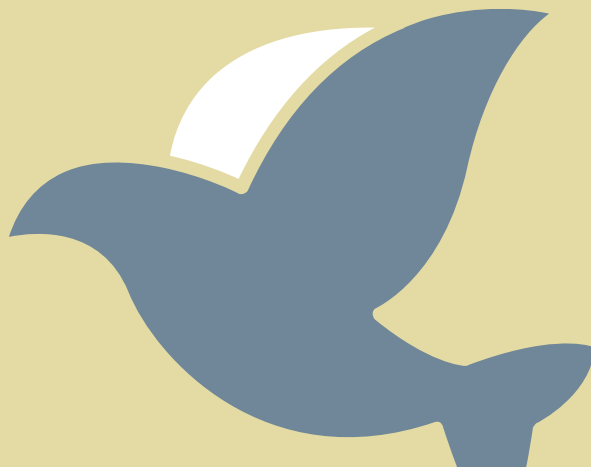




CENTER FOR PEACE CHURCH THEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER



This mandala was an exercise for the women who participated in the National Meeting of GEMPAZ (Ecumenical Group of Women Peacemakers) in Colombia in 2022. The purpose of this exercise was to equip themselves with the strength and presence of each woman. The mandala was designed with representative symbols of the region where the meeting was held in Colombia (Villa de Leyva, Boyaca) and with lanterns (with the name of each woman). In conjunction with this mandala, a ritual of vocation was carried out according to the text 1 Samuel 2:11" (Gloria Laverde, GEMPAZ).

Center for Peace Church
Theology
Department of Protestant
Theology
University of Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 - 428 38 1789
E-Mail: friedenskirchen@uni-hamburg.de
Homepage:
<https://www.theologie.uni-hamburg.de/einrichtungen/arbeitsstellen/friedenskirche.htm>

FOREWORD



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE ATF,

"How can I protect defenseless people AND remain a pacifist?" "How can I ethically and morally refuse to supply arms to Ukraine?" "Why is pacifist thought and action not outdated?" These and other questions were posed to Fernando Enns at a community afternoon. On many panels where ATF members are present, we are asked such questions. And it is always a tough struggle to explain that the Church of Jesus Christ is mandated to engage in conflict other than by force of arms. The need for clarification is great. We are eager to take on these challenges in public discussion, in university education, and in conversations with congregations.

We are also concerned with questions of the next generation of theologians. In order to make it easier for people to support an entry into pastoral congregational work, we are now working together with the Bienenberg Education Center. Likewise, regional Mennonite associations have moved closer together in the AMG Personnel Commission, which is coordinated by the ATF.

This expansion of ATF activities give me hope. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our ATF team for the responsible organization of their teaching activities and to the Circle of Friends and all sponsors and foundations for enabling us to finance this important work!

May God continue to guide our feet on the path of peace!

Yours Bernhard Thiessen
(Chairman of the ATF Board of Trustees)



Foto: Thea Martin

PEOPLE



WE SAY GOODBYE TO: JOSY KAISER

Dear friends of the ATF,

for two semesters I worked in the ATF team. Unfortunately, this time has now come to an end and I will now prepare to finish my studies. The work in the team has given me great joy and above all, hope that theology also means reminding people that peace is possible and hope is the center of the Christian message. We have laughed a lot, discussed and also mourned from time to time - in all this I have felt very comfortable among the dear and very special people in the ATF. I am now looking forward to following the projects and visions from the outside and I am grateful for what I was able to learn. I would like to take the courage to work for peace with me into my new spaces. Greetings!
Josy

PEOPLE



WE WELCOME: EMILIE MAHL

Dear friends of the ATF,

My name is Emilie and I am studying Protestant Theology in Hamburg in my 12th semester. Since the beginning of this year I have been supporting the team as a student assistant. During my studies I came in contact with approaches of peace theology for the first time in a seminar about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Through a course on postcolonial theology, I was able to look more deeply into the emergence of conflicts and possible responses to them. At this event I also got to know Fernando Enns and the ATF. The idea of nonviolent resistance has stuck with me ever since, I am thrilled to have met so many people here with the same passion. I am looking forward to the upcoming time in this team.

