



MINISTRY NETWORK NEWSLETTER LENT 2023

Dear Members and Friends of the Swords to Plowshares Ministry Network,
(Please share with others)

PICK UP READERS' DIGEST:

This month the ministry of Swords to Plowshares was featured in Readers' Digest magazine. Quite frankly, I didn't know that they were still publishing. But, yes they are publishing - both online and in hard copy. RD picked up a story by Davis Dunavin of WSHU about our work and the blacksmithing demonstration we had at Christ Church, Guilford last June. **Meet the Blacksmiths Who Transform Guns into Garden Tools** is at

https://www.rd.com/article/blacksmiths-turn-guns-into-garden-tools?_cmp=stf

This article has given us a lot of publicity, and there is increasing interest for us to do demonstrations, to give out more of our tools to community gardens across the country, and to make more tools and jewelry available for sale. We are referring a lot of inquiries to our partner organizations in the Guns to Gardens national network.

SUCCESS BRINGS JOY AND GROWING PAINS

Since we began this ministry in 2017, we have relied on a very few workers to do the work of blacksmithing, woodturning, and jewelry making. Kudos to our core workers: John Cerritelli, Daniel Ku, Pat Daunic, Marijke Tansey, Pina Violano , and Bob Bergner.

Because of this network's interest and passion for Gun Violence Prevention we are in great demand and have been able to expand the number of visits we make to churches and towns across New England. Every week we are receiving invitations to bring our work out to new locations. As the work grows we are always looking for new volunteers. We need administrative help for scheduling demonstrations, bookkeeping, sales work, and communications, and, of course, we always welcome help at the forge and lathe. Training and flexible scheduling are available.

REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL FUND

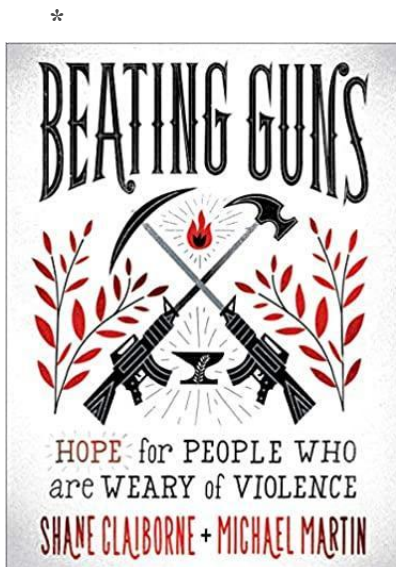
Thanks to a major grant that we have received from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut's Regional Entrepreneurial Fund, this spring we will start a paid Blacksmith Training and Internship Program. Beginning with two 12 to 14 week programs, we will employ young adults from Greater New Haven to learn the skills of blacksmithing, help us with buybacks and tool making, and take part in the leadership of public demonstrations and conversations on Gun Violence Prevention. We are working with community partners in New Haven and Hamden to recruit applicants from youth empowerment programs and from re-entry from prison programs. We are starting small: 3 or 4 interns at a time for about 8-10 hours a week. We will have community mentors and individualized goals for each participant. Our hope for this pilot program is to gain wider community financial support to increase the program next year and to create a model program that can be replicated in other communities.

WORDS TO PLOWSHARES TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM

60 Second Doc, a film company from Los Angeles, will be filming a documentary on Swords to Plowshares at our blacksmithing demonstration at UMASS Dartmouth, on Wednesday, April 19. One more wonderful way to get the word out about our ministry. They have asked to have an interview of about 45 minutes and will be filming through the demonstration from 11:30 to 2.

THE SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES MINISTRY NETWORK WILL HAVE AN INTERN
FROM BERKELEY DIVINITY SCHOOL THIS
SUMMER

JOIN BISHOP LAURA J. AHRENS FOR THE BISHOP'S BOOK DISCUSSION AT CAMP
WASHINGTON, APRIL 14



Join Bishop Laura J. Ahrens for the Bishop's Book Discussion at Camp Washington, a gathering of clergy and lay people who love to read.

Our discussion group begins with "coffee and conversation" at 9:30 am on **April 14**.

This gathering allows us the opportunity to discuss how our learning relates to self, spirituality and God's mission. The discussion is open to everyone; even if you have not read the book, you are welcome to join in!

The book for April- *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who are Weary of Violence* by Shane Claiborne & Michael Martin

There is no cost to attend, however **Registration is required**.

[Register
Here](#)

SHANE CLAIBORNE WILL RETURN TO CAMP WASHINGTON



FREE ADMISSION

Open to All Ages- Saturday Program:

Join us for a day of testimony, reflection, experience, and ACTION!

We will gather around the forges as we transform guns into gardening tools and art. Offering songs of praise and prayer, and hearing words shared by victims and survivors of gun violence. Shane Claiborne- our keynote speaker will offer words of change and a call to action. We will work on art projects and gather in thoughtful conversations around mental health, safe gun storage and suicide prevention. We will offer our hurts, hopes and dreams to God in song and worship, and end our day with a picnic lunch. This day is open to ALL God's people, of all beliefs and ages.

Registration is required.

[CLICK HERE to Register for Growing Hope Forging Peace - Saturday Program](#)

These important events are made possible by: St. James's Church- W. Hartford, Swords to Plowshares Ministry Network, St. Paul's Church- Fairfield, The NW Region of the ECCT, St. John's Church - New Milford, St. John's Church - Washington & other generous sponsors.

