



# Pax Christi

LITTLE ROCK

# Pax Christi Little Rock

## PCLR Board Members

- Sherry Simon (President)
- Mary Hunt (V. President)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Lee Bass
- Susi Blanco
- Ashley Legere
- Martina Pierini
- Jan Pipkin
- George Simon
- Tamara Tahat
- Father Warren Harvey

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

## Contact Information

- **Website:**  
www.paxchristilittlerock.org
- **Facebook:**  
Pax Christi Little Rock
- **Address:**  
415 N. McKinley St., #1040  
Little Rock, AR 72205
- **Phone:**  
(501) 258-8653
- **Email:**  
paxchristilr@gmail.com

## Kathy Webb, Little Rock City Board Member, Presents Program on Food Insecurity



Kathy Webb

Pax Christi Little Rock initiated a program in 2020 to provide initial food pantries for newly settled individuals and families who had been previously unsheltered in Little Rock. Pax Christi continues to work with Jericho Way and Settled Souls on this project. Over the past few months, members have been working to educate themselves on the issue of homelessness in Little Rock as they are beginning another program in 2021 involving provision of hygiene/food bags for the homeless across the state.

Given this ongoing focus on providing for the food insecure, the need to connect with experts who can provide guidance and advice has become exceedingly important. There is no one in Arkansas more familiar with the issues of food insecurity than Little Rock Board member Kathy Webb. She will be presenting **“Crisis in Arkansas: Food Insecurity and What We Can Do”** at the Pax

Christi Speaker Series on Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 via zoom. All are invited to join in this discussion and can access the program with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82995842758?pwd=eXh4a3RXRG1KOFNQSWo1SUtKbHVxZz09>

Kathy Webb is the executive director of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. This organization is the statewide umbrella for Feeding America food banks and food pantries and the education and advocacy clearinghouse on hunger issues in Arkansas.

Kathy Webb has also represented Ward 3 on the Little Rock City Board since 2015. Before serving on the city board, Webb served three terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 2007 to 2012, where she was the first woman to co-chair the Joint Budget Committee.

Since then, she has served on the Metropolitan Housing Authority and the Little Rock Airport Commission. She has a long history of community activism that includes the UAMS College of Medicine Board of Visitors, Arkansas Hospice and the First UMC of Little Rock.

## Peace Offerings

# Overview of the Pax Christi Little Rock Food Pantry Alliance with Settled Souls and Jericho Way



**Pantry recipient**

Pax Christi Little Rock began its partnership with Settled Souls and Jericho Way in August of 2020, providing start-up food pantries for newly settled individuals and families. From August through December 2020, sixteen individuals and families were served and Pax Christi also continued to provide a tub of food each month for Nicole and her family of nine children (Pax Christi family from Christmas 2019.) The majority of the people served were settled through Jericho Way, but Settled Souls partners also reached out to other agencies to help people transition to permanent housing. Pax Christi provided for two families through Our House and one through Women and Children First.

Organizationally, this project is composed of three teams made up of volunteers who do the shopping and pay for the food that is delivered. There are four people on the Canned Goods Team, five on the Staples Team and 6 on the Fresh Food Team. As the number of volunteers grew on the Fresh Team, ground beef was added to the fresh food list. Tamara Tahat volunteered to lead the Staples Team while Jan Pipkin and Susi Blanco headed up the Canned



**Jan gets organized**

Goods and the Fresh Teams. The fourth team is headed by Sherry Martin, who purchases food with Pax Christi funds donated for this project. Special thanks go to Tamara for doing such a great job leading the Staples Team during the first year while dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic at work as a nurse! Sandee Haslauer has graciously offered to head up the Staples Team in 2021, and Tamara will continue working as a valuable member of that team in the up-



**Monthly Packing Party**

coming year.

All of this was made possible through the efforts of the delivery coordinator, Lee Bass. He worked with Set-



**Thanksgiving baskets**

tled Souls to schedule deliveries and line up volunteers. Because of COVID-19, it was often not possible to do in-person deliveries and set ups, so food was dropped off to the recipients outside of their home. However, there is some hope that set-ups will become possible at some point in 2021.

