



# The Peace Current

## Pax Christi USA

### *The national Catholic peace movement*

Spring 2025

## Staying the course: 2024 Year in Review

The Pax Christi USA Gun Violence Prevention Working Group invites you to attend a special online event on Saturday, May 18:

### BEATING GUNS INTO PLOWSHARES

A challenging conversation about gun violence with Shane Claiborne





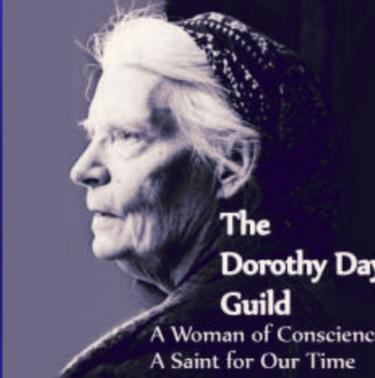
**PALESTINE DELEGATION REPORT BACK FOLLOWED BY THIS QUARTER'S PAX MASS**

Thursday, September 19  
Delegation report: 7 PM ET/4 PM PT  
PAX Mass: 8 PM ET/5 PM PT  
Use the same Zoom link!



PAX Mass celebrant  
Fr. Chris Ponnet





**The Dorothy Day Guild**  
A Woman of Conscience  
A Saint for Our Time

Pax Christi USA receives inaugural Dorothy Day Peacemaker Award

**Building a World Without Nuclear Weapons: An Urgent Imperative**

Saturday, January 27, 2-4 pm ET  
Organized by Pax Christi Massachusetts, in association with Pax Christi USA



An interactive and action-focused forum with panelists Archbishop John Wester, Marie Dennis, and Dr. Ira Helfand. Moderated by Claire Schaeffer-Duffy.  
Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ForumJan27>



**Catholic Sign-On Letter on Israel-Palestine**

Endorsed by bishops, clergy, women religious, theologians, activists, and laypeople from across the United States.

Read the statement and add your name. Link in bio.



**The Rose & The Barbed Wire**  
A Pax Christi Young Adult Caucus Zine





**WE ARE ONE BODY**  
Being a Prophetic Church in a Time of Polarization and Conflict

As we witness unprecedented divisions in our world, this online gathering will examine the root causes of the growing polarization with speakers who are actively working in the fields of church politics, nonviolence, and religious nationalism. We will look for ways in which we can be prophetic -- working together in dialogue for a better understanding and offering nonviolent solutions that can give all of us hope. JOIN US!





## Pax Christi USA National Staff

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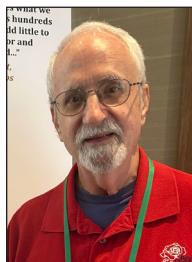
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# “Now is the time of monsters”

By Tom Cordaro  
Pax Christi USA Ambassador of Peace



As the results of the 2024 elections became clear, a dread overcame me as I pondered at the precipice of the abyss. It was in these early days after the election that I ran across a quote by Antonio Gramsci, an Italian writer, politician, and Marxist political theorist, written while he was imprisoned by Mussolini's Fascist regime in 1929: “The old world is dying, and the new world struggles to be born: now is the time of monsters.” ...

What I find attractive in Gramsci's quote is the way he combines a hopeful insight — “the old world is dying, and a new world struggles to be born” — with a realistic assessment of the dangers inherent during times of great upheaval: “Now is the time of monsters.” To equip ourselves for the time ahead, **we will need to do more than offer words of hope and encouragement.** We also need to give a name to the evils that beset us.

For many liberal/progressive Christians, this begins by interrogating the “myth of progress” that has shaped our political worldview and our religious imagination. The myth of progress refers to the belief that human society is constantly moving towards a better future. ...

**The November election has shown us that nothing about the future is inevitable.** We Christians believe in the victory of the Cross and the coming of the Reign of God. But the vindication of God's justice at the end of time is the vision of a people who are struggling to bend that “arc of the moral universe” towards justice. ...

