



# PEACE SUNDAY

*being people of peace*

**APRIL 30 @  
10:30AM & 12PM**

**[granthamchurch.org/peace-social-justice](http://granthamchurch.org/peace-social-justice)**



# **Blessed are the Peacemakers: Listen, Learn, and Love**

**Jim S. Amstutz, DMin**

Grantham Church – April 30th 2023



## Texts:

### **Matthew 5:9 (NRSV)**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*



## Romans 12: 17-21

*<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*



## Received knowledge of the faith community

As we grow from nursery to nurture, we become part of the fabric of this community...We trust our parents, our SS teachers, our mentors and pastors, to provide us with the framework, the knowledge and the incarnated theology of our faith story and peacemaking tradition so that one day we might choose it for ourselves.



Akron Mennonite Youth Service  
Trip to Chicago, 2012



# LISTEN

- Deep listening is to practice empathy—putting ourselves in their shoes.
- To be a skilled practitioner in conflict transformation and mediation is to *listen carefully, reflectively* and *deeply* to all those involved.

## LEARN



Loretta Ross

## Calling IN instead of Calling OUT

- A call-in is a call-out done with love.
- You need some preparation that begins with self-assessment.
- What are your motives?
- Are you in a healed enough space for someone else's feelings?

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## Rev. C.T. Vivian

“When you ask people to give up hate, then you need to be there for them when they do.”





## Not using the currency of evil

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Romans 12:17

*“Christians are under the same obligation to shape their conduct by the structuring power of grace in the secular world as they are to shape their conduct by that structuring power in the Christian community.” - Paul Achtemeier*



## Jeremiah 29:7

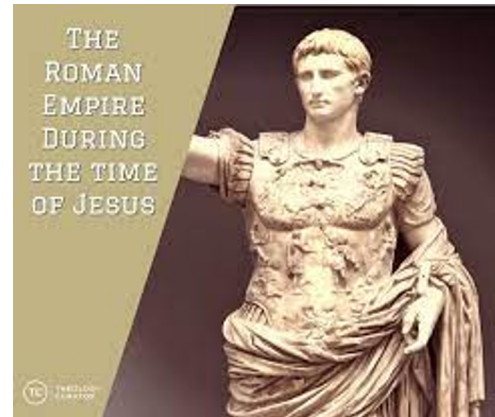
But seek the welfare (literally the *shalom*) of the city where I have sent you into exile, for in it's welfare (*shalom*,) you will find your welfare (*shalom*).

If your enemy is hungry, feed them, as the prophet Elisha did to the invading Syrian empire troops in his day. (2 Kings 6:18-23).



# LOVE

Theology of Creation instead of Theology of Empire



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## Christ-hymn of Philippians 2

*“Though he was in the very form of God, he did not think equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking on the form of a servant, and lowered himself to the very bottom and was crucified as a criminal on a cross.”*



## Are you the one who is to come?

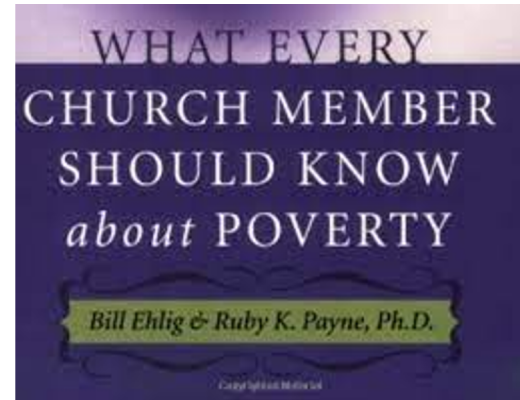
*“Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them.”* **Luke 7:22**



# The Porch Project



## Community Meals



## Our calling—our mission

Our calling, our mission, our biblical mandate is to be children of God by being peacemakers; not only peace-*sayers* and peace-*prayers*, but peace-*makers*.





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