



**SHALOM:
a Series of Six New Webinars
on Timely and Timeless Issues
Relating to the Pursuit of Peace and Justice**

June 8, 2021: “Why did Jesus have to die?” by J. Denny Weaver

This webinar examines the dominant theory of the atonement and the problems associated with it. It offers an alternative model of atonement to address these problems and opens new possibilities for restorative justice, forgiveness, and reparations.

June 29, 2021: “Does our past really matter?” by Devon Miller

Not only nations, but churches as well, have had a history of silencing their past. This often involves the way they have portrayed their interactions with Indigenous communities that lived on the land prior to its settlement by European settlers. In this webinar, we talk about the various motifs and perceptions that religious settlers used to justify their involvement in the displacement of Indigenous peoples in North America.

**July 13, 2021: “Are humans responsible for the wellbeing of Earth?”
by Naomi Wenger**

*From the injunction for humans to rule over the newly created Earth and its inhabitants (Genesis 1:28) to the vision of a newly given Earth with its water of life supporting the tree of life (Revelation 22), Scripture involves humans in both seeing and tending Earth. In these days of the “supreme disaster” of “our present closing down of the major life systems of the planet” (Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*), what is a faithful response? This work has always been too much for us. And yet, the way we see what is before us may give us a way to pursue our own small part of tending Earth.*

**July 28, 2021: “How can we become a trauma-informed church community?”
by Jay Wittmeyer**

To better address the needs of our communities, we need to increase our understanding of trauma: what brings it about; what is its impact; and why individuals, try as they might, can’t get over it. This webinar will help to identify inappropriate behaviors that can often indicate unaddressed trauma. Going beyond the traditional mental health diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, this webinar will focus on the social component of trauma and why caregivers and first responders, as well as military personnel, are extremely vulnerable to experiencing trauma themselves.

August 10, 2021: “What are the terms of justice?” by Devon Miller

We live in a society whose legal system is built primarily on retributive justice. While not replacing retribution, restorative justice help reduce the need for punishment by focusing instead on mending relationships and tending to the needs of both the victim and the offender. This approach to conflict resolution is appropriate in religious communities, schools, classrooms, the workplace, neighborhood organizations, and the legal system. Join us in this webinar to learn more about restorative practices and how they can help build community in your setting.

August 24, 2021: “Is the fabric of our society beginning to fray?” by Jay Wittmeyer

American society is growing more restless, more selfish, and more immature than in previous years. Conflict is spreading and the broader society is becoming more reactive, more defensive, and more intolerant of differences. This webinar explores the concept of societal regression, as developed by Dr. Murray Bowen, and looks at ways the church is being impacted by this new reality. The webinar will contrast a rights-based focus with a values-based focus and suggest ways that churches can challenge members to be more accountable, more present, and more civil in their relationships, in their workplaces, and in the public sphere.

Each of the above webinars will run from 10:30am to Noon (Central Time). They will be conducted remotely via Zoom. Registrants will receive their Zoom link approximately 24 hours before the webinar begins. These webinars are non-sequential, so feel free to register for whichever session is of particular interest to you, register for several, or register for all six and pay for just five (a savings of \$30)!

To register, visit our website at <https://lmpeacecenter.org/all-events/> or call the LMPC office at 630-627-0507. Thank you for joining us and for supporting the ministries of peace and justice!