

Swords into Plowshares: The Transformative Power of Reconciliation

Co-sponsored by the Kairos Center and All Saints Church
to commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001

The events of September 11, 2001 changed our country immeasurably. Since that time, we have seen people call for both retribution and reconciliation. As people of faith, we know the power of reconciliation, and also how difficult it is to forgive and to be makers of peace. This 3-part series invites us to hear stories of transformation by people who have experienced great violence in their lives, and yet chose to respond not with more hate and violence, but with forgiveness.

Friday, September 9, 7–9 p.m.

Beyond Belief—a film by Beth Murphy

Susan Retik and Patti Quigley are two ordinary soccer moms living in the affluent suburbs of Boston until tragedy strikes. Rather than turning inwards, grief compels these women to focus on the country where the terrorists who took their husbands' lives were trained: Afghanistan.

Over the course of two years, as they cope with loss and struggle to raise their families as single mothers, these extraordinary women dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widow whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression—factors they consider to be the root causes of terrorism. As Susan and Patti make the courageous journey from their comfortable neighborhoods to the most desperate Afghan villages, they discover a powerful bond with each other, an unlikely kinship with widows halfway around the world, and a profound way to move beyond tragedy.

From the ruins of the World Trade Center to those of Kabul and back, theirs is a journey of personal strength and international reconciliation, and a testament to the vision that peace can be forged... one woman at a time.

Tuesday, September 13, 7–9 p.m.

Beyond Retribution—a film from “Peaceful Tomorrows”

Taped in Oklahoma City on the tenth anniversary of the Murrah Federal Building bombing, the video “Beyond Retribution” captures a roundtable discussion with those who lost family members as a result of 9/11, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the war in Iraq. It is moderated by Father Michael Lapsley, an Anglican priest who lost his hands to a letter bomb sent in response to his work against apartheid in South Africa. Together, they explore the individual responses of those most closely affected by terrorism, violence and war, and offer ways to move beyond retribution and towards sources of real peace.

Thursday September 15, 7–9 p.m.

Becoming Agents of Reconciliation

The ability to transform conflicts into healing relationships begins long before a conflict breaks out. It begins by transforming ourselves to be agents of healing and reconciliation. This process begins with understand how conflict has influenced who are and what decisions we make in life. Through a process of discernment and self-reflection, we will explore our own experiences with conflict, the power of the divine to transform conflict, and how we can become agents of change in a conflicted world.

Noelle Dattilo is a senior in the Master of Divinity program at Andover Newton Theological School with a concentration in Religion and Conflict Transformation. She created and developed a spiritual formation program for incarcerated men and women designed to improve communication and conflict resolution skills.



The series will be held at All Saints Church, 10 Irving Street, Worcester, MA. Participants are welcome to attend one or more of the sessions; a free will offering will be invited. Parking is available in the church lot on Pleasant Street, or the city lot on Irving Street, just past the church. All Saints is fully-accessible; parking for the handicapped is available in the Pleasant Street lot.