

PEACE OFFERINGS

Pax Christi Little Rock Board Members

- Mary Hunt (President)
- Sherry Simon (V. President)
- Sandee Haslauer (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Lee Bass (Chairperson)
- Jacques Pierini
- Martina Pierini
- Jan Pipkin
- George Simon
- Tamara Tahat
- Father Warren Harvey (Chaplain)

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

Contact Information

- **Website:**
www.paxchristilittlerock.org
- **Facebook:**
Pax Christi Little Rock
- **Address:**
3 Noyal Drive
Little Rock, AR 72223
- **Phone:**
(501) 258-8653
- **Email:**
paxchristilr@gmail.com

Pax Christi LR Speaker Series

John Coffin and Dr. Donnal Walter present *the Alternatives to Violence Project*



John Coffin

On Thursday, September 18 at 6:30 pm, Dr. Donnal Walter and John Coffin will share their vision of *The Alternatives to Violence Project* (AVP), a series of workshops initially designed to empower individuals in prison to overcome their violent tendencies. The workshops use the shared life experiences of both participants and facilitators to examine how injustice, prejudice, frustration and anger can lead to aggressive behavior and violence. They explore our innate power to respond in new and creative ways.

Since 2016, the Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice (ACPJ) has been involved with the Friends Meeting of Little Rock (Quakers) in using the AVP program for Adult inmates at Tucker Prison. These programs emphasize affirmation, communication, community and working together without coercion, recognizing the potential we all have to grow and develop positive relationships. The project utilizes the same approach taken by Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others in the peace



Dr. Donnal Walter

and social justice movement.

At this time, ACPJ intends to begin an AVP community program that will appeal to adults in central Arkansas. This

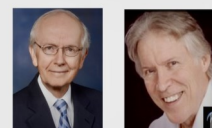
will include the training of individuals in the community to assist in a prison or community program or a program component designed for school aged children.

AVP is one of the most powerful, empowering anti-bullying programs available. The principle of learning from shared experiences has been effective in schools across the country.

This presentation will take place in Fitzgerald Hall on the St. John Catholic Center Campus. Refreshments will be served and admission is free.

**PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK
PRESENTS**

**JOHN COFFIN
DONNAL WALTER**



**THE ALTERNATIVES TO
VIOLENCE PROJECT**

**Thursday, September 15
6:30 pm**

**Fitzgerald Hall
St. John's Catholic Center
paxchristilr@gmail.com
for questions**

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi LR Pantry Mission

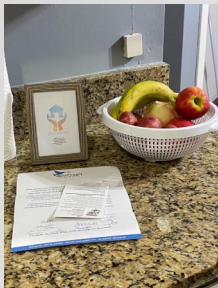
Updates: August, 2022

Dear Pantry volunteers,

The beginnings of Fall are making an appearance right on time after our Labor Day holiday! Thank you for taking the time out during this extra busy time of year to work with us at Pax Christi LR and Settled Souls to help our neighbors move into their new homes. Providing fresh and staple foods for these folks increases their sense of security in their new space and makes a positive difference in their lives.

Our next food pantry packing meeting will be held at the Dining Hall in St. John's Center on Sunday, October 2 at 3 pm. Please bring all of your assigned foods. We will be packing 5 tubs to be used on future moves. God bless each one of you always!

In August, Settled Souls moved three individuals into homes of their own in Little Rock.



On August 16, Mike and the CTK Settled Souls team helped settle in Eddie. Eddie had a series of unfortunate events happen in his life that contributed to him be-

coming homeless. However, he has taken many steps to get back on his feet. He now has a place of his own and is working full-time and doing great! Lee Bass provided the pantry box food and helped with the move.