### *What are we to do?*

God's time is not chronological. **The God of history is not bound by calendars, clocks, or historical processes.** In Scripture, God's great acts of redemption happen “in the fullness of time” (Ephesians 1:10 and Galatians 4:4.) The Greek word for this in-breaking of God's grace in history is *kairos*. *Kairos* time compels us to make choices. We do not choose whether it is a *Kairos* time. It is God's activity that determines the *kairos*. Our task is to recognize and respond. Political evil and economic injustice are a part of the context of *kairos*, but they are not its determining features. In a *Kairos* time, God's spirit exposes, addresses, and challenges unfaithfulness among churches and calls the People of God to repent and be reborn. ...

At a time when White Christian Nationalism has become synonymous with Christianity in the United States, **we need to act with the urgency of Martin Niemöller, Karl Barth, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in their resistance to the Nazification of the Christian Church in Germany.** As Bonhoeffer is credited as saying, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

To rise to the challenge of this *Kairos* time, we need a new vocabulary to interpret the “signs of the times,” one that goes beyond the ideologies, theories, and policy positions of the liberal political class. ...

*Read Tom's reflection in its entirety at [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).*

# Staying the course: 2024 in review

By Charlene Howard  
Pax Christi USA Executive Director

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Quincy Jones, masterful musician and lyricist wrote, "Everything must change. Nothing stays the same. Everyone will change. No one stays the same." And so it was in 2024 - *so much change took place!* Yet, we have come through it steadied by the longevity of our mission and more than 50 years of resolve to be a prophetic voice of peace through the practice of Gospel nonviolence.

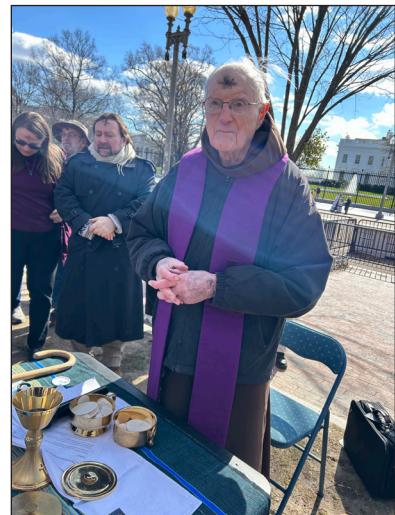
In January 2024, **Johnny Zokovitch** announced that he would resign by July. **We are deeply grateful for Johnny** - he has made a lifelong commitment to Pax Christi, with more than 30 years of experience at the campus, local, national, and international levels. As executive director, Johnny's innovation and skillfulness enlarged the national staff and programming commensurate with the needs of our movement. We will be forever thankful to Johnny and continue to pray for God to bless him.



Navigating shifting times can be disconcerting but Pax Christi USA is resilient because of our grassroots, the people in the state, regional and local groups, the heart and soul of the movement. What follows are some highlights of the work accomplished in the face of changes we experienced in 2024. As you read on, be inspired and encouraged to keep working for peace through nonviolent means, putting faith into action:

**JANUARY:** The Bread Not Stones campaign wrapped up after an amazing effort by members around the country to bishops to endorse the Bread Not Stones statement ... We filed an amicus brief in support of a New Jersey bill that prohibits private and public facilities from entering into new detention contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and prevents the facilities from renewing their current contracts once they expire ... Pax Christi Massachusetts, with assistance from the national office, offered a two-hour online forum with almost 1,000 participants on the urgent need for nuclear disarmament ... We co-sponsored a "Faith in Democracy" interfaith vigil, a hybrid event designed to lift up the democratic process in direct response to the events of January 6, 2021.

**FEBRUARY:** We sold out (3,000 copies) of our Lenten reflection booklet by **Frida Berrigan, A Fast that Matters** ... The Pax Christi USA Young Adult Caucus (PCYAC) Literary Circle for Liberation read **Kaitlin Curtice's** book *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day* ... On Ash Wednesday, Pax Christi USA held a Mass, **celebrated by Pax Christi USA 2023 Teacher of Peace Fr. Joe Nangle**, outside the White House to call for a ceasefire in Gaza ... Pax Christi members joined stages of a week-long pilgrimage for a ceasefire which started in Philadelphia and ended in Washington, DC ... We started our weekly Lenten online prayer services.



