

# PEACEMAKING PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2018

## Calendar Items

### Mon., January 1 - Jubilee Day -

Cascade United Methodist Church, 3144 Cascade Road S.W., Atlanta, 11:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. (see article)

**January 11, 2018**, the 16th anniversary of the opening of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. (see article on page 2)

**Thursday, January 18 - Coalition of Immokalee Workers** have issued a nationwide call to fast. (see article)

### Tuesday, January 23 -

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia **Issues & Advocacy Training**, Trinity Presbyterian - Atlanta, 6 - 8:30 pm; soup dinner provided. To register, go to [www.p4bg.org](http://www.p4bg.org)

### Saturday, January 27,

**Peacemaking Partnership Annual planning meeting**, 9 am - noon, North Decatur Presbyterian Church. We welcome new members or visitors. We will have devotion, study, budget planning and reports.....and snacks! Please join us and share about peacemaking in your congregation

## January 1 - Jubilee Day

Jubilee Day is an annual Atlanta NAACP observance of the issuance of The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. Some 155 years later, too much of American society still maintains certain aspects of the white supremacist views that supported the enslavement of a race of people in perpetuity.

On January 1, 2018 the NAACP has invited all faiths and denominations to come to a worship experience "to remember, reflect, and refocus" as a people, of faith, who seek justice for all. (Cascade United Methodist Church at 3144 Cascade Road S.W., Atlanta, 11:00 A.M. until 12:30 P.M) The theme for this year's celebration is "What Does Freedom Look Like?" The message will remind us of the work that remains for America to achieve peace from within.

As part of an ongoing campaign to address racial injustice, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sharing a wealth of antiracism resources — including studies, books and training — to equip the greater church to work against racism. Go to [facing-racism.pcusa.org](http://facing-racism.pcusa.org) to download resources.

### Info about the Coalition of Immokalee Workers....

On January 18 hundreds of faith leaders from around the US will join together to fast for a day. They will again call on Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program.

The Campaign for Fair Food and the boycott of Wendy's has been endorsed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and many other faith communions. The boycott campaign will last until Wendy's joins the four other largest fast food companies in the highly effective farmworker-driven Fair Food Program. The Program has a six-year track record of dramatically improving the conditions and pay for these lowest paid workers who harvest our food. Adherence to the Fair Food Program has also ended sexual harassment and abuse in the fields. Read more at [www.pcusa.org/fairfood](http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood)

**.Sunday, February 4,** is "**Chaplains Sunday**" to receive offerings to support Presbyterian Caring for Chaplains. These gifts by congregations or individuals enables the recruitment, endorsement, and support of PCUSA clergy as chaplains providing pastoral care and nurture to veterans, military and Civil Air Patrol personnel, federal prisoners, and their families. For more information go to [www.PCCMP.org](http://www.PCCMP.org) or contact Bill Nisbet, [bill@roswellpres.org](mailto:bill@roswellpres.org), or 404-277-0014

**Wednesday, February 21 -** Presbyterians for a Better Georgia **Day at the Capitol**, 9 am to noon - meet at Central Presbyterian Church. To Register, go to [www.p4bg.org](http://www.p4bg.org)

**Monday, February 26, Justice Day, hosted by Georgia Justice Project**, 9 am - 1 pm, Georgia Freight Depot, 65 MLK Jr. Dr SW, Atlanta. This meeting will provide a unique opportunity for local residents to discuss the criminal justice reforms that will have the most impact in 2018.

**April 20-23 -** Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day and Ecumenical Advocacy Days, PC(USA) Office of Public Witness, Washington, DC - ***A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People***

Contact Peacemaking Partnership ([kt2654@gmail.com](mailto:kt2654@gmail.com)) regarding scholarship for registration.

## A Prayer for the Closing of Guantanamo

January 11, 2018 is the 16th anniversary of the opening of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. This detention center at Guantanamo Bay remains a symbol of our nation's use of torture, and a place where even now, over a decade after they were first captured; most of the remaining prisoners have never been charged or tried for any crime. The Peacemaking Partnership is a member of NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) and we have followed their studies on this issue as well as the concern about practices of solitary confinement. We offer this prayer from the NRCAT website - [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org)

Leader: God of all creation, be with us this day and every day. Encourage us, your people, to seek justice and peace as we live one with another across the globe.

People: Help us to honor the dignity and worth of every person, treating every person as your unique creation.

Leader: O God, empower leadership that seeks to embody our highest ideals.

People: We pray for the courage, as individuals and as a nation, to do what is right even when we experience fear and uncertainty.

Leader: We pray for those who have been tortured and indefinitely detained at the detention center at Guantánamo Bay.

People: We pray for the family members of those tortured, those who died in detention, and those held in indefinite detention.

Leader: We pray for those working at Guantanamo today.

People: We pray for wisdom for our leaders. We pray for the spiritual healing that our nation can experience from closing Guantanamo and putting an end to this dark and errant chapter in our nation's history.

Leader: We pray for an end to the divisions that perpetuate "othering" our fellow human beings – an end to racism, an end to xenophobia, an end to religious bigotry, and an end to any and all destructive divisions.

People: O God of grace and peace, may your light shine ever brighter in each and every person.

All: Amen.