Emilie Mahl

PEOPLE



DR. ANDRÉS PACHECO LOZANO NEW CHAIR OF THE MWC PEACE COMMISSION

The Executive Committee of Mennonite World Conference (MWC) affirmed new General Council representatives to the commissions and elected Andrés Pacheco Lozano as chair of the Peace Commission. Andrés Pacheco Lozano is a member of the Iglesia Menonita de Colombia, a research associate at the Chair for Peace Theology and Ethics at VU University Amsterdam and a lecturer at the Doopsgezind Seminarium (Dutch Mennonite Seminary), co-director of the Amsterdam Center for Religion and Peace & Justice Studies, and a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Peace Church Theology at the University of Hamburg (Germany). He lives in the Netherlands.



SCHOLARSHIPS

ATF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE FIRST TIME

The ATF is awarding scholarships for the first time this year. This is intended to support research projects dealing with the historical legacy of the Anabaptist movement, the development of peace theology and ethics in general, peace education, or the theology of peace churches (especially Mennonites).

The scholarships support people who want to gain further scientific qualifications with a doctorate or post-doctorate. However, interested parties who wish to use the scholarship for further training in the above-mentioned topics can also apply. Doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships are awarded for twelve months with a possible extension for another twelve months; shorter terms are possible, if the funding is for a project with a more limited time frame.

Applications can be submitted in digital form by December 1st or June 1st at:

friedenskirchen@uni-hamburg.de

For more information, visit the ATF homepage:
<https://www.theologie.uni-hamburg.de/einrichtungen/arbeitsstellen/friedenskirche.html>



BASIC COURSE

BASIC COURSE

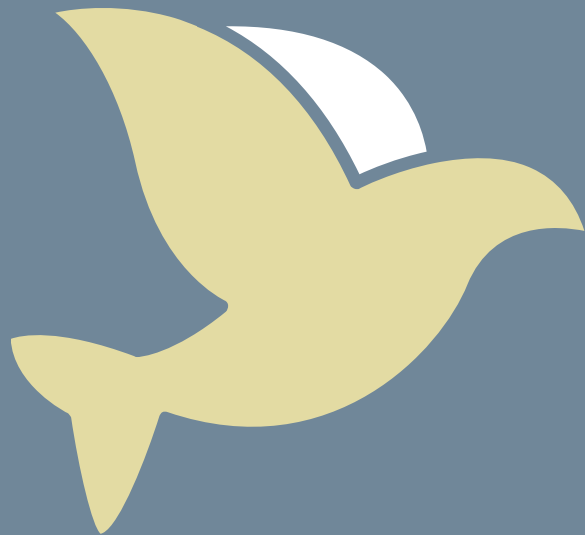
"ANABAPTIST-MENNONITE THEOLOGY AND HISTORY"

Beginning in the fall of 2023, there will be a new continuing education offering that the Center for Peace Church Theology has developed together with the Bienenberg Education Center: Anabaptist-Mennonite theology and history will be taught in seven modules. The modules take one month each and are offered one evening a week via Zoom. A new course starts every year.

The basic course, "Anabaptist-Mennonite Theology and History", is designed for new pastors from non-Mennonite backgrounds starting their work in a Mennonite congregation, as well as for lay-Membran of congregations and anyone else interested from a variety of denominational backgrounds.

Those who have taken all seven modules and completed minor qualification work receive a certificate. The individual modules are supplemented by manuals. Thus, individual modules or units could also be offered in communities.

More information will follow.



SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

EUROPEAN MENNONITE STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY MEETING

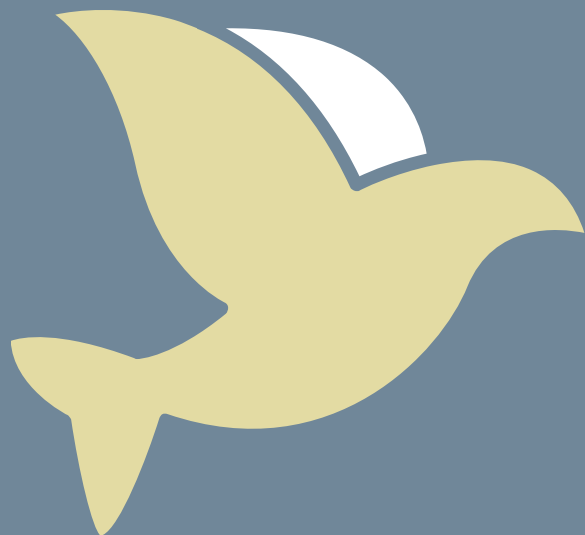
ATF-Team and Museum for Russian-German Cultural History

