

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Searches for Peace

The TPPC Peace Group meets every third Thursday for food and fellowship, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. For location, watch the church bulletin or call the church office. Anywhere from 8-15 people come to the meetings and many more people support the programs aimed at obtaining peace on all scales. We consider peace to be more than the absence of armed conflict. Peace requires respect for others, cultural tolerance, acknowledgement of differences and respect for territorial boundaries.

Peace Fair

On Sunday September 17 we will hold a Peace Fair during the Sunday School hour. There will be information on many different peacemaking activities from personal peace to international peace.

Here are a few of the issues we are involved in:



Campaign Against Torture

“Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person.” The use of torture accompanies most conflicts and the issue is particularly important in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and the Middle East conflicts. The United States has used torture in the war against terrorism. We believe that there can be no exceptions to the prohibition on using torture in investigations. The Session of TPPC is a signatory of the Statement of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Christian Peacemaker Teams

In May, Diana Zimmerman, of CPT, and a colleague, met with us to discuss the work of CPT in Palestine, and particularly with At-Tuwani, a Palestinian village with which our church is linked through the Campaign for Secure Dwellings. Diana talked with us about the observer role of Christian Peacekeeper Teams. They witness and record the interactions between Israeli settlers and Palestinians. They do not take an activist stand. The actions they have witnessed included harassment of Palestinian children on their way to school, destruction of olive groves, and deprivation of water. They have kept in touch with us through emails.



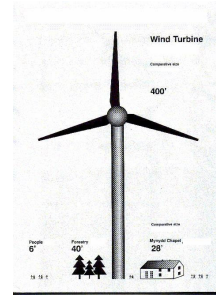
International Day of Peace

September 21 is the International Day of Peace when people all over the world will be focusing attention on peace in our time. We will observe the International Day of Peace with an ecumenical service at 7 PM followed by a potluck dinner. Local religious congregations and the Takoma Park Peace Council will meet together to discuss ways that we can be a more effective force for peace. The Labyrinth will be available from 6-9 PM.



Climate Change

We consider climate change to be a peacemaking issue. It involves disparate use of energy resources by the United States in particular and the industrialized world in general causing a global environmental crisis. We support the work of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, educating the public and showing ways that all of us can be more responsible and even slow climate change. The extreme weather events of the past years have been aspects of climate change. Our church sponsors a family left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. TPCC was also an early adopter of wind power as part our commitment to environmental change.



Unity Walk on 9/10/2006

People committed to peace and unity will gather for a dramatic UNITY WALK as churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and gurdwaras open their doors together in peace, healing and understanding. The walk will move from the Washington Hebrew Congregation to the Islamic Center with a “We Are Family” concert at the Washington National Cathedral and concluding celebration at the Gandhi Memorial. Convene September 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Washington Hebrew Congregation at Massachusetts and Macomb Street. For information call 202-338-2025 or www.911unitywalk.org.

Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday

October 1st is World Communion Sunday when Christians all over the world celebrate the Lord’s Supper. It is also when the Peacemaking Offering is received by Presbyterian Churches. The theme this year is “Swords into Plowshares: Living the Ways of Peace” taken from the great vision of peace found in Isaiah 2:2-4.



The Peacemaking Offering is one of four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA to support peacemaking initiatives and education throughout the church. TPCC supports the peacemaking offering and welcomes your thoughts on how we can best use our share of the peacemaking offering to support peace initiatives.

For additional resources, contact:

Presbyterian Peacemaking Program at: www.pcusa.org/peacemaking

Of particular interest is the document “Peacemaking: the Believer’s Calling, available at <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/believers.pdf>