

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 1, 2023



GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

STAND IN THE G.A.P. REPORT

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE
(CMEP)



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CMEP's Statements & Press Releases

Released since October 7th

- December 1: Christians from Holy Land Come to D.C. to Advocate to Peace and Comprehensive Ceasefire
- November 29: 68 Global and Christian Leaders Call for a Ceasefire and Peace.
- November 24: CMEP Welcomes News of Temporary Cessation in Violence and Release of Hostages; Renews Calls for a Permanent Ceasefire and an Enduring Peace.
- November 22: White House Candlelight Prayer Vigil.
- November 20: Media Advisory for Press Invitation Nov. 20, 2023, 6:00 pm EST.
- November 17: CMEP Fears Devastating Impact of Violence on Christians in Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza.
- November 16: White House Candlelight Prayer Vigil Calling for Ceasefire and End to Violence between Israel and Hamas.
- November 13: CMEP affirms the November 10th statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.
- November 13: Letter from Church-Based Leaders to President Biden.
- November 9: Media Advisory for Virtual Press Briefing; Implications of Arming the Israel-Palestine Conflict.
- November 3: Ceasefire Now! Biden Administration's Response Inadequate to Catastrophe in Gaza.
- November 1: CMEP Co-Sponsors: Catholic Pray-in at the White House Calls for President Biden to Support Israel-Hamas Ceasefire.
- October 26: End the War Now: CMEP Fears Catastrophic Deaths of Civilians in Gaza.
- October 23: CMEP Affirms the October 21st Statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.
- October 20: CMEP Condemns Attack Against St. Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza.
- October 19: CMEP Calls for a Ceasefire and Issues Desperate Plea: President Biden's Humanitarian Relief is Not Getting to People in Gaza.
- October 19: CMEP affirms the October 17th statement of the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.
- October 17: CMEP Expresses Sadness and Outrage at Bombing of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.
- October 13: CMEP Joins United Nations in Call Not to Ignore Gazans "Dying at the World's Watch."
- October 13: CMEP Affirms Statement from Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem.
- October 12: CMEP joined 26 other Church-based denominations and organizations.
- October 9: CMEP Implores Restraint, De-escalation of Conflict, Humanitarian Access, and Addressing Core Issues of Conflict.
- October 7: CMEP Condemns All Acts of Violence, Calls for Prayer, and Implores Global Leaders to Address Core Issues of the War between Hamas and Israel.



CMEP In the News

Churches for Middle East Peace: A Call to Action

Adding to the voices calling for peace is the group Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP). They have called upon the US to refrain from interventions that could potentially worsen the situation. The group advocates for an immediate end to violence, urging all parties involved to exercise restraint. Highlighting the potential for a protracted military offensive and possible ground invasion into Gaza, they stressed the impact on civilians, particularly children.

The CMEP is also advocating for the resumption of essential services like power, water, and gas for the people of Gaza. They stress the need for the protection of access to humanitarian aid and are calling on the international community, including the US, to pursue alternative means to protect Israeli and Palestinian civilians. They believe that addressing the core issues of the conflict is vital to achieving long-term peace.

Harvard Divinity School Panel Provides 'Theological Perspective' on War in Israel and Palestine



Three members of the Harvard Divinity School's Religion and Public Life program and Mae Elise Cannon, the executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, discussed the religious context of the Israel-Gaza war during a panel on Wednesday. By [Aran Sonnad-Joshi](#)

By [Matan H. Josephy](#) and [Aran Sonnad-Joshi](#), Contributing Writers
October 19, 2023

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"As Israel and the world are in shock at the news of past days, grief, lament, and horror are appropriate responses to the violence that has occurred," **said** Rev. Mae Elise Cannon, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace, an ecumenical coalition of Christian communions. "For Palestinians, many feel their own suffering and catastrophes, at the hands of a decades-long military occupation and encroaching settlement expansion and violence has long been ignored. Neither tragedy negates the other. If there is ever to be long-lasting and sustainable peace, the core causes of the conflict must be addressed and resolved."

170+ mentions

Staff writing and direct quotes featured in:



The Harvard Crimson



RED LETTER CHRISTIANS

Also featured in:



THE JERUSALEM POST



The Washington Post

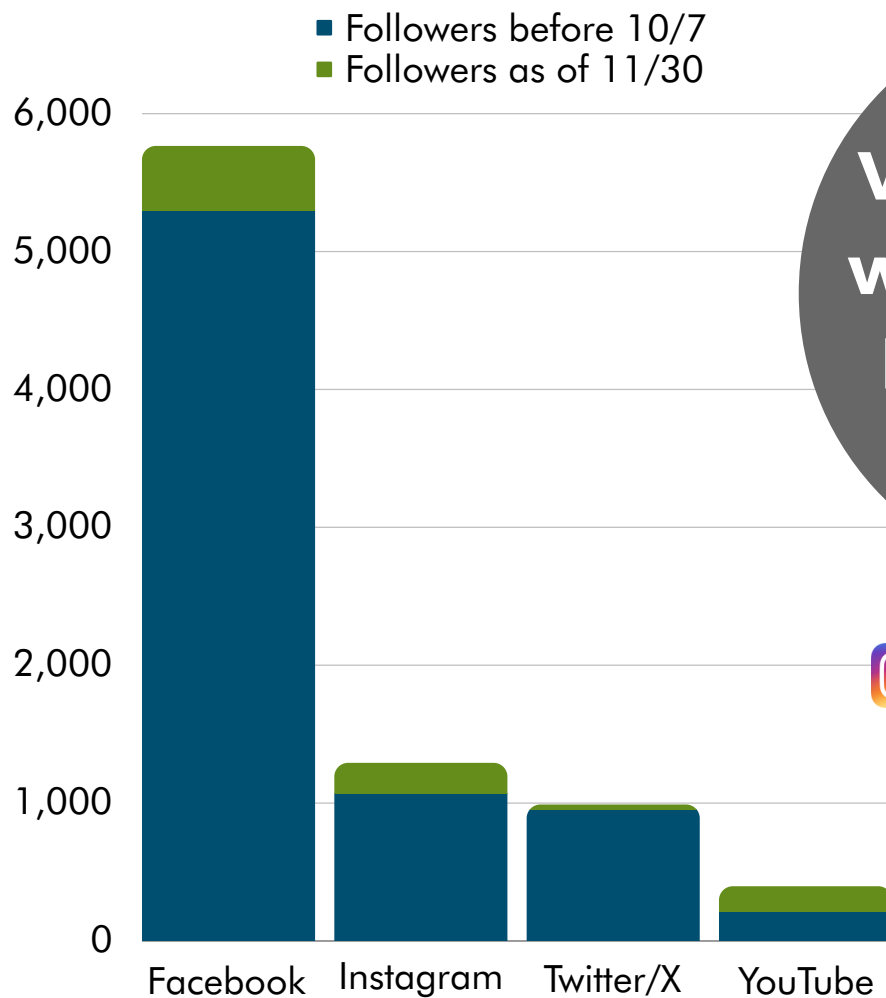
Mondoweiss



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"My faith is really the only thing that keeps me going," Cannon told CBS News. "From an earthly perspective, there is no hope. And yet because we are people of faith, I fundamentally believe light will overcome the darkness."

Social Media



Viewers have watched 1.3k+ hours of our videos



1,068
New Subscribers to CMEP Publications

550 minutes of daily updates

507 minutes of educational webinars

ADVOCACY

3047

**messages sent
to both House
and Senate**

45

**states represented
through
action alerts**

349

**Congressional
offices contacted**



Rev. Dr. Jack Sara (left), Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, and Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon at White House on November 28, 2023.

CMEP has engaged with key stakeholders including government officials in the Middle East, Congress, the White House and the United Nations

CMEP's Executive Director

Speaking engagements around the country:

First Church Cambridge , Cambridge, MA
Overlake Community Church, Redmond, WA
Rock Spring UCC, Arlington, VA
Fircrest Presbyterian, Fircrest, WA
Bellevue Presbyterian Church, Bellevue, WA
Quest Church Seattle, WA
Edmonds UMC, Edmonds, WA
Peacemaking in the Midst of War podcast
Better Samaritan podcast
Interfaith podcast
Reconciliation Table podcast
Red Letter Christians podcast

Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
Memorial Church in Harvard Yard, Cambridge, MA
Hopewell Reformed Church, Hopewell Junction, NY
Lincoln Park, Chicago, IL
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI
Missio Dei, Uptown, Chicago, IL
LaSalle Street Church, Chicago, IL
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL
Thornapple Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marietta, GA
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, GA

Mae's Travel

October 7 - end of 2023

75+
engagements &
meetings

*Seattle, WA

Boston, MA*

Milwaukee, WI*

Hopewell Junction, NY*

Chicago, IL*

*Grand Rapids, MI

*New York City, NY

Washington DC *
Alexandria, VA *

*Los Angeles, CA

*Phoenix, AZ

Atlanta, GA

Middle East Partners

What we are hearing from the ground:

Eccumenical Advisory Group

"International Churches should hear from us on the ground. They do not know what is happening and they write their statements as if they do. We know because we see it and live it"

ACT Alliance

"Christian Gazans have two options: Leaving Gaza or death"
– Bassem Thabet

AIDA

"Calling for a humanitarian pause is problematic. Without a ceasefire, the same people we help will die" – Jason Lee