**MARCH:** Pax Christi USA members participated in an 11-person pilgrimage of reconciliation to Hiroshima and Nagasaki ... **Stephen Niamke joined the national staff as our new National Field Organizer** ... We signed onto an open letter calling for ceasefire and a halt to US arms sales to Israel ... Pax Christi members across the country participated in a March 18 day of action to demand a ceasefire ... We promoted a campaign with Veterans for Peace, urging State Department employees to resist participation in the genocide against Palestinians ... National staff led a webinar connecting US foreign policy in Palestine and the Philippines ... We held our first quarterly PAX Mass celebrated by **Fr. Francis Gargani**.



**APRIL:** Pax Christi USA mourned the loss of our first bishop president, **Bishop Tom Gumbleton**, who died on April 4 ... Pax Christi members joined the Christians for a Free Palestine activities on Capitol Hill in Washington DC ... Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi Michigan members were part of the capacity crowd that attended the funeral of Bishop Gumbleton in Detroit ... Pax Christi USA

**Continued on page 4 ...**

## Staying the course, continued from page 3

supported the Discerning Deacons online synodal conversation on the restoration of the permanent diaconate for men and women.

**MAY:** We held a prayer service outside the White House for a ceasefire in Gaza and to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the US Catholic bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace" ... Pax Christi USA was deeply involved with circulating and promoting an open letter from US Catholics to President Biden, urging him as a fellow Catholic to ensure a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to arms sales to Israel... **PeacePairJaniceVanderhaarandTiffanyHunsinger** created and facilitated a two-part interactive series, "Challenging conversations: Intergenerational nonviolent peacemaking through difficult times" ... Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi International staff traveled to Iowa for visits with supporters and colleagues, including religious sisters' communities, college campuses, two bishops, parishes, diocesan offices, and Catholic Worker communities ... **Mary Catherine Bunting was selected as the 2024 recipient of the Teacher of Peace award for her philanthropic and personal work for peace** ... Pax Christi USA supported the International People's Tribunal finding the Marcos and Duterte regimes of the Philippines guilty of massive war crimes.



**JUNE:** We were honored to accept the inaugural Dorothy Day Peacemaker Award at an event held during the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) meetings, held in Louisville ... **Pax Christi USA announced Ralph McCloud as the latest**

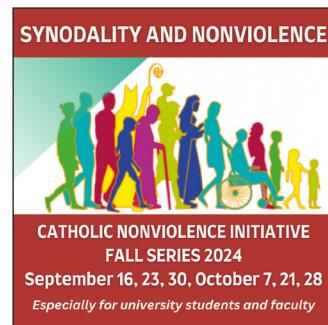
**recipient of the Eileen Egan Peacemaker Award, in recognition of his years of service for justice and peace** ... While in Louisville, Pax Christi USA held a public witness in support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which had been gutted due to layoffs and restructuring at the USCCB ... Our quarterly PAX Mass was celebrated by **National Council treasurer Fr. Fred Thelen**, with a special focus on torture survivors.

**JULY:** Charlene Howard and Daniel Francis joined the Pax Christi USA staff as the new Executive Director and Director of Development respectively ... Anselmo

Lee from Pax Christi Korea visited the Washington, DC office and spent two days with the national staff ... **Johnny Zokovitch was celebrated at a farewell party with a cadre of colleagues, family, and friends** ... Pax Christi USA co-sponsored a conference entitled "Teresa of Ávila and Peacemaking in a Nuclear Age: A Contemplative Conversation."

**AUGUST:** Charlene Howard, Bishop John Stowe and Director of Operations Iyana Turner-Vance provided recorded messages for the inaugural Nagasaki Catholic Peace Forum, held August 10 in Japan. (These videos are available to watch on Pax Christi USA's YouTube channel, [www.youtube.com/@PaxChristiUSA](https://www.youtube.com/@PaxChristiUSA).) ... PCYAC published its inaugural zine, *The Rose and the Barbed Wire*, and held its annual summer retreat in Washington DC ... **Michelle Sherman, Pax Christi USA's Project Director**, was a speaker in an online event, "Advancing Nonviolence in Challenging Times," co-sponsored with Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service.

