

Peace & Justice

SUPPORT NETWORK

Sculpture by David Fast.

Mennonite peace witness



Objection to militarism has long been a central part of the Mennonite peace witness. From the persecution endured by Mennonites for refusing to participate in World War I, to development of conscientious objector (CO) status service during World War II, to actively speaking out against war in the Middle East, our history of opposing militarism as an act of faithfulness to Jesus is remarkable.

More recently, however, our collective voice against militarism has dimmed. A variety of factors have contributed to this. The “perpetual wars” that began in response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, have raged so long that it becomes difficult to maintain ongoing opposition. The horrors of those wars are minimized, with government and willing media partners determined to keep the reality of war out of the news and out of our minds.

Other important peace and justice issues arise, locally *(Continued on page 2)*

Members of the Mennonites Against Militarism reference group

					
Dick Barrett	Jason Boone	Jes Stoltzfus Buller	Kathy Neufeld Dunn	Zachary Headings	
					
Hyun Hur	Sue Park Hur	Cyneatha Millsaps	Bert Newton	Titus Peachey	Clara Weybright

Mennonite peace witness

(Continued from page 1)

and globally, that require attention. The absence of a military draft removed the urgency of speaking out against the militarism for many. Other reasons could be cited, but the result remains the same: Our collective voice against militarism is not as strong and clear as it once was.

We believe the time is here for our church to regain its ability to speak prophetically and boldly about the sin of militarism. In order to find our collective voice, we need to think strategically about how to encourage Mennonites to become engaged against the sin of war and militarism. We need to use new communication methods and platforms to educate our youth. We need to create opportunities for collective actions to express our beliefs. We need to prayerfully re-examine our entire approach to opposing militarism.

This is a great undertaking, and one that will require partnership, collaboration, and hard work. The Peace and Justice Support Network is glad to announce the formation of the Mennonites Against Militarism reference group. This reference group will help with that re-examination of our approach to opposing militarism. What type of resources should be produced to encourage opposition to militarism? What specific issues of militarism should be focused on? What type of events could help encourage opposition to militarism? These and other strategic questions are the type this group will help discern.

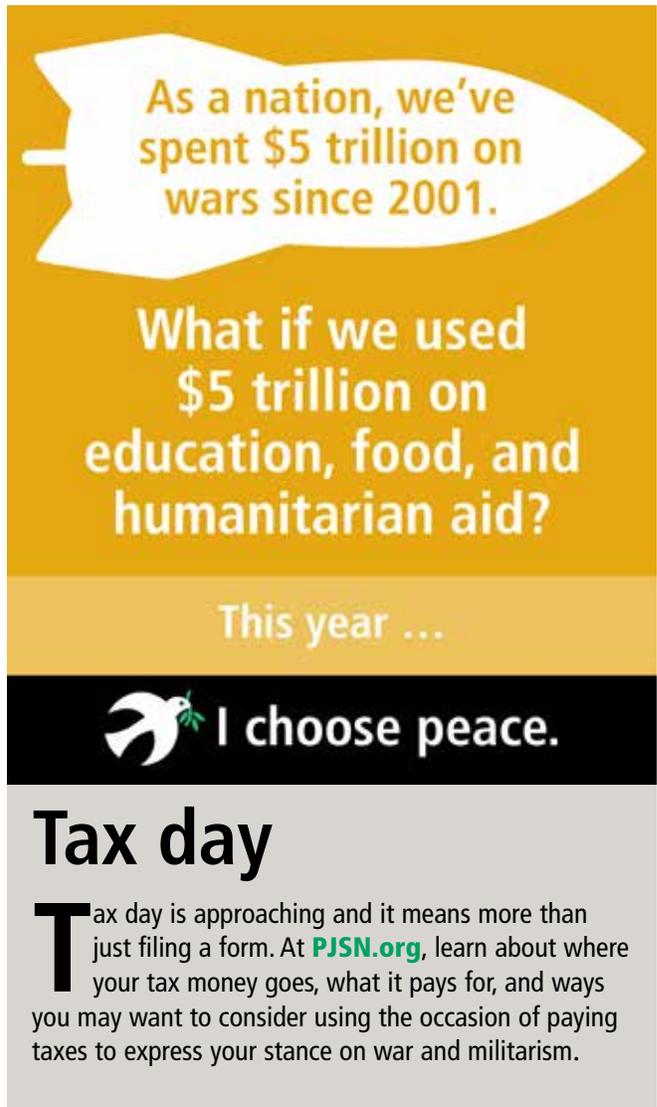
As we answer these questions in the months ahead, we will be producing resources for the church to learn more about the different aspects of militarism, as well as offering opportunities to speak, act and witness against militarism.

