



Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for December 9, 2022

Empowering people of faith to make a difference for the common good!

More good news this week—it's good to be able to focus on some good news after feeling like we've had so much bad news over the past year!

Basketball star Brittney Griner was released yesterday from a Russian penal colony in a prisoner exchange, that while lopsided (the US released “Merchant of Death” Viktor Bout), will reunite Griner with her wife, Cherelle. BG (as she is known) is now on US soil in San Antonio for evaluation, but should be home for Christmas!



And for our family, friends, and neighbors who are in same sex and interracial marriages, Congress has now passed the Respect for Marriage Act with bipartisan support. While not perfect, it will ensure that all states will be required to honor these marriages, even if in the future they choose to prohibit such marriages occurring in their own states should the Supreme Court choose to reverse the Obergefell decision of several years ago that made same sex marriage the law of the land.

For congregations that are interested, [the deadline for the Cool Congregations Challenge is December 15.](#)

We hope you will support this ministry with a generous gift, or even better a monthly gift. You can help us by going to <https://pachurches.org/shop/> where you will find our address and links to make your donation. If you want to support advocacy, scroll down the page to find the links for Public Witness Ministry.

Here's some “News You Can Use”:

- [Home Energy Assistance Program Opens November 1](#)
- [PA Open Enrollment for Health Insurance Begins Nov. 1](#)—deadline for January coverage is December 15, enrollment remains open till January 15
- Open enrollment for Medicare closed on December 7

Many actions are available, and you can learn more in the articles below.

If you are interested in any programs that would help you to gain greater understanding and ability to be an effective advocate, contact Sandy Strauss at s.strauss@pachurches.org. Please consider a gift to support our Ministry of Public Witness. [One of the best ways you can help is to “subscribe” to this \(almost!\) weekly update by making a recurring contribution of \\$5/month or more.](#) Of course, any contribution will be welcomed and appreciated!



To learn about how to keep informed between these updates, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org>.

As usual, we understand that there is a lot of information here and in the links provided for further information. **Please know that you aren't expected to act on everything! Just choose the issues that are most important to you and do something!** Sometimes you will be directed to action pages of other organizations—**don't worry!** These are organizations that we work with regularly and who share a common interest.

Please consider contacting your legislators to thank them when they support your position as well, or to express your disappointment when they don't. We don't follow up with them often enough. They need our feedback to understand how we feel. Go to <https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/getLocal4.jsp> to find a summary of your federal and state legislators with basic contact information.

Our [website](#) is updated regularly. If there is something you would really like to see that isn't there, please contact us at s.strauss@pachurches.org.

URGENT ACTIONS

If you don't have time for any other actions, please consider taking action on these issues!

[Sign Letter to Senator Toomey Supporting Continuing the Expanded Child Tax Credit](#)—by December 11

[Urge Congress to Curb Overdose Deaths by Passing the MAT Act Before the Holidays](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Pass the Electoral Count Reform Act Before the Next Congress](#)

[Tell Congress to Invest in Critical Needs Programs Before the End of the Year](#)

[Tell Congress to Include Medicaid and CHIP Funding in End-of-Year Bill](#)

[Act Now to Protect Homelessness and Rental Assistance Funding](#)

[Sign the End of the Year "To-Do" List to Congress](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass Permanent Protections for DACA Recipients by the End of 2022](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass a Robust and Progressive Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill](#)

NEW ACTIONS

[Tell Our Senators to Support Critical Investments in Maternal Health](#)—NEW

[Tell the Senate We Need Pay Equity for Latina Moms for Latina Equal Pay Day](#)—NEW

[Urge Congress to Ban Private Insurance Companies from Administering Medicare](#)—NEW

[Urge Congress to Reject Anti-Asylum Policies That Perpetuate Violence and Racism](#)—NEW

[Urge Homeland Security to Implement Case Management System to Support Legal Rights for Immigrants](#)—NEW

[Call on the US to Support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#)—NEW

