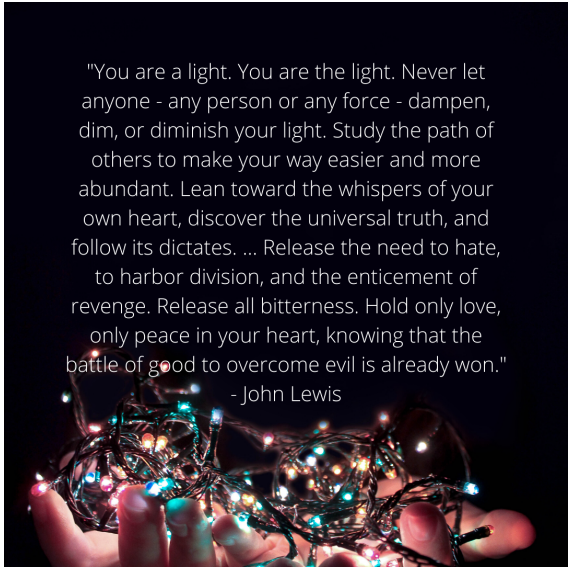


Sleepers Awake!

As we move closer to the end of both the Liturgical and calendar years, darkness steals the sunlight earlier, especially as daylight saving time ends. A different kind of darkness envelops the world as the Israeli-Hamas brutal war intensifies, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine grinds on, straining the spirit of the suffering Ukrainian people and the financial commitment of the United States and Europe. As I write this reflection, the largest mass shooting of this year in Lewiston, Maine, with its subsequent shutting down of an entire city, has consumed the news. With the manhunt over, grieving families plan funerals and prayer vigils to bring people together in shared grief. But easy access to assault weapons of war continues.



"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone - any person or any force - dampen, dim, or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. ... Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won."
- John Lewis

The scriptures for the [33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) issue warnings. Paul writes to the Thessalonians that just "When people are saying 'Peace and security' then suddenly disaster comes upon them . . ." (1 Thes 5:3), as it did on October 7 in Israeli communities, as it does everyday in Gaza, as it did in a city in Maine. Rather than allowing the darkness to overwhelm us with the temptation to sleepwalk through the chaos and violence, Paul admonishes: "Therefore let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober" (1 Thes 5:6). In the gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus reminds the disciples, and us, that we are responsible for each other, and he challenges each of us to use our "talents," our God-given gifts, "each according to his ability" (Mt 25:15). We are not all expected to be "children of the light" in the same way, but we are expected to be awake and hold up a light, no matter how small, in the darkness.

Franciscans are called to be peacemakers; why? Because Francis walked the streets of Assisi giving a greeting of peace to all, and told the friars to do the same, even though the greeting of peace invited ridicule and abuse when there was a rallying cry for war with Perugia. Francis followed in the footprints of Jesus who repeatedly said, "Peace I give you. . . not as the world gives peace." Jesus and Francis were totally awake in the dark turmoil of their times.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
Associate Director

Suggested Action:

Reflect on the "talents" you have received from God. Are you using them as fully as you could to bring some light into the darkness? Perhaps take action on an issue you feel passionately about.

Suggested Petitions:

That all of us pray and act for peace, globally and at home, we pray to the Lord.
That we use our talents to shine a light in the darkness, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer by St John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, prince of peace,
make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and neighborly love.
Banish from (our) hearts whatever might endanger peace.
Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.
May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters.
May longed-for peace blossom forth, and reign always over us all.

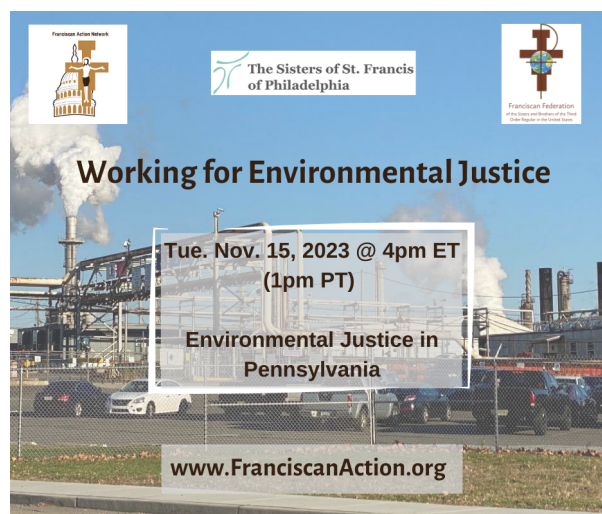
Amen.