**SEPTEMBER:** Pax Christi USA held its virtual conference on September 6-7 with the theme, "We are one body: Being a prophetic Church in a time of polarization and conflict" ... **Ambassador of Peace Scott Wright** joined the staff as an Ignatian volunteer to lead our efforts on immigration ... Pax Christi USA issued a public statement in response to the execution of **Marcellus Khaliifah Williams** in Alabama, the 1,600th state-sanctioned execution since the death penalty's reinstatement in 1977 ... National staff gathered in Washington, DC for its Dream Week to create a work plan for the coming year ... **Ambassador of Peace Fr. Chris Ponnet** celebrated PAX Mass, which was preceded by a report back by **Jessica Sun, Bob Shine, and Scott Wright** about their August delegation to Palestine ... Pax Christi USA, the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, and Casa Esther Catholic Worker offered a six-week (mid-September through mid-October) online series for students focused on nonviolence and synodality, with special attention on the current Synod on Synodality taking place within the Catholic Church.



**OCTOBER:** In our new office space (just upstairs from our old one), Pax Christi USA hosted a hybrid brown-bag lunch/live-stream presentation with **Amira Musallam, a Palestinian peace advocate, and Mel Duncan, co-founder of Nonviolent Peaceforce** on the importance of unarmed civilian protection, particularly in regards to Palestine ... Pax Christi USA revitalized its anti-racism

**Continued on page 5 ...**

## Staying the course, continued from page 4

team (PCART) by conducting the first of two training sessions for the inaugural cohort of members.



**NOVEMBER:** We started the month with a prayer service outside the White House calling for a ceasefire; members of the national council were in attendance as the fall meeting of the council took place that weekend ...

After a second training session, 13 individuals of various ages, locales and ethnicities formed the new PCART team to guide Pax Christi USA in becoming an anti-racist movement at all levels ... **Bishop Stowe** offered a post-election message encouraging members of the Pax Christi USA movement to consider what they are willing to risk in hope in the changing political landscape of our country ... Pax Christi USA joined more than 400 religious, faith and values-based individuals and organizations endorsing the interfaith appeal "Protecting Our Common Climate System: Earth Governance for a Sustainable Future," presented to the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29).

**DECEMBER:** Pax Christi USA printed a new prayer card, using a prayer for nuclear disarmament written by **Sr. Diane Smith**, especially to commemorate the upcoming 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Japan ... **Leslye Colvin** authored our 2024 Advent booklet, "Seeking Wisdom's Light" ... Pax Christi USA endorsed letters to President Biden urging him to take action

to secure debt relief for poor countries ... PCYAC held its annual Lenten online retreat ... Our final quarterly PAX Mass was celebrated by **Bishop Stowe** ... We were heartbroken to say goodbye to two dear friends of the national office, **Donna Grimes, Ambassador of Peace and former National Council member**, who passed away on December 10, and **Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM**, our 2023 Teacher of Peace, who passed away on December



14. We are grateful for their lives of consistent, humble, joyful service to building the nonviolent, peaceful community. Donna and Fr. Joe, *¡Presente!*

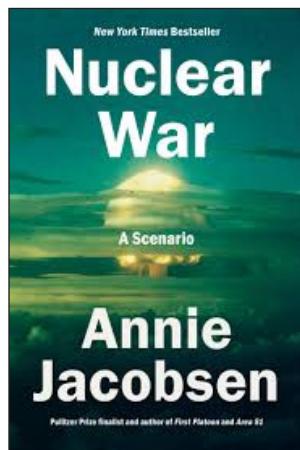
## Book review: *Nuclear War* by Annie Jacobsen

By Christopher Fici

Pax Christi USA nuclear disarmament working group

What does it mean to repress the nuclear shadow over human civilization, even as the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moves closer to midnight than ever? What does it mean to confront that shadow? Since the advent of mass industry, it has been the tendency of the technological elites to create and unleash new technologies without considering the effects upon society at large (of which AI is the current example). Why did the splitting of the atom have to lead to the creation of nuclear weaponry? Why do we harness our most intense discoveries to the destruction of all life on Earth?

