

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

November 2020

## The prophet Amos reminds us that a nation without justice shall fall

September 24, 2020

*From the Faith Leaders of the Kentucky Council of Churches*

With so many others in the Commonwealth today we stand in solidarity with those feeling the frustration and outrage of yet another injustice in the case of Breonna Taylor’s death at the hands of Louisville police. Assurances that the letter of the law was observed is hardly comforting when the law has been written, manipulated, and used to deny justice to persons of color in too many times and places. And once again, the opportunity to promote healing and community reconciliation has been passed over. We deplore the injuries endured by protestors and police alike, and hold in our prayers the healing of their bodies, minds, and spirits as we pray for the very soul of our nation.

For Breonna Taylor’s family and for many other individuals the long delay in the investigation has already been trauma upon trauma. That the grand jury saw fit to charge no one with any crime in the unjust death of Ms. Taylor but only for the wanton endangerment of her white neighbors is a chilling testament to the inadequacies of our legal and law enforcement procedures as currently construed. Black lives matter. But in the areas of our laws and practice, not as much as white lives.

This must change. Ms. Taylor’s death is

but one of countless, disproportionate acts of violence suffered by persons of color. Those acts have been perpetrated and perpetuated by a system of police practices and laws rooted in systemic preservation of white-skinned power and privilege. This is idolatrous sin and direct rejection of Christ’s command for neighbors to love each other as we love ourselves.

The prophet Amos reminds us that a nation without justice shall fall. Christ, even in the beatitudes which calls for comforting those who mourn, also reminds us that blessing comes to those hungering and thirsting for righteousness; and later, that which we do unto the least we have done unto Christ himself. This is the heart of God’s yearning for us and the source of any ethical or moral standing we might seek with the Almighty.

In ethical and moral standing, our society has fallen far short of the mark. While some may be just now coming to awareness, others have known for generations the need for both repentance and action. Let the disappointments and disillusionment of this day demand that we work tirelessly toward the day when our justice systems, our economic systems, our educational systems, our voting systems, and all other aspects of our life together reflect the value of black and brown skinned people. We cannot stop or rest until we have become “repairers of the breach, restorer of streets to live in.”

To that end we call for:

- The immediate improvements in police procedures and for continuing, transparent, community-based review of those procedures with appropriate and timely consequences for those who



endanger human life or well-being. Police review boards at both state and city level should comprise citizens representing the diverse neighborhoods they serve.

- The removal of military equipment from our neighborhoods as tools for policing and the end of the “1033 Program,” whereby Congress transfers excess military equipment to local police agencies for use in counter-drug activities.
- Prohibitions to the hiring or retaining of any law enforcement officer who has a history of excessive force and misconduct.
- Reform and improvement of the broken practices that result in little or no repercussions for aggressive officers. So called “internal policing,” and unchecked police union contracts, powerless civil arbitration boards, and ineffective external (non-police) review boards contribute to the culture and practice of uncalled-for police violence and inappropriate exoneration of offending officers.
- An end to the standard of “reasonableness” that allows police officers to shoot to kill black and other racial minority citizens on the officer’s assertion that they feared for their life.
- Support for initiatives that help inform and educate journalists, police departments, and other civic entities

*continued on page 2*

Gun Violence	
<b>In America as of 10-27-2020</b> (year to date)	
Killed	15,375
Suicide	19,866
Wounded	31,843
<b>2019</b> (annual)	
Killed	15,208
Wounded	29,501
Source: <a href="http://www.gunviolencearchive.org">www.gunviolencearchive.org</a>	

## Kentucky Council of Churches

*continued from page 1*

about the culture, history and religious conceptualizations of black, indigenous, and other persons of color. Ignorance, unsubstantiated biases and “white-skinned norming” have contributed to poor understanding, poor policy, and poor community involvement.

- The commitment of all persons, parties, protest movements, and departments to engage passionately and non-violently, respecting the dignity and worth of each human soul, even as we relentlessly address the injustices too long endured. We cannot advance the cause of peace and justice by becoming the very evil we deplore and hope to eradicate.

