Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!

News and Action Summary for August 18, 2017

It feels as if we’ve experienced a seismic shift in just one week following the horrific events in Charlottesville, VA last Saturday. We pray for a city and country in crisis. We pray for the family of Heather Heyer and the families of all who were injured and hurt when James Alex Fields drove his car into a crowd assembled to show their opposition to racism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and other forms of hate. We pray for cooler heads to prevail, and for a change of heart for those who hold such hatred in their hearts. The Pennsylvania Council of Churches has released a statement expressing the need for all Christians to speak out against the hate, and to urge our elected officials to publicly condemn these dangerous ideologies. Read our statement on Charlottesville at A Statement on the Events in Charlottesville, VA and Addressing Ideologies of Hate.

Learn also about another effort we hope to undertake, starting in a small way on September 30: A Civil Tongue: How to Talk About Hard Things Without Yelling at One Another. We are looking for congregations that may be interested.

Many events scheduled for this weekend and early next week—check below!

Check out our recently posted event: Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform: Principles and Practice—October 1-2, Harrisburg. We’d love to see you there!

Speaking Out in Pennsylvania—We Need Your Support! Consider contributing to our advocacy ministry and supporting this work! Recurring support is especially important!

Check out the Actions, Events, Opportunities and Resources, and News Posts below—just click on the links under each category to get to the information. We’ve placed the most critical issues under Important Actions and Issues. To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

As usual, we understand that there is a lot of information here and in the links provided for further information. Please know that you aren’t expected to act on everything! Just choose the issues that are most important to you and take action. Sometimes you will be directed to action pages of other organizations—don’t worry! These are organizations that we work with regularly and who share a common interest.

Please consider contacting your legislators to thank them when they support your position as well, or to express your disappointment when they don’t. We don’t follow up with them often enough. They need our feedback to understand how we feel. Go to https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/getLocal.jsp to find a summary of your federal and state legislators with basic contact information.

Our website is updated regularly—please visit to find updated links, resources, etc. at http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org. It is a work in progress, and issue pages continue to be created as time
permits. If there is something you would really like to see that isn’t there, please contact us at s.strauss@pachurches.org.

And finally—if you appreciate this ministry, we would very much appreciate your support; you can learn how by clicking here.

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**URGENT ACTIONS**

If you don’t have time for any other actions, please consider taking action on these issues!

Tell Your Representative: Say NO to Bad PA Budget Bill that Puts Environmental Protections in Danger

Stop The RAISE Act from Separating Families & Reducing Refugee Resettlement

Tell Congress: Stand with Immigrant Youth

Tell Your PA Representative: Leave Medicaid Alone!

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**NEW & ONGOING ACTIONS**

Support Legislation to Reduce Child Poverty

Demand that Elected Leaders Stand Against White Supremacy and Violence

Sign Open Letter to Media: Call the Hate Groups What They Are

Send Public Comment to Protect Special Areas in National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

Take Action in August for Redistricting Reform

Demand a Transparent Process for NAFTA Renegotiation that Puts People Over Profits

Actions Against Torture During August Recess

Sign Faith Voices Letter to Protect the Johnson Amendment, Keep Sacred Places Sacred

Organize a Hometown Visit to Support the Johnson Amendment

Sign Petition: PA Legislators, Pass the Fair Share Tax

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**IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!**

So Much Happening: Here’s How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates

Summary of All News Posts Since Previous Update

Federal Agencies Warned of White Supremacist Threat in May

Charlottesville Reminds Us of the Courage It Takes to Stand Against Racism

In Charlottesville, the Local Jewish Community Presses On

Environmental Hearing Board Overturns Mining Permit

Trump Administration Agrees to Continue Healthcare Subsidy for Now

CBO Reports Ending ACA Payments Will Add to Deficit

What is the Economic Cost of Violence Against Women?

Lots of People Care About the School to Prison Pipeline

Corporations Pay Far Less Than the Statutory Tax Rate

All Five Half Hour Videos on Drone Warfare Now Available

Smart Justice Campaign Director—ACLU, Harrisburg
EVENTS

For a full monthly calendar of events, see the Events page at http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/. For a listing with descriptions of events, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/list/. For general information about our calendar, links to ongoing events, and how to submit events, go to http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/about-our-calendar/.

Ongoing events:

**Together to End Solitary**—Monthly on the 23rd

Events in the coming weeks:

- **Nuclear Showdown with North Korea?**—August 20, Summerdale
- **SHUT DOWN BERKS Interfaith Witness & Make the Road PA Vigil**—August 20, Leesport
- **LIPW Summer Film Series: Thirteenth**—August 25, Lancaster
- **Ministers March for Justice**—August 28, Washington, DC
- **Screening: Suffragette**—September 1, Springfield
- **Remembrance of 9/11: Honoring Those Who Lost Their Lives**—September 10, Harrisburg
- **Welcoming Center Free Legal Clinic**—September 12, Philadelphia
- **Get to Know Your Environmental Rights**—September 14, Philadelphia
- **Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism**—September 14, Lancaster
- **Salam Neighbor Screening**—September 14, Harrisburg
- **2017 PA Community Alliance Summit**—September 18-19, Harrisburg
- **Faithful Advocacy for Criminal Justice Reform: Principles and Practice**—October 1-2, Harrisburg
- **Child-on-Child Abuse Seminar**—October 5, Lancaster
- **Health Care in Uncertain Times**—October 23-24, Harrisburg
- **Homes Within Reach Conference**—December 4-6, Harrisburg

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT

For postings since the previous Summary...

Resources  
Opportunities  
Jobs, internships and fellowships

NEWS POSTS


Subscribe to our weblog via e-mail (see link at bottom of [home page](http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/news-summary/news-summary-archive/)).

*Summary of most recent News Posts.*
SUPPORT THE COUNCIL’S ADVOCACY WORK


Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/pachrchadvocacy.


Financial support for the Council’s Advocacy Ministry is always welcome! Go to our online support page at https://www.pachurches.org/shop/ and look for "Public Advocacy Donation."

And finally…PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL!

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