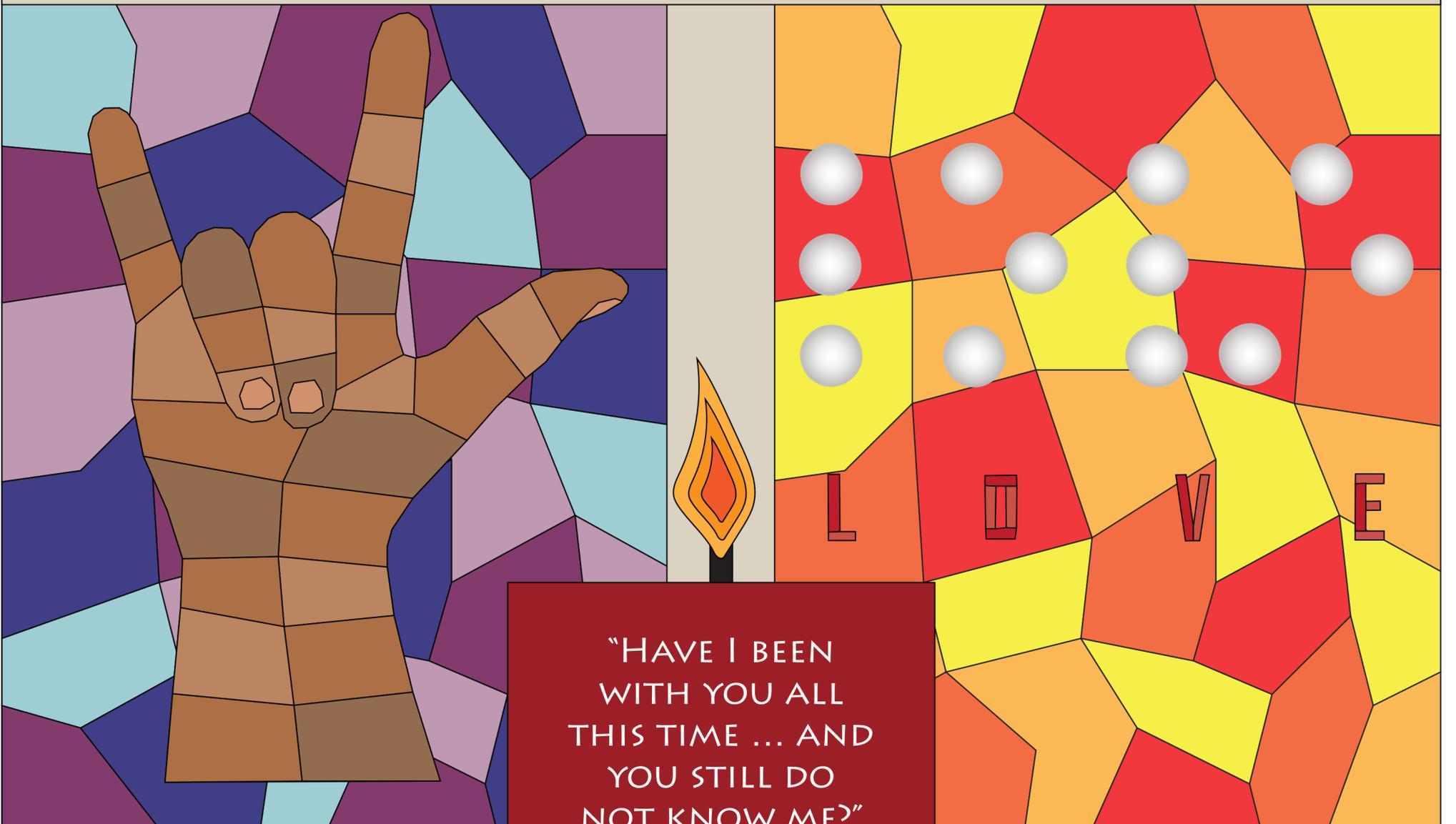


# SEEING JESUS



"HAVE I BEEN WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME ... AND YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW ME?"  
JOHN 14:9

**"SEEING JESUS" ...**

**IN PEOPLE AND GROUPS WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

"HAVE I BEEN WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME ... AND YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW ME?"  
— JOHN 14:9 (NRSV)

This was part of Jesus' answer to Philip's plea for Jesus to "show us the Father" to satisfy the disciples' expectations after following him all those many months.

Just like he used parables, Jesus also often spoke in metaphors. Here he was using sight — the most dominant sense in the largest majority of society — as a metaphor for understanding and recognition. He did the same with hearing, when he said his "sheep hear" his voice.

We use this language of the senses in much the same way today. So much so, that we need to remind one another that people without sight or hearing are fully included in these metaphors, understand and recognize the same truths, without needing these particular abilities.