We urge all Christians to join us in prayers and action:

- For understanding the system of racial bias we all participate in, and for dismantling it in our hearts, homes, and congregations.
- To hold leadership accountable at every level, in every municipal and state office, that a higher regard for racial justice may prevail.
- To participate meaningfully and effectively through voting and a commitment to voting rights.

Let us adhere to the challenge of the prophet Micah: to do justice, love

kindness, and walk humbly with God toward that day where no mother must fear for their child’s life in their own bed.

In the sure and certain hope  
of resurrection,  
Rev. Kent Gilbert, *President*  
Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II  
*Executive Director*

*At the direction of and on behalf of the gathered leaders of the Kentucky Council of Churches*

The Kentucky Council of Churches is composed of the following communions and observers.

- African Methodist Episcopal
- African Methodist Episcopal Zion
- Christian Church in Ky. (Disciples of Christ)
- Christian Methodist Episcopal
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky
- Episcopal Diocese of Lexington
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Roman Catholic
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church
- Union Church, Berea
- Friends Meeting Berea/Lexington
- Church Women United
- Church World Service

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

*Board of Directors:* Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Rick Clewett, Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie.

*Peaceways Staff:* Margaret Gabriel (editor); Penny Christian, Mary Ann Ghosal, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (proofreaders). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ.

*Member Organizations:* ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter; Ahava Center for Spiritual Living; Amnesty International, UK Chapter; Bahá’ís of Lexington; Berea Friends Meeting; Bluegrass Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program; Bluegrass United Church of Christ; Catholic Action Center; Central Christian Church; Commission for Peace and Justice, Catholic Diocese of Lexington; Gay and Lesbian Services Organization; Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky; Hunter Presbyterian Church; Islamic Society of Central Kentucky; Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Kentucky Chapter; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Kentucky Resources Council; Lexington Fair Housing Council; Lexington Fairness; Lexington Friends Meeting; Lexington Hispanic Association (Asociación de Hispanos Unidos); Lexington Labor Council, Jobs with Justice Committee; Lexington Living Wage Campaign; Lexington Socialist Student Union; Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church; Newman Center at UK; North East Lexington Initiative; One World Film Festival; Students for Peace and Earth Justice (Bluegrass Community and Technical College); Peacecraft; The Plantory; Progress (student group at Transylvania University); Second Presbyterian Church; Shambhala Center; Sustainable Communities Network; Union Church at Berea; Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington; United Nations Association, Bluegrass Chapter.



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## Voting locations, Election Day

In-person on Election Day will take place from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. at one of the following locations in Fayette County. You may vote at any location. For in-person voting in other counties, see [govoteky.org](http://govoteky.org)

**Tates Creek Branch Library**  
3628 Walden Drive  
Lexington, KY 40517

**Northside Branch Library**  
1733 Russell Cave Road  
Lexington, KY 40505

**Beaumont Branch Library**  
3080 Fieldstone Way  
Lexington, KY 40513

**Dunbar Center**  
545 N. Upper Street  
Lexington, KY 40508

**Lexington Senior Center**  
195 Life Lane  
Lexington, KY 40502

**BCTC Leestown Campus**  
164 Opportunity Way  
Lexington, KY 40511

**Wellington Elementary**  
3280 Keithshire Way  
Lexington, KY 40503

**Garrett Morgan Elementary**  
1150 Passage Mount Way  
Lexington, KY 40509

White supremacy won't die until white people see it as a white issue they need to solve rather than a black issue they need to empathize with.

# Calendar for Peace & Justice

*The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.*

**Tues., Nov. 3**

**Election Day, at last** If you have not submitted an absentee ballot or voted early, vote. Just vote. Polling locations in Fayette County for today are listed on page 2. For locations in other counties, see govoteky.org

**Tues., Nov. 10**

**CKCJ peace action committee,** 4:30 - 6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

**Tues., Nov. 10**

**PFLAG Central Kentucky,** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Please go to the PFLAG Central Kentucky Facebook page before the meeting and register to join and receive the Zoom link.