We'll keep you updated about the progress of Mennonites Against Militarism in the pages of *DoveTales*, and also at PJSN.org. I ask for your prayers for this group, and for our church, as we seek to boldly proclaim Jesus' way of peace, and challenge the violence and destruction of militarism.

Peace.



Jason Boone
Coordinating Minister
Peace and Justice Support Network



As a nation, we've spent \$5 trillion on wars since 2001.

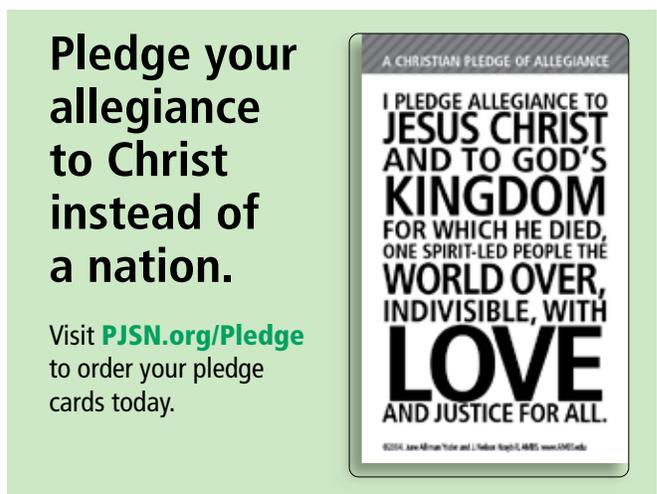
What if we used \$5 trillion on education, food, and humanitarian aid?

This year ...

 I choose peace.

Tax day

Tax day is approaching and it means more than just filing a form. At PJSN.org, learn about where your tax money goes, what it pays for, and ways you may want to consider using the occasion of paying taxes to express your stance on war and militarism.



Pledge your allegiance to Christ instead of a nation.

Visit PJSN.org/Pledge to order your pledge cards today.

A CHRISTIAN PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO JESUS CHRIST AND TO GOD'S KINGDOM FOR WHICH HE DIED, ONE SPIRIT-LED PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LOVE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Peace & Justice SUPPORT NETWORK

DoveTales is a publication created by the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA to resource individuals and congregations in their pursuit of Christian peacemaking and justice seeking. Ideas, articles and reports can be submitted to the editor. **PJSN advisory council:** Dominique Chew, Goshen, Indiana; Jeff Hochstetler, Berlin, Ohio; Dave Hockman-Wert, Corvallis, Oregon; Erica Littlewolf, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Rachelle Lyndaker Schlabach, Washington, D.C.; and Jennifer Davis Sensenig, Harrisonburg, Virginia. **Editor:** Jason Boone, coordinating minister for the Peace and Justice Support Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370; 1-866-866-2872, ext. 23065; Peace@MennoniteUSA.org. **Copy editor:** Karen Hallis Ritchie. **Designer:** Cynthia Friesen Coyle. **PJSN website:** www.PJSN.org. **Opinions expressed in *DoveTales* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of Mennonite Church USA or the Peace and Justice Support Network.**



Election Day Communion is returning!

Election Day Communion is a movement launched in 2012 as a way for Christians to maintain unity in the midst of a divisive presidential election. Hundreds of churches opened their doors on election night to celebrate communion and focus on the unity

found in Jesus. The Peace and Justice Support Network led the campaign in 2016 and will do so again this year. We'll also be offering new resources and ways to navigate the election season in a sane, peaceful manner. Follow Election Day Communion on Facebook to stay informed!

PJSN and Youth Venture

The Peace and Justice Support Network is partnering with Youth Venture on a unique, 10-day placement that introduces youth to the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery curriculum. Taking place in Kykotsmovi, Arizona, the placement will be split between education about the Doctrine of Discovery and learning from our Hopi hosts through outdoor activities and service opportunities. This placement will allow you and your fellow participants to build relationships, deepen your faith, and learn about an important peace and justice issue.

Specific dates are to be determined, but it will take place sometime during June or July 2020. Check www.MennoniteMission.net/YouthVenture for more information.





DoveTales

Peace and Justice Support Network
Mennonite Mission Network
PO Box 370
Elkhart, IN 46515

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE

PAID
PERMIT NO.7
SOUTH BEND,
INDIANA

Webinar | Save the date!



Peace and Justice Support Network is a partnership with Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Mission Network.

Selective Service

You've got questions about registering for Selective Service, and PJSN has answers! Join us for a **webinar this March** when we will cover all the ins and outs of Selective Service, registering as a conscientious objector (CO), and more. Visit PJSN.org for more information and to sign up. **Perfect for all ages!**