Following in the genre of films like "The Day After" and "The War Game," Annie Jacobsen's *Nuclear War* foregoes melodrama for an exacting, protocol-based, empirically rooted account of what would happen if a nuclear war began. For residents of Washington, DC (like myself), the prologue, which describes what would happen if a nuclear weapon detonated over the Pentagon, there is simply one conclusion: if this really happens, I hope I die



immediately. Or as Nikita Khrushchev once said, "the survivors will envy the dead."

While there are no specific political, policy, and philosophical prescriptions which emerge from Jacobsen's description, the description is enough itself to inspire action and organization. As the clock ticks closer and closer to midnight, the threat of nuclear war now metastasizes anew and afresh again in combination with the precarities of our climate catastrophe and the wild, feral rise of generative artificial intelligence. Jacobsen's exacting, uncompromising

account puts us in the mindset of the repentant defense official John Rubel, describing the men he once worked with to develop nuclear doomsday scenarios, as a "a twilight underworld governed by disciplined, meticulous and energetically mindless groupthink aimed at wiping out half the people living on nearly one third of the earth's surface." If we know what it would be like if it's too late to stop that groundthink, we can act now when it's not too late.

A prayer for nuclear disarmament  
Good and gracious God,  
we pray for a world free of nuclear weapons.  
Lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so  
pervasively over the earth.  
We pray for world leaders to come to the realization  
that more weapons and war do not bring peace.  
May financial resources be allocated to alleviate  
poverty, support food security, housing, health care,  
environment, and educational programs.

Good and gracious God,  
we pray that the deadly power of nuclear weapons  
remain to be unleashed on people and Your creation.  
May such weapons of mass and indiscriminate  
annihilation be forever banned and eliminated from  
the face of the earth.

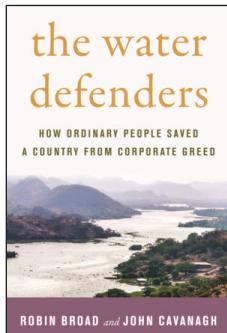
Good and gracious God,  
forgive our past silence, give us the courage and  
strength to tirelessly raise our prophetic voices to work  
to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.  
Let us remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki as  
beacons as we commit ourselves to find ways to live  
together in peace, that we may not be just peace  
lovers, but peacemakers.

Written for Pax Christi USA by Sr. Diane Smith, CSJ

# Updates from Pax Christi USA Young Adult Caucus (PCYAC)

## Literary Circle for Liberation: *The Water Defenders*

The next PCYAC Literary Circle for Liberation will discuss *The Water Defenders: How ordinary people saved the country from corporate greed* on **March 19, April 2, April 16, and April 30** from 8-9 pm ET. On April 30, authors Robin Broad and John Cavanagh will join the conversation. If you are a young adult in between 20-39, visit the PCYAC webpage to sign up and join! All members of Pax Christi USA are invited to read along.



## Recap of recent monthly gatherings

- In **September 2024**, Marcel from Friends of the Congo (FOTC) spoke on the topic of global solidarity and the impact of extractive mining.
- In **October 2024**, Dr. Ansel Augustine presented on Black Catholic History, anti-racism, and its importance in today's society. He recommended a few resources: "Leveling the praying field: Can the Church we love love us back?", the 40th anniversary of the "What we have seen and heard" pastoral letter, and the YouTube video "Black and Catholic - New Orleans."
- In **November 2024**, PCYAC member Anna Nowalk,

who is currently doing research on music written about martyrs killed during and around the time of El Salvador's civil war (1979-1992), discussed the circumstances leading up to the war and how the Catholic Church was involved.