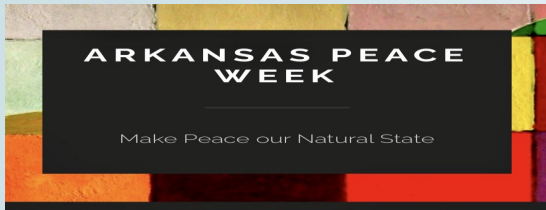
On August 25, Settled Souls settled Robert into his apartment home. When Robert was in California, family challenges and the loss of a job during the pandemic contributed to his homelessness. Robert moved to Arkansas from California for a fresh start and is now in the process of getting back on his feet. He is so grateful for the help he has received from organizations in Little Rock such as Jericho Way, Canvas Church and Settled Souls. Robert said that he was amazed how quickly his apartment could feel more like home. Lee and Agnes Bass supplied the food and helped with the move.



On August 30, the CTK Settled Souls team helped Xavier settle into his new home. Xavier had been homeless for six months due to housing challenges. He was very grateful for the help with home goods, especially for the furniture and accessories in his bedroom. Mary Hunt provided the Pax Christi pantry start-up and also helped in the move.

Peace Offerings

PCLR Joins Peace Partners in Activities Highlighting Peace Week 2022: September 18-25



Pax Christi Little Rock members are joining with several different peace partners including Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice (ACPJ), Pulaski and Little Rock Public Schools, and Booker T. Washington Elementary School to support peace-themed events throughout Peace Week (September 18-25) this year. The peace curriculum and activities are provided for the schools each year so that teachers may have material to teach their classes about nonviolent conflict resolution, historical peace-makers, and a better understanding of the importance of making peace in our world.



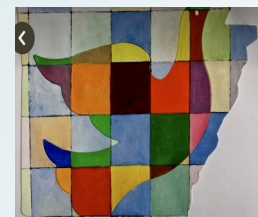
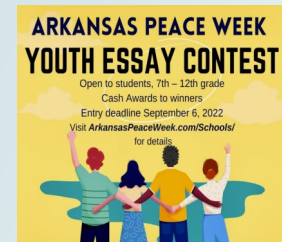
Pax Christi has worked specifically with Washington Elementary during Peace Week for the past two years. Angela

Johnson, Community School Site Coordinator, has designed a peace week program that teaches different aspects of peace in the classroom. Washington will kick the week off with a peace parade on Monday, September 19 at 9 am.. They will also be unveiling a

“blessing box” for the neighborhood that will hold food donations for those in need.

In conjunction with schools throughout the state, ACPJ is conducting Peace Art and Essay con-

tests. Last year, they had over 150 essay submissions 400 art submissions across the state. The essay contest is open to students from 7th-12th grade and the art contest is open to 1st-12th grade students. The winners of both the essay and art contests will be announced and displayed at the Arkansas State Capitol on Saturday, September 24, 2022 at 1 pm. Several Pax Christi LR members have volunteered to be judges for these contests.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 AT 1 PM - 2:30 PM
Arkansas Peace Week Essay Readings & Art Contest Winners
Arkansas State Capitol



On Friday, September 23, 2022 at 6:30 am, Feed the Hungry will be at the Salvation Army Central Arkansas. This group serves

breakfast to those in need every Friday morning, but we are highlighting this important service during Arkansas Peace Week and some of our members

Peace Offerings

will be volunteering to serve food.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 AT 12 PM – 6 PM
7th Street Mural Arts Festival

The 7th Street Mural Festival will take place on Sunday, September 25 from 12 pm-6 pm near the corner of 7th and Thayer Streets (across from Whitewater Tavern). This festival is designed to educate the community about the 7th Street murals, their artists, and their important messages of peace and justice. The festival will feature art, food, music, children's activities, and discussions with artist and activist groups. Guests will have a unique opportunity to use their artistic skills and help paint one of the murals.

Pax Christi Little Rock will have a booth at the festival where we will have "peace rocks" that children or adults can paint. We will also have bubbles for the kids, instruction in the art of making origami peace cranes, and information about how to get involved with Pax Christi on a local or national level.

For information on these and many other Peace Week activities in Arkansas, go to: arkansaspeaceweek.com or the Peace Week Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/arkansaspeaceweek>.

Let's work together to make Peace our "Natural State" in Arkansas!

