



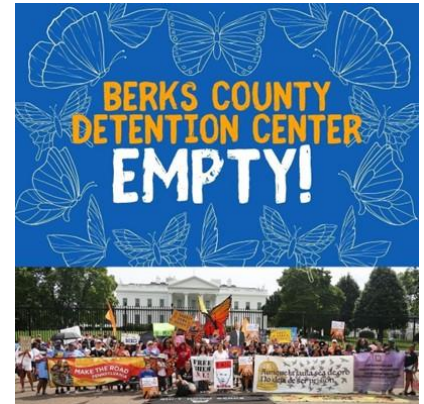
Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for January 13, 2023

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

The huge—and wonderful—news from the week is that [The Berks County Detention Center is EMPTY!](#) The last detainee was released this week, and the facility is scheduled to close at the end of January. The Shut Down Berks Coalition celebrates this outcome, and urges the county to turn the facility into a center for healing and health care for county residents—which was closer to the original intent.



We also have an update on the story concerning the reparations negotiations for Bethel AME Church in Pittsburgh. We are pleased to announce ['A Historical Moment': Bethel AME Church Near Deal with Penguins to Return to Old Arena Site](#). We'll be watching for when a final deal is reached.

Unfortunately, the political landscape remains nearly as chaotic—perhaps more so—than what existed in the session that ended with 2022. We pray that cooler and more thoughtful heads will begin to prevail. In the meantime, it probably wouldn't hurt to let your legislators know that you would like for them to work toward the benefit of their constituents, and not play for media attention, power, and political gain.

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":

- [SNAP Emergency Allotments Will End in February](#)
- [Learn How Your Local School Board Works and How to Become More Engaged](#)—Upcoming Dates in January
- [Home Energy Assistance Program Open](#)

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.

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!

Note that there are lots of urgent actions because we are coming to the end of the legislative session and many are tied to funding decisions that are being made now.

[Tell Congress to Expand the Child Tax Credit Now](#)

NEW ACTIONS

[Tell the President No Tax Breaks to Wealthy Corporations Without Investments in Children and Families](#)—NEW

[Tell the New Congress to Fight for Policies Supporting Families and the Economy](#)—NEW

[Tell the US Senate to Reject House Bill That Would Defund the IRS](#)—NEW

[Tell the President to Demand a Clean Debt Ceiling Increase with No Cuts to Social Security or Medicare](#)—NEW

[Act to Stop Partisan Attempt to Rewrite Pennsylvania's Constitution](#)—NEW

[Ask Congress to Take Faithful Action on Creation Justice This Year](#)—NEW

[Urge Governor-Elect Shapiro to Make Tackling Gun Violence a Top Priority](#)—NEW

[Act to Make This the Year Guantanamo Is Finally Closed](#)—NEW

ONGOING ACTIONS

[Tell the Governor to Grow Access to High Quality Pre-K, Child Care, and More](#)

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

[Tell the EPA to Reduce Pollution from the Gas Industry](#)—deadline February 13

[STREAM Act Passed the Senate—Tell the House to Pass It As Well](#)

[Tell Congress to Pass Citizenship Legislation for DREAMers Now](#)

[Take Action to Support Asylum Seekers](#)

[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](#)

[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](#)

[UN Report Shows Ozone Layer Recovery Effort 'Sets a Precedent for Climate Action'](#)

[Scientists Say Planet in Midst of Sixth Mass Extinction, Earth's Wildlife Running Out of Places to Live](#)

['The Sheer Greed Is Obscene': Moderna Plans 4,000% Markup for Covid Vaccine](#)

[52 Ways to Care for Creation Bulletin Inserts](#)

[Apply for the PAIPL Fellowship Program](#)—deadline January 20

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:

[Learn How Your Local School Board Works and How to Become More Engaged](#)—Upcoming Dates in January

[Book Study: Invisible Men](#)—5 sessions, beginning January 12

[Living the Golden Rule: Faith Climate Action Week 2023](#)—April 14-23, 2023—Organizer's Kit now available

[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:

[EV 101: How to Get Started with Electric Vehicles](#)—January 11

[Screening: Race to Be Human](#)—January 16, Carlisle

[Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast](#)—January 16, Harrisburg

[Refugia Faith: An Evening with Debra Rienstra](#)—February 16

[Bankrolling the Climate Crisis: The Role the Big US Banks Play in Financing the Fossil-Free Industry](#)—January 18

[Reducing the Threat of Nuclear War: Social and Economic Costs of the Current Nuclear Weapons Buildup](#)—January 21

[Just Creation Conference: Shalom for Our Common Home](#)—March 16-18, Decatur, GA

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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Subscribe to our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCunqnFIOcrIn_o715zhlTIA.

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!**

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