May 2018

Greetings! We'd like to take this chance to explain our new monthly bulletin, which will take the place of the regular bulletin once every 4-5 weeks. Each month, we will compile the latest news, events, and updates from Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) into one easily digestible email in order to keep you, our supporters, readily informed about our work. We are so grateful for your continued support and readership, and hope that you will find this update helpful as we all strive to make peace possible.

Registration for our annual Advocacy Summit, And Still We Rise, is still open. Learn more and register today!
Prayer Vigil: 2 Peoples, 3 Faiths: On Tuesday evening, May 15th, more than 40 people gathered in Lafayette Square in front of the White House for a multi-faith prayer vigil calling for a more diligent, yet nonviolent, pursuit of peace and justice in Palestine by both Israelis and Palestinians. The emphasis of the prayer vigil was in response to the recent move of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and called for a shared Jerusalem for two peoples - Israelis and Palestinians; and the three Abrahamic faith traditions - Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Event Calendar

Events | Upcoming & Recent

June 2018 Advocacy Summit: And Still We Rise: Transforming U.S. Policy Toward a Just Middle East

The Summit seeks to elevate the voices, contributions, and leadership of women peacemakers. Despite the growing recognition of the need for programs that empower and equip women, and the fact that women make up the majority of students in Middle East universities, women’s voices are still too often underrepresented.

Register Today!

June 2018 Pilgrimage to Peace: California, Colorado, Florida, mid-Atlantic, New York, Wisconsin

Join delegates from our Washington D.C. Advocacy Summit and a representative from CMEP as we host conversations with these peacebuilders in your city. Conversations will focus on peacebuilding and constructive conflict in Israel, Palestine, and the broader Middle East.

Learn More
Meeting with Omani Ambassador: On May 14, CMEP executive director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, and volunteer, Heather Edwards, visited with the Ambassador of Oman.

Press Releases & Public Statements | Reactions to Recent Events

Trump Administration Needs to Acknowledge Harm Done by Embassy Relocation

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) voices our most vigorous opposition to the Trump Administration’s decision to relocate the embassy and recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel without equally acknowledging Palestinian claims. We express our outrage at this administration for refusing to acknowledge the role this decision played in escalating violence in Gaza, which resulted in the deaths of more than 60 people and injury to over 2,200 Palestinians during the week.

CMEP Welcomes PLO Re-Commitment to Peace Negotiations, Condemns Anti-Semitic Remarks

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) welcomes President Abbas’s renewed commitment to the establishment of a Palestinian state existing alongside Israel and his calls for non-violent popular resistance to Israel’s occupation. CMEP condemns the anti-Semitic and inflammatory remarks and affirms that support for a Palestinian state does not require downplaying historical Jewish suffering or denying their connection to the land.
Regional Coordinators in Action: Jessica Hill, CMEP Regional Coordinator for Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, speaks at St. Mary's College of Maryland to classes about the realities on the ground in Palestine/Israel and the daily burdens of living under occupation. Students learned about how U.S. policy directly impacts the Holy Land and how they can become involved in advocating for a just peace for all living in the region.

Interested in Becoming a Regional Coordinator?

Prayers for Peace | Stories from the blog

Every Woman Has a Story

Sarah Linder is a collector of stories. A current resident of Israel originally from Denmark, Sarah was also raised in France, Switzerland, and Belgium. With a Danish mother and Israeli father, she brings a unique and multilingual perspective to storytelling that has helped build bridges within Israeli society.

Read More

Despite Suspension, Jerusalem Tax Leads to Christian Crisis in the Holy Land

In the weeks between Holy Week and Pentecost Sunday, the Christian church around the world continues to reflect upon the significance of Jerusalem. Despite centuries of changing political landscape and war, the Christian community in the Holy Land has remained a small, but constant presence in this historic and holy city. Smaller in numbers, but mighty in witness to God.

Read More

Pentecost: Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem
Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told his disciples to remain in Jerusalem, for it was there they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Shortly after his ascension the day of Pentecost came, and the Holy Spirit descended, first like a violent wind, then as divided tongues of fire. As each tongue rested on them, they began to speak in other languages that were not their own.

**Running for Human Rights**

On March 23, I had the opportunity to join over 7,000 runners of all ages gathered in Bethlehem’s Manger Square, awaiting the signal to cross the starting line to begin the 6th annual Palestine Marathon. The route of the Palestine Marathon begins in front of the Church of the Nativity and runs through two refugee camps. Runners journey alongside the eight-meter-high separation barrier and around the guard towers posted in various parts of the wall’s route.

Through the AmazonSmile program, you can designate CMEP to receive (as a donation) 0.5% of the price of all Amazon purchases you make. Your purchase costs remain the same!

**CMEP in the News | Mentions and Publications**

**Trump Is Putting American Lives in Danger by Inflaming Anti-American Sentiment in the Mideast**

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Haaretz (May require subscription)

**I Now Understand Why Durham Police Must Not Train with Israeli Forces**

Ralph McCoy, The Herald Sun

**Middle East Conflict 'Purely Man-made', Prominent Activist-Scholar Stresses as United Nation Forum on Question of Palestine Begins**
Amid Debate and Violence, Trump Delivers Embassy Victory to Christian Base

Elizabeth Dias, The New York Times

Seize Chances to Better Understand Israel-Palestine Conflict

Karen G. Brockleman, Duluth News Tribune

CMEP in Action: On May 10th, CMEP traveled to Wilmington, DE, for a meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon presented on the Palestinian occupation, child detention, the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land, and the Great March of Return, followed by a robust question and answer time. Denominations represented included Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, Catholics, and Greek Orthodox.

Inquire about Hosting CMEP