Booker T. Washington Peace Week Schedule of Events

Washington Wildcats Celebrate Arkansas Peace Week

Greetings Wildcat Families, The students and staff of Washington will be celebrating Arkansas Peace Week, September 19 -23! Below is a Schedule of what we are asking the students and staff to wear each day to be unified as we celebrate Peace Week.

Day	Focus
Monday	Wildcats are Powerful Peacemakers! Wear RED or dress as a positive role model Red- Power, Passion & Excitement
Tuesday	Wildcats are Confident Peacemakers! Wear BLUE or clothes that make you feel confident (school appropriate) Blue - Calm, Confident & Trustworthy
Wednesday	Wildcats are Kind Peacemakers! Wear GREEN or Peace Sign/Tie Dye Attire Green Healing, Kindness & Generosity
Thursday	Wildcats are Creative Peacemakers! Wear PURPLE or creative accessories (school appropriate) Purple - Powerful & Creativity
Friday	Wildcats are Spirited Peacemakers! Wear Wildcat Spirit Attire **Wildcats Walk for Peace Parade**

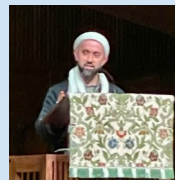
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL AND NATIONAL PEACE WEEK EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO:
<https://arkansaspeaceweek.com/> or
<https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

Thanks for making Washington a Public School with a CommUNITY Mindset

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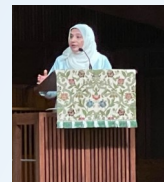
SAVE THE DATE**PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK
SPEAKER SERIES**

presents

META PEACE TEAM**MARY HANNA****Pax Christi Michigan****Thursday, Oct. 20****6:30 pm****Fitzgerald Hall****St John's Catholic Center****Questions?****paxchristilr@gmail.com**
**“Love Thy Neighbor”
Attracts Peacemakers
Across Arkansas****Imam Latif**

Love Thy Neighbor: Sowing Seeds of Promise was held at St. Marks Episcopal Church in Little Rock on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm. This interfaith celebration of Peace through music, prayer and wisdom was followed by The Interfaith Food Festival. The event was sponsored by Arkansas House of Prayer and The Interfaith Center. The keynote speaker was Imam Khalid Latif, the University Chaplain and Executive Director of the Islamic Center, New York University.

Sophia Said, Executive director of the Interfaith Center and Chairperson of Madina Institute and Mosque welcomed the crowd of over 200.

**Sophia Said**

The Reverend Susan Sims Smith, founder of Arkansas House of Prayer and The Interfaith Center, closed out the service with an invitation to continue connecting with one another across faiths as one congregation. Sr. Deborah Troillet, Executive Director of The House of Prayer, spoke of the importance of silence in our prayer life and led the participants in a silent meditation. Music was provided throughout by the Interfaith Community Choir. Several Pax Christi Little Rock members attended the service in support of our growing peace community.

Peace Offerings

PCLR Members Support Peace Partner -Restore Hope- at First Annual Hope Award



Gov. Hutchinson

Pax Christi Little Rock members were invited to the First Annual Hope Award sponsored by Restore Hope Arkansas at the Governor's Mansion on September 7 from 6-8:30 pm. Governor Asa Hutchinson was awarded this honor based on his 2015 initiative to "rethink justice in our state." Since that time, multiple individuals and agencies have come together in a series of summits to support those leaving prison in having "new prospects, hope and second chances." Now, in several cities across Arkansas, the collaboration of agencies designed and supported by Restore Hope has doubled the foster care reunification rate and opened up job opportunities for those previously incarcerated. Paul Chapman, Executive Director of Restore Hope, gave the key note address, providing statistics that point to the success of Restore Hope programs.



Peyton & Sherry

PCLR Board Members Donate \$500 to Family in Pakistan



Pax Christi Little Rock (PCLR) is helping to sponsor a family from Afghanistan in Little Rock. The mother of this family told members of the team about her sister who lives in Pakistan with her husband and several children. This family has been severely affected by the recent floods. They have no electricity, food is limited and their children are quite ill and need medical care. Evidently, it costs a great deal of money to get treatment where they live and the family has no money. The Pax Christi LR board took up a collection among themselves and was able to wire \$500 with the help of Dr. Ali Kahn to this family to help these children. It is imperative that we reach across borders to provide sustenance to others. Whether we are aware of it or not, we all need one another. Providing for the needs of another is a clear path to justice and ultimate peace.

Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs? He will answer them: I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.

Matthew 25: 44-45

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi Members Donate \$1700 to Catholic Charities During August Speaker Series



Sr. Iliana Aponte

On Thursday, August 18, Sr. Iliana Aponte, Parish Outreach Liaison with Catholic Charities, presented information at the Pax Christi Little Rock Speaker Series on *Empowering the Latino Family: Unity and Strength in Community*. She did a wonderful job providing statistics on the changing demographics of the Latino population in our country as well as the different factors that contribute to stresses/problems specifically experienced by the Latino community. She educated us on Hispanic culture and how important it is to support one another as immigrants are integrated into the US. Kristy Dunn, the principal of St. Theresa's Catholic School, made the point that our "border" is here in Arkansas and we must make a grassroots effort to connect with our neighbors. Several other employees of



PCLR and Catholic Charities

also attended and added to the presentation that was attended by 38 people at Fitzgerald Hall and 11 people on zoom. The whole presentation was a display of unity and connection that was well received by the audience.

It is the tradition at these Speaker events to ask for donations to the organization represented. During this event, \$1700 was raised from donations and given to the Parish Outreach Program at Catholic Charities for Sr. Iliana's use to support the Hispanic community. It should be noted that this was far and away the most significant amount of money that Pax Christi has ever raised at one of these events. Both during and after the event, several people requested that we have Sr. Iliana and her associates back so that we might delve more deeply into these issues.



Full House



This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15: 12-13

Peace Offerings

Pax Christi Little Rock to Host PCUSA National Council in October



Bishop Stowe

Pax Christi Little Rock has been honored to be asked to host the next Pax Christi USA National Council Meeting to be held October 7-9 here in Little Rock.

The Council Meeting will be convened at the Vines Center in west Little Rock. Although council members and staff will be addressing issues related to Pax Christi USA throughout the weekend, one of the focuses during their time in Little Rock will



Council Meeting!



Here's Johnny

be to get to know the local chapter members and hopefully visit some of the important historical sites along the Arkansas Civil Rights Trail. These sites include Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Daisy Bates House, Little Rock Nine Memorial at the Capitol, Clinton Presidential Center, and Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. There will also social gatherings arranged so that we might build better connections with one another and so better share the work for peace in our world.



PCUSA Staff

Excerpt from *The Hill We Climb* by Amanda Gorman

...But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children's birth-right.

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left with—Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one. We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west.

We will rise from the windswept northeast, where our forefathers first realized revolution.

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states.

We will rise from the sunbaked south.

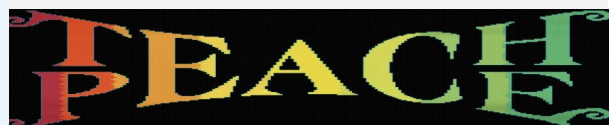
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.

And every known nook of our nation and every corner called our country, our people diverse and beautiful will emerge, battered and beautiful.

When day comes we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid, the new dawn blooms as we free it.

For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we are brave enough to be it.



Peace Offerings

Pax Christi Little Rock Membership Application

Pax Christi Little Rock is a chapter of Pax Christi USA, a Catholic peace and social justice movement rooted in prayer, study and action that works towards both personal and social transformation. We are committed to the peace, nonviolence, justice and compassion that are the heart of the gospel message of Jesus. More than ever, Pax Christi Little Rock needs people who are willing to help achieve this goal of nonviolence in our world. We invite you to join our efforts to build a sustainable peace in which each person is treated equitably, for it is only through achieving social justice that peace may be attained.

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State/Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Membership Dues are \$25 per year. Please send a check along with this form to:

Sherry Martin -2 Willow Oak Cove- Maumelle, AR 72113.

To donate online, visit paxchristilittlerock.org and press the donate button. Provide your name, address and email and make a note that your donation goes towards membership dues.