**Mon., Nov. 16**

**CKCJ steering committee meeting,** 5 - 6:30 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to participate in the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com

**Tues., Nov. 17**

**CKCJ health care action team,** 4:30-6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

**Tues., Nov. 17**

**BUILD** Team leaders at BUILD's 27 member churches are planning the listening process that initiates the BUILD process every year. Leaders will determine whether to meet their teams virtually or socially distanced, following all guidelines. The format for the Community Problem Assembly in November is still being determined.

**Fri., Dec. 4**

**Faith and Community Christmas Store,** the portal for families to register to receive gifts for 2020 will be open beginning today. See the December issue of *Peaceways* for the time and location for pick-up.

*Afflict the comfortable; give comfort to the afflicted.*

## Holidays in the COVID era

We are in the midst of a COVID-era Halloween season. For many people, October 31, 2020, Halloween isn't looking much different than it did the last few years: front lights dark; little, if any, candy in the house; no doorbells ringing.

But for those who are more in the spirit of the season, they've missed costume parties, trunk or treat, hayrides and the Thriller parade. If kids insisted on trick-or-treating, the health department recommended treat distribution be handled by preparing individual bags arranged on a flat surface so the little goblins could pick them up themselves in order to avoid hand-to-hand contact. No big bowl of candy, no dropping treats into an outstretched pillow case. <*sigh*>

Doctor Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, strongly recommends that we re-think our Thanksgiving celebrations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has included on its website low, moderate and high risk activities for end-of-the-year holidays, including *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) and Thanksgiving. In a nutshell: the lower the risk, the grimmer the recommendations. Think very small groups and sharing recipes virtually. See [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov). <*sigh*>

But what about Christmas? For many

people, participation in the Salvation Army Angel Tree, the FOF Toy Drive or the Faith and Community Christmas Store is as much a part of their holiday as family, church and gift-giving.

The Salvation Army and the firefighters are working together on their 2020 holiday outreach. Instead of decorating trees with gift suggestion tags at area malls, families will be asked to register online to receive items from Walmart, grocery stores and local businesses.

The Catholic Action Center, too, has been forced to scale down holiday events. Its Thanksgiving feast will include the traditional turkey, dressing, cranberries and dessert, but it will be served in "to-go" boxes packed by socially-distanced volunteers in the kitchen at 1055 Industry Road.

Changes are also coming to the Faith and Community Christmas Store, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2020. Because the store uses hundreds of volunteers to distribute gifts to thousands of people there is no way to provide the necessary social distancing in the usual format.

Like the Salvation Army, the Christmas Store will require recipients to register online, and several schools are preparing bags of gifts that will be distributed to about 1,500 families.

Details about the locations and times for the drive-through Christmas Store were pending at press time, but the distribution date will be Dec. 21 or 22.

"It's not the same, but we didn't want to skip our 25th year, COVID or no COVID," said CAC director Ginny Ramsey. "There's going to be a great need for Christmas 2020, so groups that help have changed how they do their outreach. COVID will not stop the Christmas spirit!"



*The fellowship at the Catholic Action Center Thanksgiving feast will be different in 2020, but meals will be served in to-go boxes.*

## Elections and personal ambitions have consequences

By Jim Trammel

*Musings, with lots of \*spoilers\*, on Hamilton (the filmed stage show being presented on Disney+ cable channel) and what it says about how things were, and are, during our great democratic experiment.*

\* \* \*

With the election so close, I'm going to observe protocols (though you-know-who never does) and refrain from overt side-choosing. Let's instead consider a couple of the truths the Lin-Manuel Miranda musical *Hamilton* imparts about our democratic process, and social justice.

One truth, unsurprising: "Elections have consequences." Political parties are not provided for in the Constitution, but psychologically they are an inevitability, as a leader's actions will always engender opposition.

The U.S. has managed to make the ebb and flow of power work relatively well for 250 years. It's a victory against sometimes-long odds, and we've had our ups and downs. A friend once told me the U.S. ship of state has a rudder with only two positions: hard right or hard left. Once we put partisans in positions of power, we shouldn't be surprised at the results.

The second truth, somewhat more surprising: An ambitious person can seize on and exploit world turmoil for the opportunities it presents. The four patriots on Hamilton's "team" illustrate this personally.