Jesus was telling the disciples that the words and works they heard him speak and saw him do reveal the divinity they seek, as fully as if their expected manifestation appeared before them. The love that leads to peace, is seen and heard in the words and works of justice and peace.

When we see people working for justice and peace, we see Jesus, and come to know that he is with us all the time. This report shares some of the ways we see Jesus in our work at On Earth Peace. How and where do you see him? Send us a note at [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org).

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN NONVIOLENCE LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

Jesus taught and embodied a love that creatively overcomes chasms and boldly breaks down walls. David Jehnsen, co-author of the Kingian Nonviolence curriculum and a member of Living Peace Church of the Brethren (Columbus, OH), calls Kingian Nonviolence a "universalized application of Christian agape love." On Earth Peace continues to have deep involvement with Kingian Nonviolence leadership development.



Participants in the June 2018 Kingian Nonviolence and Community Action training in Dayton, OH, organized by Jan Futrell, Lower Miami Church of the Brethren.

In 2018, in conjunction with the Kingian Nonviolence Coordinating Committee, OEP offered two modules of the five-month course, "Beyond the Dream: The Radical Love of Martin Luther King, Jr." Participants from the US and Nigeria, who identified as Church of the Brethren, Quaker, Methodist, Catholic, and more, joined in these intensive leadership cohorts.

In June, OEP was invited to return to Dayton, Ohio, for a second Kingian Nonviolence training for community leaders. The workshop, facilitated by OEP's Matt Guynn and Kezia Curtis of Black Lives Matter Detroit, gave birth to a series of continuation events, called Nonviolence Jam Sessions, in which participants came back together to further apply nonviolence principles and practices to their community work. We invite you to learn more about our Kingian Nonviolence community of practice: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/KingianNonviolence/>.

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN PEOPLE RESISTING THE MILITARIZATION OF YOUTH**



"The adolescent brain is not equipped to make accurate risk calculations." —APHA  
— American Public Health Association

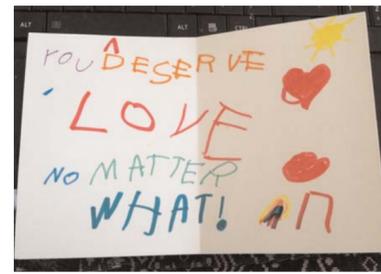
Faithful followers of Jesus founded On Earth Peace forty-five years ago because they were concerned about young people in the church losing their peace witness. While our programs have expanded and changed since then, OEP remains as committed today as we were at our founding to protecting young people from the militarism flooding our society.

In keeping with this commitment, our executive director Bill Scheurer represents OEP on the steering committees of Military Families Speak Out (<http://MFSO.org>) and the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (<http://NNOMY.org/en/>). OEP is the national sponsor of the Stop Recruiting Kids Campaign (<http://SRKcampaign.org/>).

While faith tells us to "put away the sword," science shows "the adolescent brain is not equipped to make accurate risk calculations" in life choices. Society now protects our kids from adult risks like alcohol and tobacco. OEP and our allies are committed to protecting them from the equally age-inappropriate adult risks of military recruiting before they reach adulthood.

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN PRISON INMATES AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM**

On Earth Peace started a new prison justice community of practice in 2018. People connect to share knowledge, discuss successful advocacy strategies, collaborate on actions and initiatives, and support one another in their respective works.



Valentine's Day card by the preschooler son of Claire Flowers, Blacksburg, VA.

Group members include friends and loved ones of incarcerated persons, the formerly incarcerated, prison staff, pastors, and other justice activists. Many are involved in local initiatives in their own states, as well as in national actions and organizations.

Working with OEP and the Church of the Brethren Death Row Support Project, pastor Claire Flowers started a "You Deserve Love" project to send Valentine's Day cards to prisoners on death row and members of Congress (<https://www.gofundme.com/you-deserve-love>). People have responded to this wonderful project giving supplies and support, and Claire expects to follow up with greeting cards and other messages for more occasions. We invite you to join the our prison justice community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oeprisonjustice/>.

# SEEING JESUS

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN THE POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN:  
A NATIONAL CALL FOR MORAL REVIVAL**



Erin, Cody, Jerem, Silas, and Amos Flory Robertson from First Church of the Brethren, Wichita, KS, at a PPC rally locked outside their governor's office in Topeka, KS.

Jesus had a deep connection with the poor — meeting their spiritual and physical needs and questioning the systems that dispossessed them.

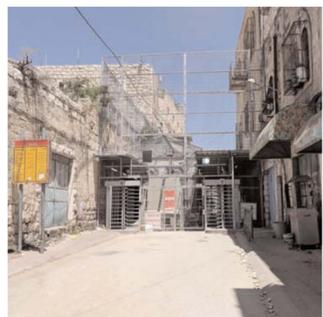
In 1967-1968, Martin Luther King, Jr., called for a Poor People's Campaign to connect 3000 people to build a sustained, massive direct-action movement in Washington, DC, focused on housing, jobs, and income. Fifty years later, a new Poor Peoples' Campaign is reigniting that work by building power and organizing deeply in forty states, making connections between the war economy, environmental devastation, and systemic racism and poverty.