13.-16.04.2023

„Critical Whiteness, critical Westness...“ Memory Culture from the Perspective of the "White Population" and from the Perspective of the "West Germans". What shapes our memory and the cultural memory of communities, municipalities or states? These questions will be the focus of the European Mennonite Theological Students (EMSTM) meeting, April 13-16, 2023 in Detmold, Germany.

Information and registration for EMSTM at:
h.wiens@russlanddeutsche.de
or: Astrid.vonschlachta@uni-hamburg

RESEARCH & TEACHING



SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

ECUMENICAL PEACE THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

(Proseminar: Friederike Willhoeft & Block seminar Prof. Fernando Enns and team)

Block seminar:

May 5 & 6, 2023, including mennoForum on Friday evening (7pm-21pm).

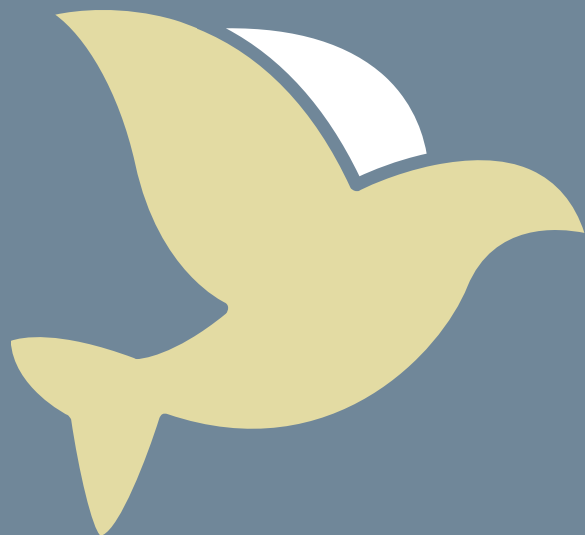
June 2 & 3, 2023, including mennoForum on Friday evening (7pm-21pm).

Proseminar:

MI 16-18 h

War and peace - these are the classical topics of peace theology and ethics. In the past, the "doctrine of just war" on the one hand and various pacifist positions on the other were polarized against each other, but in the international ecumenical movement an understanding of "just peace" was gradually worked out that made a broad consensus possible.

However, when it comes to concrete threats, such as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine or a decades-long civil war in Colombia, church positions also seem to fall into old polarizations. In two seminars (block seminar and proseminar) traditional positions with regard to "war and peace" will be analyzed, theological and ethical arguments will be discussed and these will be examined on the basis of concrete case studies.



SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

MENNOFORUM - ON THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA

ATF-TEAM

05/05/2023 & 06/02/2023 each 19-21h

On May 5 and June 2, 2023, the Mennonite Church in Hamburg-Altona will again offer a space for discussions on current ethical and political issues, with guests from politics, business, society and the church. In cooperation with the Mennonite congregation, two evenings are planned in which students will also participate.

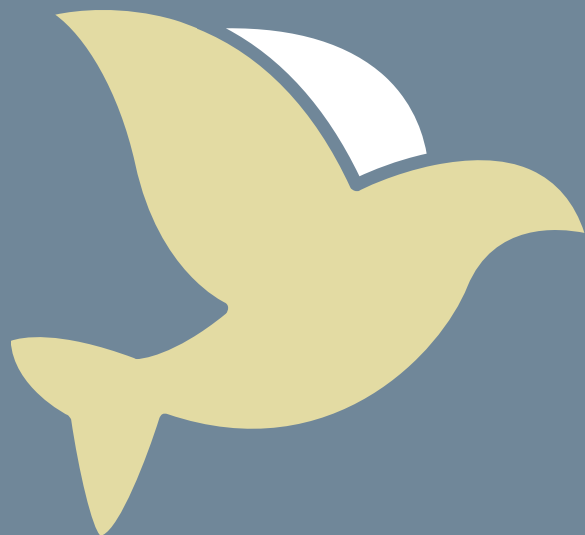
Whereas in the past, within the Christian tradition, it was above all the "doctrine of just war" on the one hand and various pacifist positions (including those of the peace churches) on the other that were polarized against each other, an understanding of "just peace" was gradually worked out in the international ecumenical movement that made a broad consensus possible.