In November, using the list of people Settled Souls helped in 2020, the committee contacted over forty people to ask them if they would like food for Thanksgiving. Food was purchased with Pax Christi funds, and



**The Three Musketeers**



### Peace Offerings

added to that was food that had been donated to Pax Christi by Goodwill. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Thanksgiving food bags were assembled by over 20 volunteers who then made over twenty-one deliveries (to twenty-four adults and 11 children.) Afterwards, the Goodwill food that remained was delivered to Helping Hand.

Towards the end of the year, Settled Souls asked if Pax Christi could step in and temporarily help to provide cleaning supplies in addition to food to the housing recipients. The committee decided to help out for 2-3 months, initially using Pax Christi funds donated to the Pantry Box project. In the past couple of weeks, Pax Christi has been talking with the volunteers from Immaculate Conception who provided this service in the past. They have decided to resume this valuable ministry and Pax Christi will continue to assist in any ways needed.

In 2021, Pax Christi has provided food for 6 move-ins with Settled Souls and food for Nicole and family each month.

The Jericho Way duplexes on MLK were finally ready for their two new tenants: James and Michelle. James and Michelle came through the program at Our House. James is 65, employed by the City of LR. He is a Navy Veteran and enjoys fishing and cooking. Michelle is 55-years-old. She is employed and enjoys spending time with her children. She hopes to go back to school to further her education.

Next came Laura and Jon.

Pax Christi also provided food for Jerrick, who is 41 years old. He has been homeless off and on for 15 years of his life. He enjoys being outdoors, fishing and camping. The last two move-ins for January were with Stephen and Ernest. Stephen is a 62-year-old man. He has 2 grown children and 7 granddaughters! He is a Navy veteran and was homeless for about 5 years. Ernest is a 38 year old man from West Helena. He is unable to work and receives disability. He loves to meet new people and likes to ride the city bus around the city. By sharing a little about the people with

whom Pax Christi works, perhaps you will get a better understanding of both the people served and how you can help someone get into and stay in permanent housing.

Our next packing meeting at St. John's Center was this past Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Packing meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

**March 7, April 11, May 2, June 6, July 10, August 8, September 12, October 3, November 7, December 5.**

### Pax Christi Joins Little Rock Peacemakers on MLK Day



On Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2021 at noon, several peacemakers from across Little Rock met in front of the Capitol

building to listen to recordings of some of MLK's speeches, share quotes, and talk about these difficult and conflicted days. All agreed that the words of Dr. King were as relevant today as they were in the 1950's and 60's.

This vigil was initiated by Caroline Stevenson, WAND and Episcopal Peace Fellowship



member. However, the event almost didn't happen. Due to the unrest in our country and threats made at all 50 state capitols, there were barricades erected at every street access to the LR Capitol the day before, clearly a message of no trespassing. However, the blockades were removed earlier that morning and 12 peacemakers gathered on the Capitol steps despite the threats of violence. In keeping with Dr. King's message, we must never hesitate to stand and speak our truth non-violently even in the midst of strife and division in our conflicted world.

## Peace Offerings

### Diocesan Council for Black Catholics Invites Pax Christi to MLK Service and Parade



St. Augustine-MLK

The Diocesan Council for Black Catholics (DCBC) invited all members of Pax Christi Little Rock to attend the MLK service held at St. Augustine's Catholic Church on Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 and the Martin Luther King parade that was held immediately following the church service. The mass was co-



Pre-MLK Parade



Sisters Join in

celebrated by Father Warren Harvey, the first African-American Catholic priest ordained in Arkansas and Father Leon Ngandu. Ten Pax Christi members attended the mass and parade in solidarity with DCBC. Also in attendance were Arkansas state representatives Denise Ennett



Pax Christi Folks



DCBC Members

and Jamie Scott and congregation members of St. Augustine's and St. Bartholomew's.



### THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR BLACK CATHOLICS ANNUAL RETREAT

**Father Joseph Friend**  
**Father Patrick Friend**

**"Take a Place to Make a Place"**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021**

**10 am-noon via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88468582284?pwd=K1ZRbDRUSlJnMHN5WHMrMlYwdEptdz09>

**JOIN US!**

Dear Pax Christi Members,

The Diocesan Council for Black Catholics has invited all those involved with Pax Christi Little Rock to attend their annual retreat this year. Please refer to the above announcement for the details of the event. This is a great honor and I hope all of you will consider this opportunity to spend time with our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Peace and Love,

Sherry

## Peace Offerings

**SAVE THE DATE****PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK  
SPEAKER SERIES****JOYCE RAYNOR****EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR****Center for Healing Hearts  
And Spirits****Thursday, March 18****6:30-8:00 pm****Please email****[paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com)****For Zoom Link,****Pax Christi Names Dr. Al  
Adams as Legislative Liaison**

Pax Christi Little Rock is happy to announce that Dr. Al Adams has accepted the position of Legislative Liaison to the Arkansas State Legislature. Dr. Adams will work with Tamara Tahat and Lee Bass to communicate Pax Christi's position on proposed bills that are related to Pax Christi's stated priorities of anti-militarism, anti-racism, environmental stewardship, social equity and non-violence.

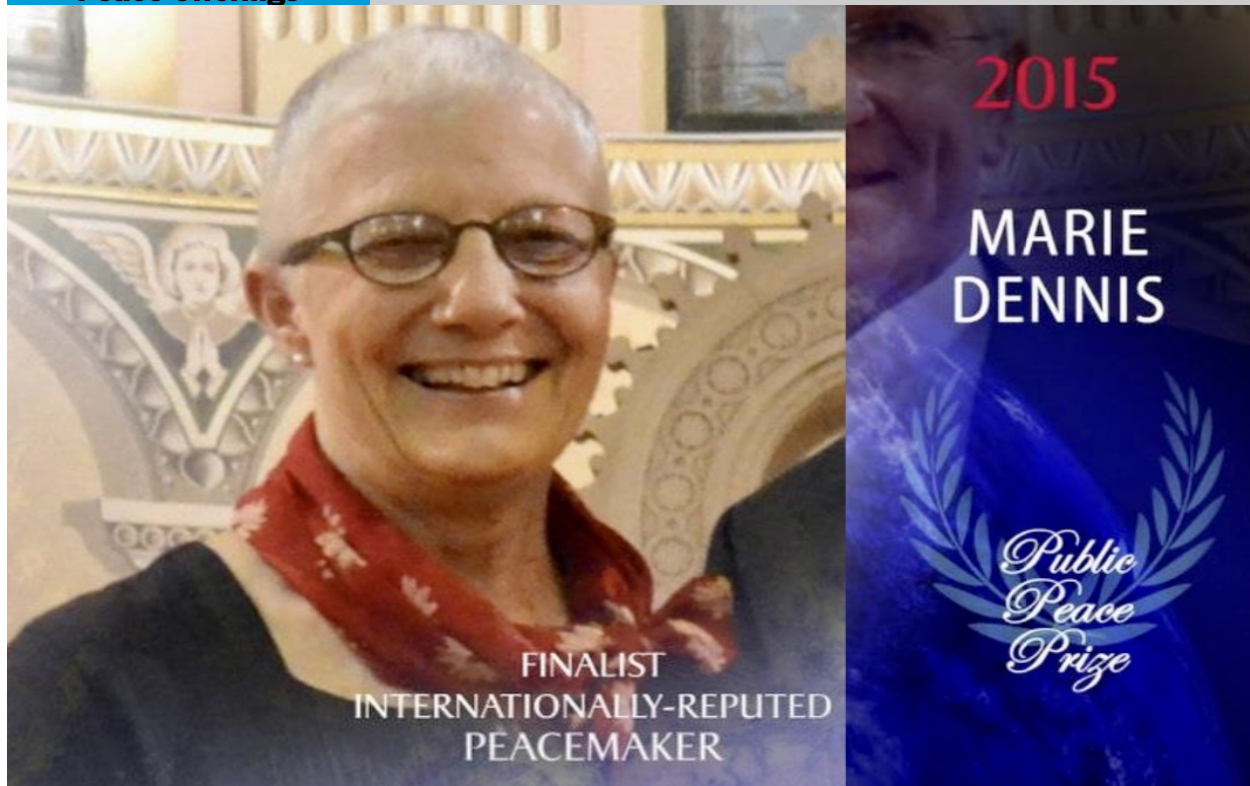
**PRAYER: LET THE  
SHOOTING END****Dear Lord,**

Our hearts are broken with pain at the senseless deaths caused by gun violence. Families mourn, children live in fear, and some in our nation respond by arming themselves with more guns with greater capacity to end life. Our disconnection and alienation has caused some to turn to guns for protection and safety. We ask that you touch our hearts with your love, heal our brokenness, and turn us away from violence toward peace. Help us to transform our own hearts and to seek peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone, those who live in fear, and those suffering from mental illness. Let our voices be raised asking our legislators to enact gun laws to protect all in our society, especially those most vulnerable. Let our pens write messages demanding change while also scripting words of hope and transformation. We ask this in the name of the God who desires that we live together in peace. Amen.