Shane Claiborne, Keynote Speaker

Shane Claiborne is a prominent speaker, activist, and author. Shane worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, and founded The Simple Way in Philadelphia. Grace fuels his passion. He was recently awarded The King Center's Beloved Community Social Justice Award. His book, *Beating Guns*, acts as a guide for how we can be part of the solution towards ending gun violence. Inspired by the prophetic image of beating swords into plows, *Beating Guns* offers a clarion call to change our hearts regarding one of the most significant moral issues of our time. His newest book, *Rethinking Life* was released February 2023.

[YOUTH PROGRAM WITH SHANE CLAIBORNE – MAY 12-13](#)



2ND ANNUAL

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENT
FREE ADMISSION

GROWING HOPE

FORGING PEACE

MAY 12-13, 2023

A CALL TO CHANGE AND ACTION — FOR GOD'S PEOPLE WEARY OF GUN VIOLENCE

FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH: Come to Camp with old friends and meet new friends as we come together for a WEEKEND OF HOPE AND TRANSFORMATION. We will gather at Camp on Friday at 6:00 pm for an evening of engaging conversation and discussion with Shane Claiborne, beating of guns into plowshares around the forge, group art projects, and time to chill and talk around the campfire. Saturday morning we will wake up to breakfast and time to wrap up our work from Friday night, as we welcome the larger community to join us for a day of testimony, reflection, experience, and ACTION!

Our day will end with a time of worship, prayer, and a picnic lunch.

**REGISTER NOW AT CAMPWASHINGTON.ORG
OR CALL 860.567.9623 FOR MORE DETAILS**

SHANE CLAIBORNE, KEYNOTE SPEAKER



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THIS IMPORTANT EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY
St. James's West Hartford, Swords to Plowshares Ministry Network

St. Paul's Fairfield, NW Region ECCT

St. John's New Milford, St. John's Washington and other generous sponsors.

BLACKSMITHING MARATHON THRU THE MONTH OF JUNE

Throughout this June, in recognition of the over 40,000 lives that were lost because of gun violence in 2022, the Guns to Gardens National Blacksmithing Network will hold a 24 hour a day blacksmithing marathon.

Jim Curry is a member of the Network which was begun by his mentor and friend, Mike Martin of RAWTools.

The idea is that local blacksmiths will live stream the transformation of guns into tools continuously through the month – that is one minute dedicated to each life lost. We have Blacksmiths and groups of aspiring blacksmiths like our own ministry network in every time zone.

We in Connecticut will be given slots to fill throughout the month. For the Swords to Plowshares Ministry Network it will be an opportunity to beat guns into tools and jewelry, join others at the forge, re-connect with one another after the Pandemic, and make a very public statement of the need for Gun Violence Prevention.

Each of you is invited to take a turn with hammer and anvil. We will be setting up teams of adults and teen agers for an hour or two at a time. We will have national and local media coverage. We will send out details as they are developed.

WORK IS BEGINNING ON A PERMANENT FORGE AT CAMP WASHINGTON

Last year the Swords to Plowshares Ministry Network decided to give \$2000 to Camp Washington to buy a propane fueled forge and anvils. Those tools are on their way to Lakeside. By the time we celebrate Growing Hope – Forging Peace with Shane Claiborne on May 13, much of the permanent forge will be in place.

On that day we will also publish a wish list for tools and supplies to complete the forge. Thanks to the hospitality of Camp Washington, the Northwest Region of our diocese will be able regularly to offer blacksmithing events – and perhaps, even a retreat or two a year.

Schedule of Confirmed Events

SPRING AND SUMMER 2023

Wednesday, April 19	UMASS Dartmouth Dartmouth, Massachusetts	II:30-2
Sunday, April 23	Zion Episcopal Church North Branford, CT	9:15 Eucharist Demo to follow after coffee hour
Saturday, April 29	The Retreat Farm Brattleboro, VT	II-I
Sunday, April 30	St. Michael's Episcopal Church Brattleboro, VT	8 and 10 Adult Forum at 9
Saturday, May 6	Wake up the green New Haven	
Sunday, May 7	Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Westport	8 and 9:30 Demonstration to follow each service
Friday, May 12	Shane Claiborne Growing Hope - Forging Peace Youth Event Camp Washington	Evening and Overnight
Saturday, May 13	Shane Claiborne Growing Hope - Forging Peace Inter-generational Event Camp Washington	10-2
Saturday, May 20	Southampton United Church of Christ Southampton, MA	10-2
Sunday, May 21	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Wilton, CT	10AM Service II:30 Demonstration
Sunday, May 28	Congregational Church of Salisbury CT Joint Pentecost Service	10AM

Saturday, June 3	New Haven Gun Buyback	9-2
Saturday, June 3	UU Church of Worcester Massachusetts	Time to be Determined
Saturday, June 10	Bridgeport Gun Buyback	
Saturday, June 10	Hewat Community Center 20 Salmon Kill Rd. Salisbury, CT	II-I
Saturday, June 17	Friends of the Green Trinity episcopal Church New Haven	II-I
Sunday, July 9	Church of Christ, Congregational (UCC)Norfolk, CT	Time to be Determined
Sunday, August 6	Interfaith service day new haven green	All Afternoon
Saturday, August 12	Friends of the Green Trinity episcopal Church new haven	II-I
Thursday, Friday August 17-18	Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church VBS Westport CT	Time to be Determined



Bishop Jeffrey Mello with the Swords to Plowshares Crozier AND A VERY PRETTY YOUNG MEMBER OF ST, MARK'S, BRIDGEPORT