However, when it comes to concrete threats, such as Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, a "war on terror" in Afghanistan, or a decades-long civil war in Colombia, church positions (along with their ethical justifications) again seem to fall into old polarizations.

On the first evening we will discuss the war in Ukraine with philosopher Prof. Olav Müller, among others, and on the second evening we will focus on the peace process in Colombia, among others with Dr. Andrés Pacheco Lozano. In each case, the voices of those directly affected will also have their say, and possibilities will be highlighted that lie beyond the "mainstream".

The audience will be actively involved in the mennoForum and should form their own opinion in the course of the evening. The discussions at the dinner beforehand (from 6 p.m.) and the conclusion with bread, juice and wine (from 9 p.m.) also offer a good opportunity for this.

RESEARCH & TEACHING

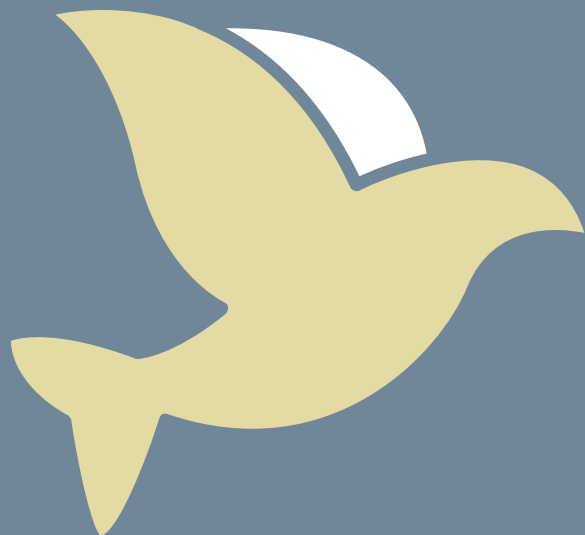


SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

GMP III

June 15-18th 2023

The 3rd Global Mennonite Peacebuilding Conference and Festival (GMP III) will be held June 15-18, 2023, at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, USA. The theme of the conference and festival is "Coming Together: The Journey of Faith and Peace." The GMPs have become Anabaptist-Mennonite organized spaces where practitioners, academics, church workers, artists and pastors, among others, can meet and share their experiences, knowledge and practice in peace work. The ATF team will actively participate.



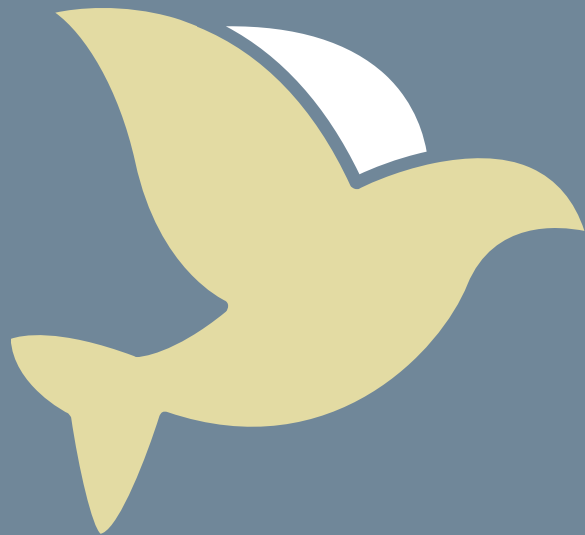
SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

**SUMMERSCHOOL IN AMSTERDAM
- (DE-)CONSTRUCTION OF REALITIES**

September 4-9th 2023

Why is it so difficult to develop a shared vision of peace? How do you deal with it when the other person doesn't seem ready to talk about peace? How is one's own understanding of peace shaped and what factors determine my view of reality? These questions determine the theme of this year's Summer University in Amsterdam. A group of students from various disciplines at the University of Hamburg, who are completing the one-year curriculum "Peacebuilding", will meet there for a week of intensive exchange with students from the master's program "Peace, Trauma, Religion" at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

