. But secondly, ever since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is no longer possible to assume that the civilian population will necessarily be spared, nor in this nuclear age can we possibly be assured that the anticipated benefit of waging war would remain greater than the expected harm, nor that conventional warfare might not escalate into something far worse. For that rea-

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son, the Catechism insists that *“Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation. A danger of modern warfare is that it provides the opportunity to those who possess modern scientific weapons-especially atomic, biological, or chemical weapons-to commit such crimes.”* (CCC 2314).

So, if the Just War theory is inadequate, especially in this nuclear age, there remains only what we should have been doing all along anyway, namely Just Peace, which in the words of the Catechism is *“the work of justice and the effect of charity.”* (CCC 2304). And here I note the high praise of the Catechism for *“Those who renounce violence and bloodshed and, in order to safeguard human rights, make use of those means of defense available to the weakest, bear witness to evangelical charity, provided they do so without haring the rights and obligations of other men and societies. They bear legitimate witness to the gravity of the physical and moral risks of recourse to violence, with all its destruction and death.”*

What does this Just Peace look like in practice? Pax Christi International,

the world-renowned Catholic peace movement, teaches the tools of nonviolent resolution of conflict, which are directly rooted in the teaching of Jesus Christ Himself: *“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you, whoever, is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raga,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna.”* (Mt 5: 21-22).

Just Peace has at its disposal numerous nonviolent practices and strategies, including 1) nonviolent resistance, 2) restorative justice, 3) trauma healing, 4) unarmed civilian protection, 5) conflict transformation, 6) peacebuilding strategies, 7) mediated dialogue, 8) legislative advocacy, 9) economic sanctions and boycotts, and of course 10) negotiated nuclear, biological and chemical arms reduction and elimination. A fuller description of many of these practices can be found at the Pax Christi Catholic Nonviolence Initiative page on the Pax Christi International website, at <https://paxchristi.net/programmes/catholic-nonviolence-initiative/>. Note also that while the Just War theory limited itself to addressing conflicts between nations, Just Peace efforts apply also to the resolution of con-

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flicts within communities and advocacy for the protection of human rights within societies-for instance as taught by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1965 when Pope Paul VI visited the United Nations, he implied that the time had come to move beyond Just War theory when he declared, *"No more war, never again war. Peace, it is peace that must guide the destinies of people and of all mankind."*

SAVE THE DATE PAX CHRISTI LR SPEAKER SERIES BISHOP ANTHONY TAYLOR JUST WAR VS JUST PEACE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30 PM CST

Meeting Via Zoom

Please email

paxchristilr@gmail.com to

PCLR MEMBERS TOUR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOMES

Three Pax Christi Little Rock board members took a tour of one of the three Habitat for Humanity homes that will be



landscaped by several Peace Partner organizations once COVID restrictions are lifted. Kelly Fleming (new CEO of Habitat for Central AR) and Brad Robertson (Marketing Director) were there to provide information and answer questions. The cul-de-sac of homes they showed will have a total of 18 children living in them. Habitat found do-



nors to provide bikes for the kids and computers for each home. Additionally, they built a sidewalk to the community

center playground located right behind the homes. The center has a community garden. The local school is within walking distance and apparently the building of these homes has improved the market value of the neighborhood. The homes are 1200-1300 sq. ft and built efficiently and beautifully. Dates for landscaping aren't set yet, but there is some talk of starting at the end of September.



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**SKILLS FOR
 BRIDGING THE DIVIDE**
**A WORKSHOP BY
 BRAVER ANGELS**

“
 Is it really that hard to
 listen and speak respectfully
 with people we disagree
 with politically?
 ”

The Braver Angels of Central Arkansas will present an online workshop on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6-7:30 pm CDT. In this workshop, you will learn about and have an opportunity to practice listening and speaking skills. You will practice in a pair with someone of your same political persuasion-red or blue. Reds lean conservative and tend to vote Republican. Blues lean liberal and tend to vote Democratic. If you fall somewhere in the middle, you can choose a side for purpose of practicing the skills.

There is so much stress these days among family members and friends who are divided politically, and the current polarized public conversation doesn't help. Braver Angels can teach you the skills to have respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship.

You can [Register](#) here. For more information, contact Glen White at gwhite@braverangels.org.

PCLR JOINS WAND ACTION TO SUPPORT POST OFFICE

On August 18, Pax Christi Little Rock joined Women's Action in New Directions (WAND) in a protest staged in front of the Heights and Hillcrest post offices in Little



Rock. Protesters were standing in solidarity with the United States Post Office (USPS) and postal workers following recent controversy over a warning by the USPS that without additional funding an support, it might not be able to meet deadlines for delivering voting ballots in

the upcoming November election. Although the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed a coronavirus relief package that included funding for expanding postal voting due to COVID,



which Republicans oppose because in many parts of the country more registered Democrats request postal ballots than registered Republicans. Mitch McConnell, refused to allow a vote on the bill. President Trump also attacked USPS, claiming that postal voting is “a threat to democracy.” He admitted that he wants to restrict many Americans from voting by mail and has taken other steps to achieve his goal.

Further protests are planned across the country in the following weeks.