- PCYAC held its annual Advent online retreat in **December 2024** on the theme "Solitude to solidarity: How contemplative work can make us better peace-builders." Speakers included Eliane Lakam, Michael Martin, and Gavin Rice.
- In **February**, Sircey Smith, a member of both PCYAC and the Pax Christi USA nuclear disarmament working group, and Harry Katz, an organizer with Students for Nuclear Disarmament, presented on efforts for nonproliferation and disarmament.

## Peace Pairs 2025 launched in February

Twelve sets of peacemakers are taking part in the fourth cohort of Peace Pairs, the program initiated by PCYAC as a mutual co-learning program between generations of peacemakers. Among this year's participants are authors, artists, a Fulbright scholar, Ambassadors of Peace, students, activists, chaplains/ministers, parents, executive directors of solidarity organizations, conscientious objectors, Catholic Workers, each with much to contribute and learn throughout this year. Since its inception in 2022, more than 70 people have participated in the program. Stay tuned for more updates throughout the year!

## Nominations now open for Pax Christi USA National Council AND the 2025 Teacher of Peace

Nominations are now open and being accepted for the slate of candidates for the 2025 Pax Christi USA National Council election AND for the 2025 Teacher of Peace award, Pax Christi USA's highest honor. *Deadline for national council nominations is March 26, and the deadline for Teacher of Peace nominations is March 31.*



A key element of Pax Christi USA membership is the annual process of **nominating and electing members to the national council**. Each council member plays a critically important role in advancing Pax Christi USA's peacemaking. **Therefore, we need your thoughtful, prayerful help in finding the best possible nominees.** Find the link for the nomination form on the Pax Christi USA website, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org). If you have questions, please contact Charlene Howard, Executive Director, at [choward@paxchristiusa.org](mailto:choward@paxchristiusa.org).

We also welcome your suggestions for the **2025 Teacher of Peace award**. This annual award is given to 1) a living person (or an organization), 2) who is Catholic, and 3) has made significant contributions to Catholic peace with justice activities and has demonstrated a commitment to challenge and transform structures and cultures of oppression through active nonviolence and peace with justice. The Pax Christi USA national council will decide on the recipient of the Teacher of Peace award later this spring, with the hope to present the award at our national conference in Detroit in July. Find more information and a nomination form on the Pax Christi USA website, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org).

# On the line: Updates from local, state and regional groups

## Pax Christi Maine



During 2024, Pax Christi Maine (PCM) focused on deepening a spirituality of nonviolence through advocacy, retreats, prayer, and book discussions, including an event in September with Fr. John Dear (*see photo*). Members actively engaged in local groups addressing issues like climate justice, nuclear disarmament, Indigenous rights, and economic justice. Legislative advocacy efforts included letter-writing and testimony on key issues.

PCM expanded its focus to include responses to the genocide in Gaza and gun violence prevention. Connections with Pax Christi USA and International strengthened through participation in national programs, peace masses, and working groups. A new website was developed to improve outreach and communication. PCM increased community engagement by collaborating with interfaith groups, peace organizations, and colleges, hosting events, and participating in protests, vigils, and advocacy efforts for global peace, justice, and nonviolence. Members took action on issues like immigrant rights, environmental justice, closing the Guantanamo Bay prison camp, nuclear disarmament, and supporting marginalized communities.

## Pax Christi Little Rock

In 2024, Pax Christi Little Rock (PCLR) focused on peacemaking efforts, community service, and advocacy. The group began the year by joining other peace organizations in promoting nonviolence and participated in various events, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass, where a PCLR member received the Daniel Rudd Memorial Award.

PCLR hosted a three-part speaker series on human trafficking, featuring experts from NGOs and the FBI, and later focused on gun violence prevention, collaborating with Moms Demand Action and the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits. The 10th annual Pilgrimage for Peace honored victims of gun violence, and Pax Christi members actively engaged in protests and vigils, including events supporting Palestinian rights and interfaith solidarity gatherings. Community service efforts included working with Settled Souls to provide food and home essentials for newly housed individuals, supporting local schools with school supplies, and preparing Thanksgiving baskets for families in need. The group also participated in environmental stewardship efforts, interfaith programs like a Passover Seder at the Islamic Center, and advocacy events at the Arkansas State Capitol.