Hamilton wants a war command to demonstrate his superior brain and

remove the stigma of being an immigrant (an epithet his enemies toss at him throughout his life). Hercules Mulligan joins the revolution and becomes a spy because "I know it's my chance to socially advance" – echoing Hamilton that "war is the only way to rise up."

John Laurens, another Hamilton ally, has a personal ambition that borders on social justice: He wants to form the first all-black regiment.

The fourth revolutionary conspirator, the Marquis de Lafayette, is a professional freedom-fighter complex enough to carry a show of his own, which would move through the American and French revolutions – *Hamilton* meets *Les Miserables*.

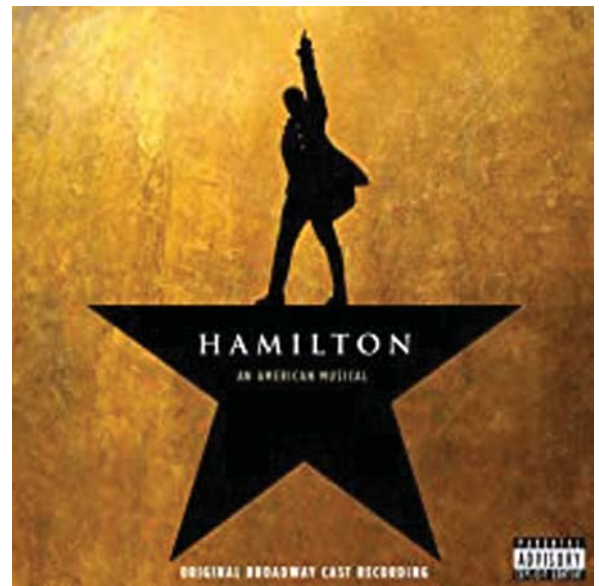
The show is far from perfectly progressive. It does not directly critique the social issue of slavery, except through its ironic comment of having these slave-owners and

slave-traders portrayed by black and brown actors (though Hamilton does at one point throw away offhandedly that "we'll never be free until we eliminate slavery"). On this, they're kind of stuck: The show couldn't

***Democracy is like a raft; you never sink, but your feet are always in the water.***

~ Fisher Ames

stay nearly true to history and make revisionist comments on the Founding Fathers. Consequently, the show doesn't take them to task very often or for very long. The most pointed is a quick mention that Virginia's agricultural prosperity is propped up



by slave labor: "We all know who's doing the planting."

Everyone except Laurens is into personal goals: boosting their politics, marrying into money, winning elections, or acquiring powerful allies.

Women's issues get even shorter treatment: The Schuyler sisters are bystanders to their men's stories, a disservice to Eliza especially, who historically went on to great achievements on her own briefly mentioned in a tacked-on epilogue, and her sister Angelica, who incredibly arranged a trans-continental jailbreak for Lafayette from Prussian captivity in the post-French Revolution 1800s.

*Hamilton* reassures us that the partisan stresses we deal with today are nothing new. As Hamilton tried to get his grand federal-government financial plan approved by Congress, he said of his detractors, "They don't have a plan, they just hate mine." I imagine President Barack Obama thought about the Affordable Care Act, which a six-conservative-member Supreme Court is about to torpedo, and shook his head in sad recognition.

Reviewer Jim Trammel has already voted. Go thou and do likewise.

Editor's note: *Hamilton* is available for home viewing on Disney+. Even if you subscribe to the streaming service for a full year, there's no way you could get in to see a live performance of *Hamilton* for only \$69.99.

# Environment = Relationships

By Father John Rausch

Lucius Thompson built an addition onto his mobile home in Tom Biggs Hollow in McRoberts, a coal camp in Letcher County. Strip mining has gouged deep scars into the surrounding mountains and mountaintop removal (MTR) decapitated many of them. Constant blasting eventually separated his addition from the main structure, so when it rained, he caught the drippings in buckets.

That worried him, but he freaked when his three small grandchildren playing in his yard came in moments before a strong gusher washed through the hollow with power enough to sweep them away.