A Prayer written by the **Sisters of Mercy  
of the Americas**



Peace Offerings



**PAX CHRISTI MEMPHIS GUEST SPEAKER**

**MARIE DENNIS**

**PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL**

**GOSPEL NONVIOLENCE: A PATH TO  
PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN OUR  
DIVIDED NATION AND CHURCH**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**7 PM VIA ZOOM**

**Email [paxchristimemphis.org](mailto:paxchristimemphis.org) for link**

## Peace Offerings

# THE SEVENTH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE



Junction Bridge 2019

The Pilgrimage for Peace is an annual event that has involved a coalition of over 30 interfaith and community groups in Arkansas in years past. The purpose of this event is to “mourn the violence committed in our community and in the world and walk together as active peacemakers.” Unfortunately, the Pilgrimage had to be cancelled last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. In 2021, however, Pax Christi Little Rock has agreed to organize the Pilgrimage and the Remembrance Ceremony following the walk, keeping all COVID guidelines in place including requiring masks and distancing at all times.

The **7th annual Pilgrimage for Peace** is scheduled to begin on **Sunday, April 11 at 2 pm in front of the Heifer International Building** located behind the Clinton Center at 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202. Participants will walk through downtown Little Rock



Caroline

over the Junction Bridge to the Beacon for Peace and Hope. Once everyone arrives, there will be an Interfaith Remembrance Service that is centered around reading



Pax Christi shows up -

all of the names of individuals in Pulaski County who have tragically lost their lives due to violence over the past two years. Various faith groups and peace and social justice organizations will also present readings, poetry, prayers and music related to non-violence. This event will be live-streamed via Facebook.

This year, a new focus will be added to the Pilgrimage. Donations will be raised for a charity, **The Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits**, that works with those affected by violent acts in our community.

Their executive director, **Joyce Raynor**, will be the Pax Christi featured speaker during our Speaker Series scheduled for **Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 pm.**

If you would like to support the Pilgrimage for Peace by being a sponsor, we ask that you send a minimum of \$25 to Pax Christi LR at 415 N. McKinley St, #1040 Little Rock, AR 72205. You can also contact us at 501-258-8653 or visit [pilgrimageforpeace.com](http://pilgrimageforpeace.com) for more information.



Remembrance



Peace and Hope



Interfaith Youth

## Peace Offerings

## PAX CHRISTI MASK FREE WITH DONATION



Leslie Bertasi –PC mask

At our yearly planning meeting in January, Pax Christi members discussed different fundraising ideas for all the different projects we have slated for 2021. We need to raise around \$20,000 to fund all

of the outlined ideas. We would have thought that was impossible before we experienced the miracles that have held us up and enabled us to move forward on every proposed project these past four years of our charter.

One of the most popular ideas that board members came up with to raise money had to do with putting the Pax Christi Little Rock name on different products. Interestingly enough, once we brought it up, we realized that several people associated with Pax Christi have a wonderful machine called a Cricut (pronounced cricket). This machine adds graphics to just about whatever item you can imagine.

So, Pax Christi members decided to make Pax Christi masks and send one out (see above) with every \$25 donation. They look great! (see above) This is such a wonderful way to let folks know that you support Pax Christi Little Rock.

If you would like to donate, you can simply go to our website at [paxchristilittlerock.org](http://paxchristilittlerock.org) and push the donate button or send a check to Pax Christi LR 415 N. McKinley St. #1040 Little Rock, AR 72205. Let us know you would like a mask and we will send one out right away. Thank you for your generous support!

## SAVE THE DATE

### PAX CHRISTI LR BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, February 11**

**6 pm via Zoom**

**All Board Members have been  
emailed a Zoom link**

“May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.”

St. Therese

**“Peace I leave you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John: 14-27**