A highlight was the immersion trip to the U.S.-Mexico border (*see photo*), where members learned about immigration challenges and volunteered at a refugee center. The year concluded with a fundraiser for Palestinian aid, a Christmas party supporting a local family, and ongoing collaboration with peace and justice organizations.



## Pax Christi Stark County, Ohio

In January 2025, Pax Christi Stark County, Ohio contributed to the 32nd annual, regional celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. 's birthday by inviting members of the community to learn about Kingian nonviolence from Pax Christi USA National Field Organizer Stephen Niamke. Stephen facilitated a three-hour conversation on principles, practices, and philosophy of the Dr. King's nonviolent activism. Niamke emphasized that peace work is difficult, requires courage, and demands long-term commitment, referencing the Montgomery Bus Boycott as an example, as they expected the boycott to last for just a day or two, but it went on for 381 days. He stressed the importance of peace organizations dealing effectively with conflict within their own group, and also noted the importance of gathering accurate information, educating one's self and the public, personal commitment, and effective negotiation as one interacts with perceived opponents. He defined the concept of direct action in the event that negotiations break down, and emphasized the role of planning for reconciliation throughout the process.

Stephen, who is also affiliated with Meta Peace Team, provides de-escalation training and encourages communities to engage in peacebuilding efforts. His visit reinforced Pax Christi Stark County's mission to reduce gun violence and promote justice through nonviolence.

# A reflection for Easter Sunday, April 20

Written by Ralph McCloud, from "Return to me with all your heart: Reflections for Lent 2025"

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Colossians 3:1-4 OR 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 | John 20:1-9 OR Luke 24:1-12

*Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

## **Christ is risen!**

The critics and the haters were all wrong. Those who sought to slander and degrade Jesus were wrong as he is indeed risen! Two thousand years later, the resurrection offers us a message of hope. Despite criticism, attacks, humiliation, and even execution, hope still prevails! It is a clear and obvious reminder that despite the horrors of the cross, a glorious resurrection awaits for those who love the Lord.

In our world today, hope seems to be so elusive. Hope seems rare in the many war-torn portions of our globe. Hope seems fleeting in communities where stark poverty is prevalent and futures seem so dark. Hope can seem non-existent for so many youth who have been neglected by unjust educational systems. Hope seems scarce in communities divided by political ideologies



while human suffering abounds. Hope is all the condemned inmates can cling to as they languish on death rows all over the world. But this Easter we are reminded once again of the power of God to deliver us as Jesus was delivered.

Pope Francis has invited us to participate in this year of Jubilee as pilgrims of hope. So this Easter should be different: reflective, repentant, renewed. In his opening statement, Pope Francis invites us to renewed hope: "Let us even now be drawn to this hope! Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it. May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words: 'Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!' (Psalm 27:14) May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever."

Indeed, may the power of hope fill our days!

## **Reclaiming the power of nonviolence in a broken world**

**Pax Christi USA National Conference, July 25-27, Detroit**

In a time of global challenges, Pax Christi USA invites you to join us in Detroit for a transformative weekend of hope and action! This year's national conference will be held at the **Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center**. (Virtual participation will also be available.)

Whether you're a seasoned member or new to the movement, this conference is your opportunity to **connect, learn, and renew your commitment** to peacemaking and care for the Earth and all its inhabitants. The weekend will feature workshops, liturgies, and activities designed to advance nonviolence in our broken world and build a revolution of love.

We're excited to announce that our keynote speakers will be author and nonviolence organizer **Maria Stephan**; Palestinian lawyer and activist **Jonathan Kuttab**; and **Martha Inés Romero**, Secretary General of Pax Christi International. Music coordinator and performer **Dr. Vallimari Jansen** and liturgist **Frank Jansen** will join us as musical liturgists throughout the weekend.

**Sponsorships and exhibitors welcome!** Contact Daniel Francis, dfrancis@paxchristiusa.org, for more information.

**Registration is open now** on the Pax Christi USA website, [www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org). **Sign up today** and join us in Detroit in July for an unforgettable weekend!