I came to appreciate the glories of creation through the sufferings of people. Ministry taught me to help victims of floods, storms and sickness, but frequently I saw the human factor linked to these natural disasters. I began looking over the shoulders of those suffering asthma and cancer caused by the disturbed environment, and glimpsing the beauty of the mountains' promise of health and wholeness. I began preaching care of creation as part of the Gospel mandate.

In 2015 Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si*, an encyclical letter that illustrates intricate connections: "how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace."

Certain implications flow from this connectedness, altering the approach of all believers toward creation. Reading *Laudato Si*, I found five salient teachings.

1. *A spiritual perspective must be part of the discussion on the environment.*

There is something beyond the "usefulness" of creation. The "People's Pastoral" of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia warns against viewing the mountains simply as a mineral colony and not with the interconnectedness of people and the land. Pope Francis warns that if we approach creation without a sense of awe and wonder, we will become

.....

*This Garrard County garden attracts pollinators from the bee hives at Divine Providence at Cliffview.*

ruthless exploiters. As we treat nature, we will treat our neighbors. Further, anthropocentrism stifles our stewardship of creation, because it fails to recognize the priority of "being" over "being useful."

2. *The poor are disproportionately affected by climate change.*

Since 2007 peer-reviewed studies by university researchers concluded that MTR in Appalachia contributes significantly to higher rates of birth defects, cancer, and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases of people living in the mining area. Fine particulates float airborne continuously around MTR sites, promoting the growth of lung cancer cells in nearby residents. Mining makes the profits, while the people face the pollution.

3. *Everything is connected.*

"Environment" in *Laudato Si* refers to the relationship between nature and society, so the environmental crisis is really a single complex crisis, both social and ecological. "Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature."

In Appalachia social planners frequently fail to alleviate poverty by overemphasizing only one aspect: education, job creation, or welfare reform. A holistic approach must include



an array of social indicators incorporated with a respect for creation.

4. *To address the environmental crisis, we need a global dialogue with solidarity.*

Pope Francis appeals for a new dialogue that includes everyone. Too frequently in the past, special interests and economic interests have thwarted the common good and manipulated information to protect their own plans. He says countries that have benefitted from a high industrialization at an enormous cost to the environment have a greater responsibility for providing a solution for the problems they have caused.

I once participated in a dialogue between coal-related executives and church and community workers. The first meeting produced more heat than light, but a subsequent meeting brought a mutual agreement that more coal severance money should be returned to coal counties for development. Years later, now that demand for coal has fallen precipitously because of environmental concerns, these same executives admit little future exists for coal, while they pursue alternative investments. No one industry can simply replace coal, but numerous, modest and creative efforts might build a sustainable future in the mountains.

5. *To save the earth, we need a change of heart.*

Pope Francis encourages a change of lifestyle that dethrones consumerism as the source of happiness. "Less is more" represents a spirituality that proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life. Living with moderation allows each person to appreciate the little things of life and derive satisfaction from beauty. This integral ecology encourages a kind word, a smile and a small gesture to promote peace and friendship, thus defeating "the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness." E.F. Schumacher encapsulated this approach with his saying: "The greatest well-being with the least consumption."

Pope Francis ends his encyclical with the meaning of Sabbath: "a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world." A day of contemplative rest is not unproductive, but actually necessary to give meaning and appreciation to work, beauty, relationships and community."

●

*Father John Rausch, a Glenmary priest and activist, died in February, but his passion for the environment lives on.*

# Submissions to *Peaceways*

Articles submitted to *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity.

Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End-notes or footnotes are not used.

Please query submissions to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) before writing a feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text.

If you submit material that has been published or that you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this.

Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article, for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story.

Submissions should be made in Word format *via* email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor, but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published monthly except January.

Support CKCPJ by linking  
your Kroger Plus card  
to #16439 at  
[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com).

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### Check with website for times when meetings are resumed

**CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings**, third Monday, 5 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. More info: (859) 488-1448 or [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com). All are welcome.

**Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace**, every Thursday, 5:30 - 6 p.m. at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

**Migrant Network Coalition**, first Monday, noon - 1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, [lmatingly@lexpublib.org](mailto:lmatingly@lexpublib.org), (859) 231-5514.