ELCJHL

"I want to battle that feeling of normalization. What is happening is not okay. People come to us as pastors, yet we are struggling too."
– Rev. Sally Azar

Jerusalem Liaison office, World Council of Churches

"People who fled south already returned north. Now they are forced back south because there is nothing left North... except death." – Yusef Daher

Bethlehem Bible College

"You [CMEP] give us hope"
– Shireen Hilal Awwad

CMEP Events

cmepeg.org/events

Joining in Prayer

average of 38 people per week

almost 400 people registered
for weekly prayer

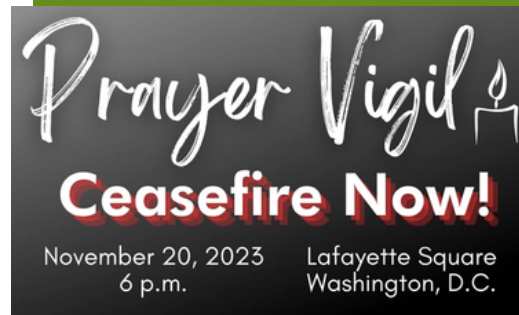


CMEP
WEEKLY EVENTS

Community Calls to Congress
Mondays 12 - 12:30 pm ET

Praying for Peace
Wednesdays 12:30 - 1 pm ET

Weekly Briefings
Thursdays 10 - 10:30 pm ET



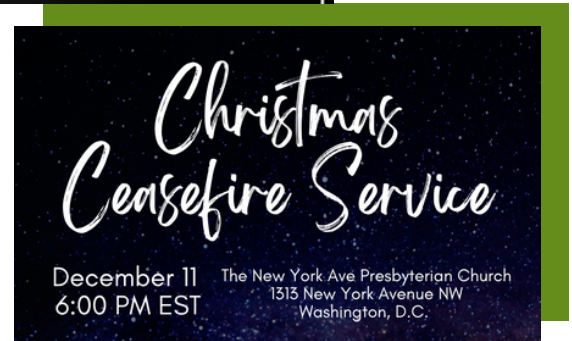
Prayer Vigil
Ceasefire Now!

November 20, 2023 6 p.m.
Lafayette Square
Washington, D.C.



Prayer Vigil
October 27th, 2023

CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE



Christmas Ceasefire Service

December 11 6:00 PM EST
The New York Ave Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue NW
Washington, D.C.

Other Events

- **Fr. Drew Christiansen Holy Land Lecture Series**
 - November 13, Scranton: Minority Rights and Realities in the Holy Land: Relationships with the Religious Other
 - November 15: Israel-Palestine: Recent Developments, Difficulties Ahead.
 - November 16, Notre Dame: Minority Rights and Realities in the Holy Land: Relationships with the Religious Other.
- **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, DC.**
- **Faith in Action: Jewish, Christian, & Muslim Solidarity for Just Peace in Times of Conflict at Harvard Divinity School**
- **Hopewell Junction, NY: Responding to the War with Prayer & Action with Jonathan Kuttab**

Church Partners

CMEP Staff have spoken and offered prayers at

15

churches across the U.S. including Boston, Seattle, and New York.

2 new churches have joined CMEP as Church Partners

3 churches have purchased and used our curriculum on Israel/Palestine

Overlake Community Church announced that CMEP would be the recipient of their end of year gift of

national organizations have reached out about joining the CMEP board, expanding CMEP's reach by tens of thousands

2

\$10,000

Over

18

churches who are not yet church partners have shared CMEP resources and been invited to engage with our work and consider partnership.

Podcast

During this difficult time of war, CMEP is continuing to elevate the voices of Palestinians and pursuing critical conversations.

Through the current recording of our And Still We Rise (ASWR) Uniting Women for Change podcast series, we are creating a space for dialogue between Palestinians and Americans. We look forward to the releasing of this series!

