

WHO WAS JAMES ATWOOD?

Rev. Jim Atwood, a Presbyterian missionary, pastor, author, and avid hunter, was a courageous advocate for changing laws and culture to prevent gun violence. After a member of his congregation was killed with a \$20 handgun, he devoted nearly 50 years to balancing the rights of responsible gun owners with the right to live free from fear. He spearheaded initiatives like the Million Mom March in 2000. His influential books included America and Its Guns – A Theological Exposé, Gun Fundamentalism and What It is Doing to America, and Collateral Damage.

Links to these books and study guides are available in the Education Section of the Peace Fellowship's Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit at: www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence/congregational-toolkit

In the James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage, Jim's legacy continues to inspire and challenge us. As he often said, "Wouldn't it be great if it were God's people who stepped up to stop the killing?" Let's help one another do this.



WHO ARE WE?

Established in 1844, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is a nationwide community of Presbyterians committed to the nonviolence of Jesus Christ. We equip congregations and individuals to seek practical alternatives to violence and war, including gun violence. As an independent group, we collaborate with the PC(U.S.A.) and operate with volunteers and a small staff. Inspired by leaders like Jim Atwood, we've focused on gun violence prevention for over 15 years, advocating for action to save lives.

Our Gun Violence Prevention Working Group offers online Action Circles for the Guns to Garden movement, promotes secure gun storage, and encourages congregational action. Our resources include a monthly Gun Violence Prevention newsletter via email and the Congregational Toolkit. Explore more at www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence.

To honor Jim Atwood and to support the Atwood Institute, please consider a tax-deductible gift at

<https://bit.ly/gvpgg>

The Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage is a project of the Gun Violence Prevention Ministry of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

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presbypeacefellowship.org

Come to Ghost Ranch to find skills, courage and friends for the work of Gun Violence Prevention.

"Why come to such a beautiful, sacred place to focus on such a difficult and painful issue? I think that the quiet of the mesa and the blue of the sky will clear our minds so that we can learn how to tackle the issue of gun violence prevention. The country needs it. The church needs it. I can think of no better place than Ghost Ranch to launch the Atwood Institute and to facilitate such an important discussion."

--Rev. Harry Eberts, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, NM and Co-President of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR AND WHAT WILL WE LEARN?

As a continuing education event, the Atwood Institute will train clergy and lay leaders in Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) skills for congregational use, including preaching on and discussing GVP, managing opposition and trauma, fostering courage and resilience, and engaging congregations and communities in practical GVP education and action. The institute is ecumenical and will offer hands-on training for Gun to Gardens events, including the opportunity to transform a gun into a garden tool.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER FATHER JOHN DEAR

Thursday, August 22
7 PM



To launch the Atwood Institute, we invite area churches to join us for an evening at Ghost Ranch featuring Father John Dear, Catholic priest, author of 40 books, and globally recognized activist for Christian nonviolence. Past director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Father Dear now directs his efforts towards gun violence prevention. His latest book is The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence. Come for an evening that promises to ignite courage and action within our churches.

OUR SPONSORS !



To sponsor scholarship funding for the Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage, please contact gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org

COSTS

Registration Fee is \$180 per person.

Participants are responsible for their own travel and lodging at Ghost Ranch. The Ranch offers many lodging options, from private suites to dorm style rooms to camping. Family members are welcome to the Ranch for daily Ranch activities or just a time for renewal. We encourage everyone to participate in the Ghost Ranch meal program as significant conversations will occur over meals. Limited scholarships are available.

For questions about the Atwood Institute, contact gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org

To register, scan the QR code below:



SCAN ME

ADDITIONAL OPTION!

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Activist Council Gathering Mon. Aug. 25-28 at Ghost Ranch

All Atwood Institute participants are welcome to stay for these days of worship, training and community.

For questions about the Peace Fellowship Activist Council Gathering, contact info@presbypeacefellowship.org