OEP's Matt Guynn is a member of the Oregon coordinating committee and Bill Scheurer meets regularly with the national partners committee. OEP intern Alyssa Parker attended the national convergence in June, and members of our staff and community have participated in the PPC from California to Kansas to Washington, DC. We invite you to get involved with your closest PPC chapter and enroll in the campaign at <http://poorpeoplescampaign.org>.

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERATION**

2018 marked the 70th year of Israel's occupation of Palestine. In Jesus' time Rome occupied this land. Jesus' witness called for the liberation of those in bondage and oppressed.

We see Jesus in the nonviolent and faithful resistance to oppression as embodied by Wi'am, Sabeel, Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT)\*, and other organizations working for an end to the current system of occupation, removal, colonization, and apartheid. These groups support Palestinian nonviolence leadership with skills and solidarity in resisting these oppressions through conflict transformation, community organizing, and accompaniment.



Checkpoint 56 in Al-Kahlil/Hebron, by Courtney Hawkins, OEP intern traveling in Palestine.

On Earth Peace invites you to work for justice in Palestine. We encourage our supporters to join a CPT delegation to visit Palestine, connect with OEP's Palestine justice community of practice, and share about the work you are doing to end occupation and oppression: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OEP.PalestineJustice/>.

\*OEP is a sponsoring body of CPT, with Marie Benner-Rhoades serving as vice chair of the CPT steering committee.

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN EMERGING LEADERSHIP FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**



Dunker Punks Podcast host Jacob Crouse doing live interviews in the OEP booth at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.

Jesus spent his ministry calling others to participate in the Kingdom of God, the work of bringing good news, proclaiming release and recovery of sight, letting the oppressed free, and proclaiming Jubilee. He guided them through deep relationship and by example.

We see Jesus in the youth and young adults who participate in our various programs. On Earth Peace provides opportunities for youth and young adults to develop and put into practice skills and ideas for building justice and peace. From their engagement with OEP, these leaders go into vocations and join organizations doing the work of building the Kingdom.

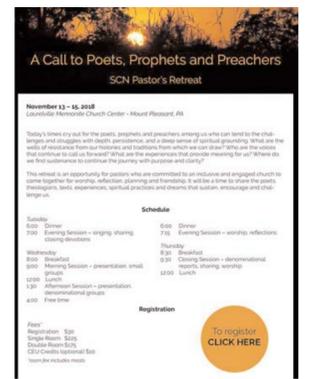
OEP invites you to host a youth peace retreat or Agape-Satyagraha training site, use our children's curriculum in Sunday School, encourage a young adult to apply for an OEP paid internship, listen to the Dunker Punks podcast, and support emerging leaders in your church and community in a variety of creative ways.

**"SEEING JESUS" ... IN WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS**

Jesus had a consistent practice of seeking out, fellowshiping, and sharing life with people whom the society of his time and place rejected — the marginalized, excluded, and oppressed.

In our time and place, many churches do not yet know how to welcome and affirm LGBTQ members and families. We see Jesus in the congregations of the Supportive Communities Network organized and supported by the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests.

Churches in the SCN commit and learn together how to more fully welcome and affirm all members of their congregations, without regard to sexual identity or orientation. While this may be something that should come naturally to us as human beings and followers of Jesus, like many practices of discipleship it is something many of us have to learn, and keep learning. This is because deeply ingrained phobias, reinforced by our society, keep us from coming together in the fullness of our humanity. Learn more about how Jesus is tearing down these barriers in a growing number of loving congregations: <https://www.bmclgbt.org/scn>.



OEP board co-chair Irv Heishman and executive director Bill Scheurer participated in the SCN/Inclusive Pastors' retreat "A Call to Poets, Prophets, and Preachers" in 2018.



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JOHN 14:9

**OEP FINANCES** Financial Report for January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018

Our audited financial report is available on request

Income:		Other	1,692
Individuals (652)	\$ 352,031	Total	\$ 474,088
Churches (166)	76,951		
Programs	10,315	Expenses:	\$ 530,747
Endowments	24,838	Net Operating Loss:	(56,660)

On Earth Peace gives thanks for your faithful support and abundant generosity. Many individuals and churches continue to increase the portions of their giving to OEP. We need your help now to find more people and churches like you, and to invite them into the work of OEP. To learn more about our #DoveClub program for monthly donors and our new Legacy Society program for planned giving which helps secure our work at OEP for justice and peace in the coming years for new generations, please contact us at [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org) or (410) 635-8704.