[Sign Petition Telling ExxonMobil Not to Drill in Arctic Refuge](#)—NEW

[Act to Preserve Judges' Authority to Resentence Federal Prisoners Using Compassionate Release](#)—NEW

[Urge Our Senators to Support the Second Look Act](#)—NEW

ONGOING ACTIONS

[Urge Your US Representative to Co-Sponsor the Environmental Justice for All Act](#)

[Take Action to Support Asylum Seekers](#)

[Sign Now to Help At-Risk Afghans in the US](#)

[Urge Congress to Set 200K Refugee Admissions Goal for FY 2023](#)

[Tell Congress to Expand Insulin Copay to All Americans](#)

[Tell Congress to Save Lives by Capping the Price of Insulin](#)

[Tell Our Senators to Vote for Assault Weapons Ban](#)

[Tell Congress to Fund the RECOMPETE Act](#)

[Tell Congress No More Corporate Tax Breaks](#)

[Tell Congress to Support the President's Call for a Windfall Profit Tax](#)

[Sign Now to Tell Congress to Pass the DISCLOSE Act and Overturn Citizens United](#)

[Urge the President to Take Major Action to Protect Voting Rights and Our Democracy](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass the Equality Act](#)

IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE NEWS!

[So Much Happening: Here's How You Can Keep Informed Between Updates](#)

[Summary of All News Posts Since Previous Update](#)

[Governor Wolf Backing Regulatory Change to Protect LGBTQ Persons](#)

[Labor Force Participation Rate Increasing Among Older Americans](#)

[Report: Why Youth Incarceration Fails](#)

[Calling All High School Poets & Storytellers](#)—deadline January 6

EVENTS

For a full monthly calendar of events, see the Events page at <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/>.

For a listing with descriptions of events, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/list/>.

For general information about our calendar, links to ongoing events, and how to submit events, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/events/about-our-calendar/>.

Ongoing/upcoming events:

[Living the Golden Rule: Faith Climate Action Week 2023](#)—April 14-23, 2023

[Caring for Creation with PA IPL](#)—First Fridays, October 2022-June 2023

[Moral Mondays—Sign Up for Notifications](#)

[Freedom Church of the Poor](#)—Sundays 6-7:30

Events in the coming weeks:

[Empty Chairs: 10 Years After Sandy Hook](#): December 10, West Chester

[Local Elections: Why Do They Matter for the Environment?](#) December 12

[Executing Grace: How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and Why It's Killing Us](#)—December 12

[Post-Election Briefing: What's Next for Climate Progress?](#)—December 12

[Drone War, Tech Assassinations, and the Future of Conflict](#)—December 13

[Dancing with History: A Life of Peace and Justice \(George Lakey\)](#)—December 13, Harrisburg

[Clean Energy Benefits and Your Church](#)—December 14

[Sandy Hook 10 Years After Poetry Reading](#)—December 14, Wayne

[On Earth Peace Gun Violence Organizing Meet-Up](#)—December 16

[International Migrants Day Vigil](#)—December 18

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO LEARN AND ACT

For postings since the previous Summary...

[Resources](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[Jobs, internships and fellowships](#)

NEWS POSTS

Visit our [weblog](#) for the latest news and information. For previous News Summaries, go to <http://www.pachurchesadvocacy.org/news-summary/news-summary-archive/>. Also, check out specific issue-related posts by clicking on links on the right side of the page.

Subscribe to our weblog via e-mail (see link at bottom of [home page](#)).

[Summary of most recent News Posts.](#)

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Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/pachrchadvocacy>.

Follow us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/pachurchadvocacy/>.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn_o715zhITIA.

If you received this message from a friend, **sign up for Pennsylvania Council of Churches Advocacy e-mails** at http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5415/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=531.

Financial support for the Council's Advocacy Ministry is always welcome! Go to our online support page at <https://www.pachurches.org/shop/> and look for "Public Advocacy Donation."

And finally...**PLEASE FORWARD THIS E-MAIL!**

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