Tomorrow: Webinar on Environmental Justice for Pennsylvania

Please join us tomorrow **Wednesday, November 15 at 4pm ET (1pm PT)** to learn about environmental injustices in Chester, Pennsylvania, site of one of the largest trash incinerators in the country (operated by Covanta Delaware Valley). Hear what the residents of Chester are demanding and how you can support them in environmental justice advocacy. [Register to attend here](#). **This event will be recorded and all registrants will receive a link.**

Our speakers will be **Zulene Mayfield** of Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL), **Dr. Giovanna Di Chiro** of Swarthmore College, and **Chris Folk**, student activist from the Campus Coalition Concerning Chester (C4).

The majority low-income Black and Brown residents of Chester, Pennsylvania experience disproportionate adverse effects on health and quality of life from the pollution released by one of the largest trash incinerators in the country, in addition to a sewage waste treatment facility, chemical manufacturing plants, and other polluting industries located in this historic city on the Delaware River. [Learn more](#).



Christian Pray-In at Senate Building Calls for Peace

FAN cosponsored a pray-in by Christian peacemakers in the Senate Hart Building on Thursday, November 9, 2023. Fifty participants called on U.S. senators to support a ceasefire in



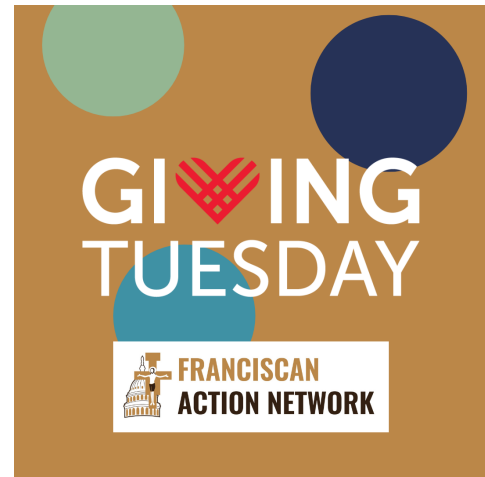
the war between Israel and Hamas, as [Pope Francis continues to plead](#). The service included intercessory prayers for Palestinian and Israeli victims of violence, a gospel reading, and songs. A short reflection by a Palestinian Christian speaker was interrupted by Capitol Police. Several demonstrators, including FAN Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy and executive director Michele Dunne, laid on the floor in the shape of a cross as part of a planned nonviolent civil disobedience action. The service was completed outside the building. Find photos and links to articles about the action on our [FAN Shows Up webpage](#).

The same day, Churches from Middle East Peace (CMEP) released a statement with thirty American Christian leaders calling on President Biden and his Administration to support an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation, and restraint by all involved. [Read the statement here](#).

Donate to FAN this Giving Tuesday

Franciscan Action Network has begun an exciting new project this year thanks to you, our dedicated supporters. Our first-ever [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference](#), held in October, brought together 60 young adults and 40 older adults to work together to advocate for care for God's creation. One St. Bonaventure University student wrote in a reflection, "To say that this trip changed my life would be a wild understatement."

FAN is excited to make this wonderful intergenerational experience an annual event but we need your help to do it! This year, **Giving Tuesday is November 28**. [Please donate](#) to help us serve you in 2024 through reinvigorated advocacy, increased young adult involvement, and strengthening our relationships.



Greccio Resource from Conventual Franciscan Friars

The Conventual Franciscan Friars have created a new resource for Advent. Available in 15 languages, "[Creating Your Nativity Scene with Pope Francis](#)" honors the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' living nativity at Greccio by interweaving history, prayer, and art.

