



Pennsylvania Council of Churches Ministry of Public Advocacy



News and Action Summary for February 3, 2023

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

This past week the Council released a statement entitled [Tyre's Life Mattered](#) concerning the needless murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of a special unit of Memphis Police. We urge you to [Demand Justice for Tyre Nichols](#), but also to [Demand Justice for Keenan Anderson in Los Angeles](#) – an incident that didn't get the same attention as the death of Tyre Nichols.



We also note and celebrate **Black History Month**, and we urge you to [Honor Black History Month—Act to Demand Justice and Reparations.](#)

And taking liberty as the editor, I wanted to let you know that I will be retiring at the end of this month. You will continue to see these summaries until then, but I don't know exactly what direction this will take after that. Thank you for your interest and support over the nearly 19 years that I have been the advocate for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. I encourage you to continue this important work—it's more important now than ever. As people of faith, we are a powerful force to reckon with! If you would like to stay in touch after I leave, drop me an e-mail at s.strauss@pachurches.org before the end of the month. (Rev. Sandra (Sandy) Strauss)

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](#)
- [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!

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

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

NEW ACTIONS

[Demand Justice for Tyre Nichols](#)—NEW

[Demand Justice for Keenan Anderson in Los Angeles](#)—NEW

[Honor Black History Month—Act to Demand Justice and Reparations](#)—NEW

[Tell Congress to Oppose Bill Aimed at Closing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms](#)—NEW

[Tell Speaker Rozzi to Work to Reform Pennsylvania's Flawed Constitutional Amendment Process](#)—NEW

[Demand an Audit of PA's Charter Schools](#)—NEW

[Tell Fish and Wildlife Service to Reintroduce Sea Otters Off California and Oregon Coasts](#)—NEW

[Urge Your Member of Congress to Support the Earth Bill](#)—NEW

[Submit Comment to Fight for Environmental Justice and Hold Federal Contractors Accountable for Pollution](#)—NEW

[Tell the EPA to Regulate Misleading "Widely Recyclable" Label](#)—NEW

[Send a Valentine E-Postcard to Governor Shapiro to Say Pennsylvania is Worth Protecting](#)—NEW

[Tell President Biden to Reverse Course on Willow Oil Extraction Project in Alaska](#)—NEW

[Urge Your State Representative to Cosponsor Extreme Risk Protection Order Legislation](#)—NEW

ONGOING ACTIONS

[Tell Your PA Lawmakers to Stop Attempt to Rewrite PA Constitution](#)

[Tell Congress to Cut the Pentagon Budget and Support Vulnerable Persons First](#)

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

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

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

[Tell the EPA to Set Stronger Standards for Soot Pollution](#)

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

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

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

[Act Now to Oppose Administration's New Asylum Bans](#)

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

[Sign Petition to Protect Medicare, Demand End to Private Insurers' Interference](#)

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

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

[Urge New PA House Speaker to Prioritize Gun Safety Laws](#)

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

[Help Shape Bureau of Prisons Rule on Inmate Financial Responsibility Program](#)—till March 10

[Tell Congress to Pass the CLEAN Act and Commit to More Accountability in Government](#)

[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](#)

[Berks Is Closed, but the Fight for Ending Detention Continues—What You Can Do](#)

[PA Receives Federal Funds to Plug Abandoned Wells](#)

[Job Opportunities with PennFuture](#)

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:

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

[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:

[Addressing the Epidemic of Police Brutality](#)—February 7

[Leading with Love: Building Community-Science Partnership](#)—February 14

[Informational Webinar on Soot Pollution](#)—February 15

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

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!