RESEARCH & TEACHING



SUMMERSEMESTER 2023

WAR AND PEACE - 500 YEARS OF NONVIOLENCE

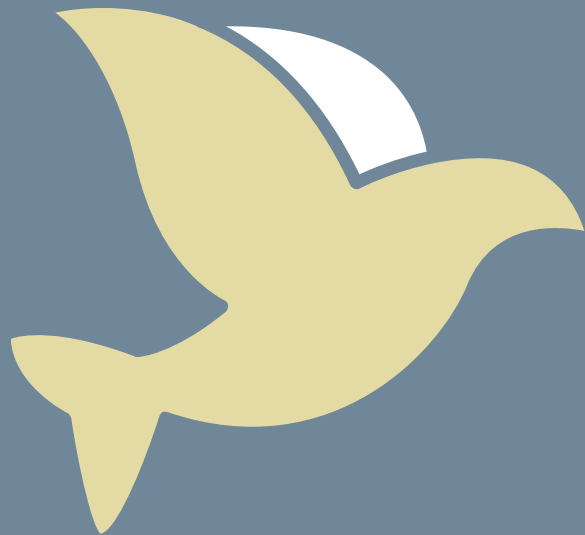
PD Dr. Astrid von Schlachta

Zoom Course, Tuesdays 18:30-20PM

"That thy highest care may be for peace and concord" - words from the "Lamentation of Peace" by Erasmus of Rotterdam. Since Russia's attack on Ukraine, war and the hope for peace that accompanies it have once again become more prominent in the minds of people in Europe. How do we deal with wars and what are our ideas about peace? How can Anabaptist statements be placed in today's discourse and in the debates of past centuries?

From the beginning, the Anabaptists were convinced that a right Christian life according to the premises of the words of Jesus Christ and the Sermon on the Mount could only be a life of non-violence and peaceableness. While in the beginning they were persecuted for these convictions, the way the authorities dealt with the Anabaptists changed from the 17th century on. Where subjects were needed, authorities were willing to tolerate Anabaptists and grant them privileges that exempted them from bearing arms and serving in wars. Beginning in the 19th century, however, as privileges gave way to equality for all citizens, the question of military service arose again for Mennonites.

This course provides an overview of 500 years of Anabaptist history with a focus on nonviolence and peace witness. It begins April 25, 2023, and meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. via Zoom.



RETROSPECT WINTER 22/23

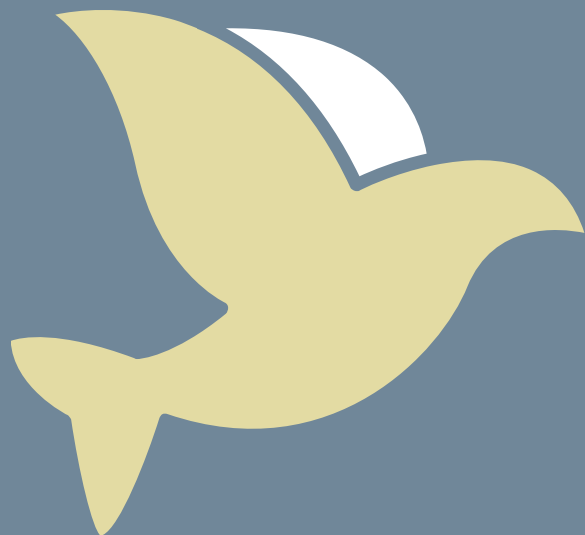
ATF EVENING

The ATF says thank you

Continuities, new beginnings and a farewell

On October 28, 2022, the ATF invited people to celebrate and give thanks under the theme "Seek peace and pursue it" (Ps 34:15). We are grateful that the work of the ATF continues to be supported by financial donations. For example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Germany has decided to extend the secondment of Pastor Dr. Marie Anne Subklew to the AMG for another four years, now with a full-time position. This is a sign of excellent ecumenical sisterhood. The position of PD Dr. Astrid von Schlachta has also been increased. In addition, Dr. Andrés Pacheco Lozano, who works in the Doopsgezind Seminary at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, will now support the Hamburg team with a 50% position. We said goodbye to our long-time colleague Julia Freund, who is now preparing to enter church ministry after working at ATF for six years.