With beautiful artwork by Friar Joseph Dorniak, and content by FAN Board Member Friar Michael Lasky, this meditation can be used for a dramatic large living nativity with hundreds of people, within a religious community, in a school or parish, in a family home, or for individual devotion.

To access the Greccio O Antiphons in English, [click here](#). For other languages, [click here](#) and expand the top menu.

CREATING YOUR NATIVITY SCENE WITH POPE FRANCIS

GRECCIO AND THE O ANTIPHONS

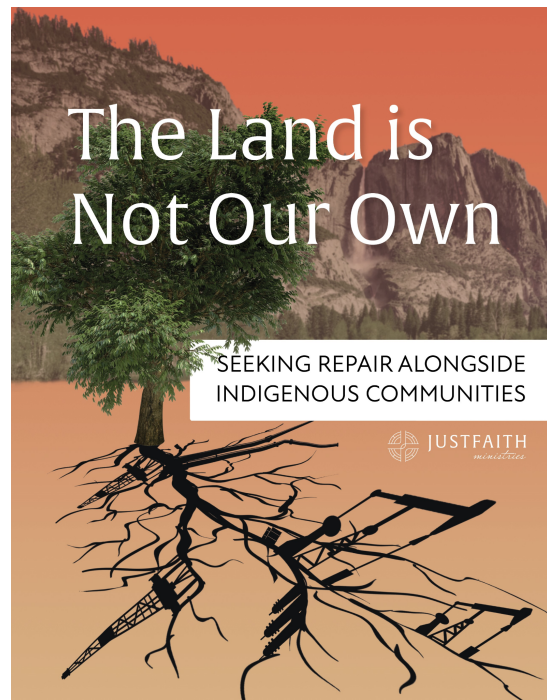


Just Faith Ministries Offers New Program

[JustFaith Ministries](#) (JFM), in collaboration with The [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), has developed a new program designed for ordinary people in their in-person or virtual communities. [The Land Is Not Our Own: Seeking Repair Alongside Indigenous Communities](#) is a 9-session small group program that inspires and equips congregations and communities to stand alongside Native communities in working for justice and repair.

Grounded in prayer, deep listening, community, and mutual respect, this small group process lays a foundation of trust and relationships through which participants can acknowledge injustice, honor the interconnectedness of all Creation, and seek healing, repair, and hope. JFM provides all the training, materials, and support you need.

Learn more about the program and how you can bring it to your faith community by [clicking here](#). Register for an upcoming information meeting by [clicking here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

At the November national FJC call, we were able to connect across distances. In our sharing we learned that the DE-Valley FJC is following up an Oct. focus on the death penalty with a Nov. focus on restorative justice, inviting a fellow Franciscan to share from lived experience. The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in CO continue to focus efforts on creation. A NJ parish JPIC committee is educating and inviting people to act on environmental justice in the bulletin each week and a Circle member is looking to connect with others who have experience with [Nonviolent Cities initiative](#) from Pace e Bene. If you'd like to connect with the FJC monthly call, please [contact us](#).



Upcoming FJC gatherings:

St. Bonaventure U. FJC: Tues. Nov. 14 at 11:30am in person

Delaware Valley FJC (PA, NJ, DE): Tues. Nov. 14 at 7:00pm Eastern on zoom

Cleveland-area FJC: Wed. Nov. 15 at 7:00pm Eastern on zoom

Virtual FJC: Thurs. Nov. 16 at 11:00am Pacific / 2:00pm Eastern on zoom

Northeastern Georgia FJC: Thurs. Nov. 16 at 4:30pm Eastern on zoom

E. Wisconsin FJC: Thurs. Nov. 16 at 4:00pm Central on zoom

Chicago-area FJC interest meeting: Sat. Nov. 18 from 3-4:30pm Central in person

Driftless Region FJC (W. Wisconsin & E. Minnesota): Monday, Nov. 20 at 6:30pm Central on zoom

If you would like to connect with any of these Circles or learn more, please contact FAN staff, [Nora Pfeiffer](#).

