

CFCU Members Attend the Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage

The ***Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage*** took place at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico from August 22 - 25. Almost 80 participants gathered for the program, and also enjoyed the beauty of the ranch.

Sponsored and designed by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, the institute included keynote speaker and well known peace activist and writer Fr. John Dear, panel discussions about gun violence prevention, dealing with trauma after gun violence, prayer for victims of gun violence and preaching about gun violence. There were opportunities for small group discussions, fellowship and to learn the skills of chopping firearms and forging them into garden tools.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, who filmed the documentary [Trigger. The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence](#) were making a sequel to the original documentary, and were conducting interviews with participants of the institute on site.

Because of the healing affects of art, participants were also able to paint and together created a mosaic, expressing the hope for peace and courage.

Members of CFCU who attended were Cheryl Fleetwood, Molly Brown, Carol Young and Rita Niblack.



Evening candlelight prayer vigil for victims of gun violence.



Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Interim Canon for Mission Diocese of Ohio, facilitates a round table discussion on next steps for the Guns to Gardens movement.



Father John Dear presents the keynote “Faith and Courage for Gun Violence Prevention.”



CFCU member Cheryl Fleetwood and another Atwood participant create art that promotes peace and healing. Their works were included in the finished mosaic pictured at the right.