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, second Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Visit [info@pflagcentralky.org](http://info@pflagcentralky.org) or (859) 338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

**Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky**, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or [info@lexfair.org](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

**Wednesday Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" discussion group**, 7 p.m., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours, and other links at [www.glsso.org](http://www.glsso.org).

**Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky**, first Thursday, 7 p.m., Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. Meetings are open to people of all beliefs willing to express their opinions in a civil manner. Child care is provided. Contact President Staci Maney, [staci@olliegee.com](mailto:staci@olliegee.com) or (859) 797-2662.

**Kentuckians for the Commonwealth**, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at Fourth St. and MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact Beth Howard, (859) 276-0563.

**NAMI Lexington Support Groups**, every Sunday, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Ct., Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit [www.namilex.org](http://www.namilex.org).

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program**, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call (859) 277-5126. The Christian-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

**Dance Jam**, every Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session to cover space rental. Contact Pamela, [info@motionmatters.org](mailto:info@motionmatters.org), (859) 351-3142.

**Movies with Spirit**, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 p.m., film at 7.

**National Action Network**, third Thursday each month, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, Lexington.

**Showing Up for Racial Justice**, second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).



The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138  
Lexington KY 40511

Issue #337 • November 2020

*People must learn to hate and if they can  
learn to hate, they can be taught to love—  
for love comes more naturally to the  
human heart than its opposite.*

~ Nelson Mandela

## National Coming Out Day: A demonstration of love

From Facebook:

#NationalComingOutDay was Sunday, Oct. 11 and for lots of reasons it was tough to post about this year. Coming out was a nonlinear (and ongoing) process for me, as it is for lots of folks. I came out mostly publicly while living in Lexington when I was still at UK, and it was liberating but also very stressful. Some people in my family were my biggest supporters, but some of them were also my harshest critics. My biggest support group, up until that point, had been the church I'd be a part of SEVERAL years. Coming out resulted in 99 percent of them dropping me without a word.

Atlanta was where I finally learned how to love myself and be myself. It was a new start with the man who'd eventually be my husband (love u B) in a neighborhood where he and I were wholly welcomed. Together we made some of the best friends we've ever had. Finally, it felt like I was thriving.

We returned to Lexington several months ago and moving back to Lexington scared me. It was a city I had loved (and which loved me!) as a college kid but in some ways it had rejected me as a newly out gay man. Eighty percent of the people in Lexington that I knew were part of this biological and/or church family that had rejected me. Moving back to this city caused a lot of anxiety (plug for #WorldMentalHealthDay).

In some ways it has felt like coming out again, presenting this new version of myself where I am confident and happy and thriving. And it has been scary, but it has also been SO

liberating. I don't have anything to prove to anyone, I don't have to define myself to anyone and I certainly don't have to change for anyone. And if you had told Kalib Lindsey that he'd feel this way five years ago, he'd never have believed you.

I really don't know if there's a point to these ramblings, and I know in some ways I have privilege way beyond what other people have. But I believe things can and will get better, both as a society and for any of y'all personally who have come out, who



Brad and Kalib Elliott

are coming out, or who think you might come out someday.

I'm here if you ever need me. Love all of y'all. Come out when you're ready, but know you have an enormous community ready to welcome you when you are.

~ Kalib Elliott

## *Hood to the Holler survey*

CKCPJ treasurer Steve Katz is working as a digital organizer for Hood to the Holler, an organization founded by state representative Charles Booker. HTHH is focused on leveraging momentum for positive change in Kentucky and nationally through the aim of building broad coalitions, breaking down barriers of race and class, and fueling a people-centered movement to build political power and transform our future.

Organizers are doing digital door-knocking and working on getting feedback from folks to take another step forward in its mission to empower a more reflective

democracy and to break down barriers across Kentucky.

HTHH is working to get 10,000 responses to its community survey and appreciates input and feedback from *Peaceways* readers. You can find the survey at <https://forms.gle/bpma71FeFzm7nasv7> Results to this survey will allow HTHH to create programming that is more responsive to folks' needs. Every response will help them create a people-centered movement that is ready to transform our future and ultimately end generational poverty.