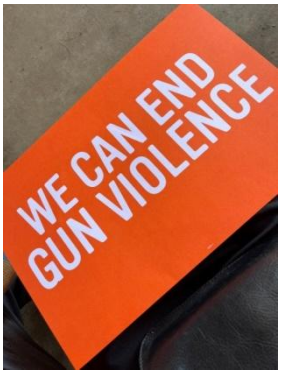
Newsletter Item for Regional Church Offices & Congregations Spring-Summer 2026 Thank you for Sharing!



Concerned about Gun Violence?

Learn Faith-Based Skills for
Gun Violence Prevention
Sept. 15-18, 2026 Kansas City, MO

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship invites you to the 3rd annual Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage, a national training event at the Heartland Center near Kansas City. MO on Sept. 15-18, 2026. The Institute offers continuing education for lay leaders and clergy on educational, pastoral and action steps for gun violence prevention mission with congregations. Space is limited and registration is open.

Who should come? Lay leaders and teams, parents and grandparents, gun violence survivors, suicide prevention groups, gun owners, safety and public health advocates, veterans, pastors, youth leaders---people of faith who are committed to saving lives. **All denominations are welcome.**

Learn more and register at https://bit.ly/PPFAtwood26 or use the QR code below



The Atwood Institute shares skills from teaching about gun violence to transforming unwanted guns into garden tools.

2026 Theme: Cultivating the Heart to End Gun Violence - Ending gun violence requires courage, compassion, and community. Our theme invites participants to nurture the spiritual grounding, relationships and practical skills needed to build safer communities. Gun violence prevention work also involves struggle, grief, and persistence. The Institute holds space for both the pain of this work and the beloved community of people taking action together.

2026 Atwood Institute Leaders Include: Rev. Jer Swigart, Director of the peacemaking training group, Global Immersion, and co-author of *Mending the Divides*; Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Episcopal Canon for Beloved Community in the Diocese of Ohio; Rita Niblack, Catholic lay leader from Guns to Gardens Metro Denver; Rev. Margery Rossi, Minister for Gun Violence Prevention, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship; Quaker blacksmith Scotty Utz of RAWtools South and others.

Thanks to generous sponsors, scholarships are available.
Find a story about the 2026 Atwood Institute from Presbyterian News Service **HERE**.
For questions, contact: **gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org**

JAMES ATWOOD INSTITUTE for Congregational Courage

PEACE • שלום • PAZ • MИР • 平和 • PAIX

Presbyterian Peace Fellowship