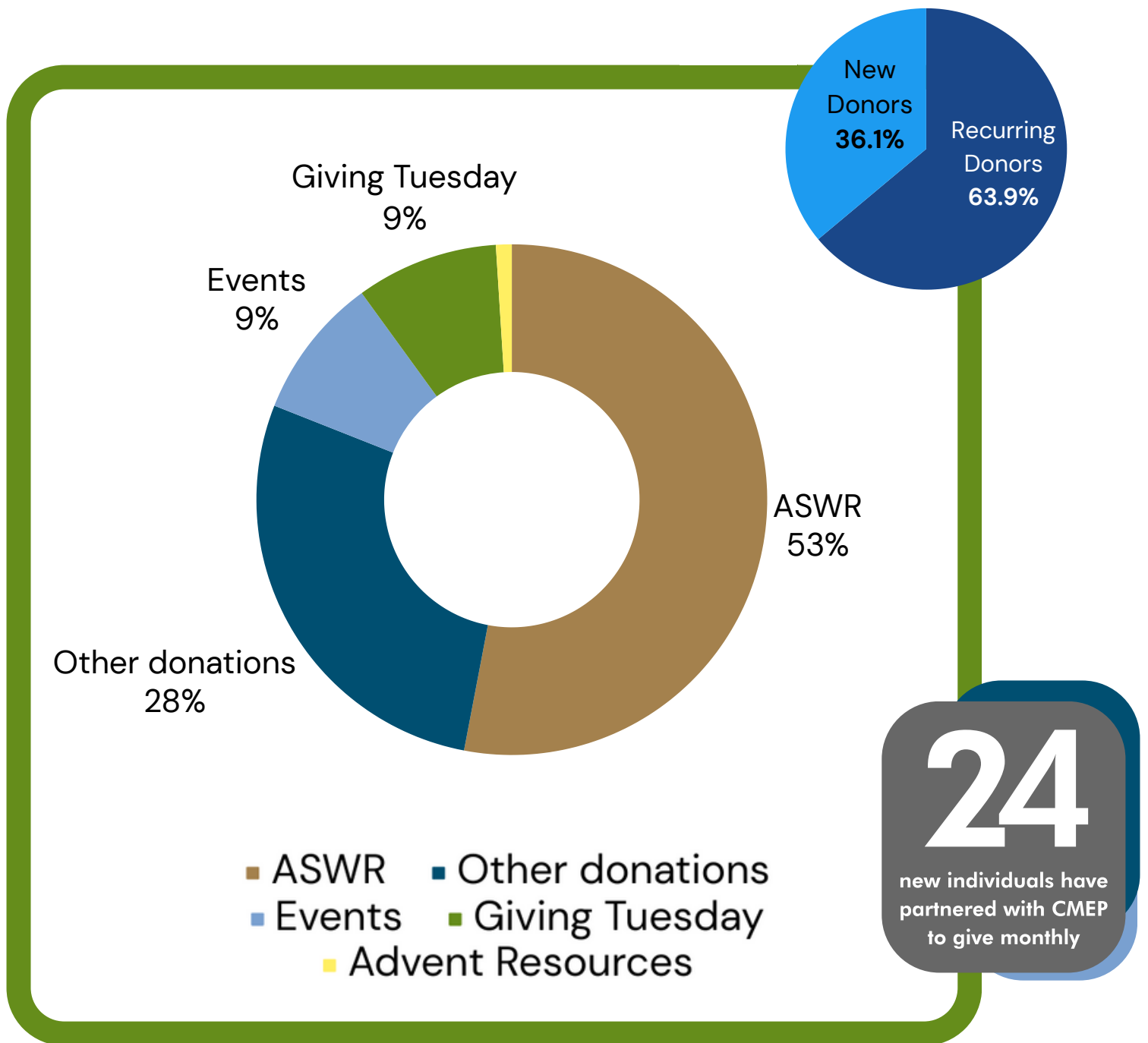
Tune in soon.

TAMAR HADDAD DESTINY MAGNETT

UNITING WOMEN FOR CHANGE:
AN AND STILL WE RISE PODCAST

LAUNCHING DECEMBER, 2023

Support Raised



Thank you to all who have given generously to the work of CMEP since October 7th. Your financial support has enabled us to continue doing our pressing work in this time of great need.

Looking toward 2024

and how you can partner with CMEP



Give, Act, & Pray



Attend the ASWR Summit in Jericho



Attend the April Advocacy Summit

Help us pursue peace

- **CMEP is aiming to raise \$400,000 to accomplish many of the following goals:**
 - **Educate**
 - \$30,000 = Pilgrimage to Peace tours of CMEP staff and Palestinian Christians
 - \$40,000 = Re-hire the Outreach Coordinator position
 - \$20,000 = Staff speaking tours at colleges, churches, and communities to further the reach of CMEP across the US
 - **Elevate**
 - \$50,000 = Palestinian voices: Hire a full-time And Still We Rise (ASWR) Coordinator
 - \$30,000 = Funding for expanded programming and scholarships for Palestinian women to attend the upcoming ASWR Summit in November 2024.
 - \$20,000 = Funding for staff to travel from the US to the Middle East (ME) and for travel throughout the ME region to work in person with our Middle East partners
 - \$50,000 = Re-hire the Manager of Middle East Partnerships in a full-time capacity
 - **Advocate**
 - \$70,000 = Re-hiring of the DC-based Mobilization Manager position, vacant since December 2022
 - \$50,000 = Re-hiring of the Communications Coordinator position, vacant since February 2023.
 - \$25,000 = Expand programming of the upcoming Advocacy Summit, April 9-11
 - \$15,000 = Website update and Congressional software