The Mennonite congregation was again a very warm host. Our thanks also go to Pastor Dr. Markus Hentschel, the technical team Matthias and Ben Bartel and Kilian Foth for the musical accompaniment.

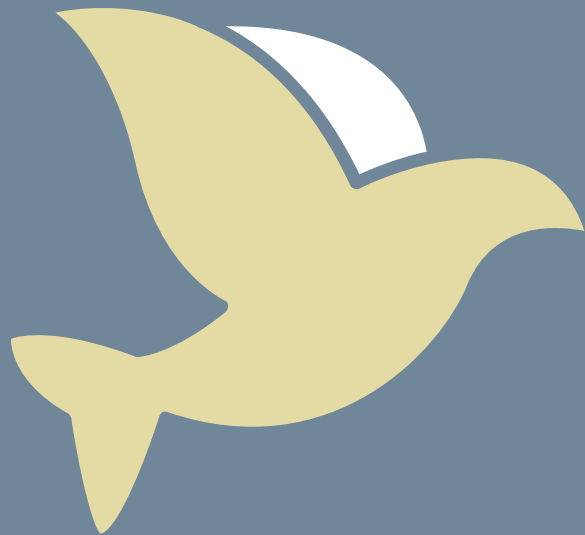


RETROSPECT WINTER 22/23

ATF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MET IN OCTOBER

On October 29, the ATF Board of Trustees met at the Mennonite Church in Altona. It was especially nice that Rieke de Vlieger and Alex Noord from Doopsgezind Seminary Amsterdam were present in addition to the members of the Board of Trustees. The joint meetings of the two boards of trustees have a good tradition and enable us to further deepen and intensify our joint work on different levels. Goals of the further cooperation are, among other things, to further expand the networking with other Mennonite educational centers, international exchange programs. Establish and consider the establishment of a Peace School Award.

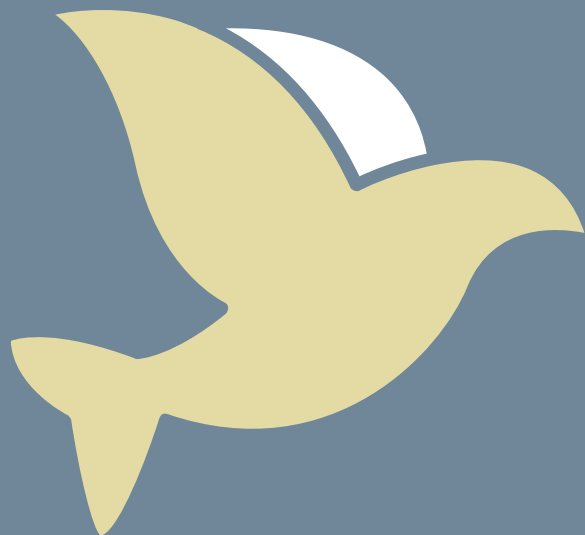
In addition, reflections were shared on how the work of ATF can be further developed also from a practical-theological perspective, especially taking into account that there are growing needs for this in Mennonite congregations.



RETROSPECT WINTER 22/23

MENNONITE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN EUROPE

The role of young Christians in the fight against climate change, Mennonites in the GDR or the question of what contribution Mennonite theology can make to reconciliation processes in Colombia - a wide range of topics awaited the participants of the second "Mennonite Graduate School in Europe", which took place from February 3-5 in Mennorode. During this weekend, the international group of scholars met to discuss their doctoral projects, network and worship together. The Graduate School brings together a variety of academic disciplines, as well as members of different denominations whose research focuses on the theology of peace churches, the historical legacy of Anabaptism, or peace ethics in general.



NEWS FROM THE WCC

Fernando Enns is mandated by the WCC to accompany the peace negotiations in Colombia as an international observer

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has sent letters to Colombian President Gustavo Petro and Colombian Peace Commissioner Danilo Rueda expressing the WCC's support and solidarity for peacebuilding in Colombia and confirming the WCC's readiness to participate in the dialogue process between the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN). The WCC has appointed Dr. Humberto Martin Shikiya, general secretary of Qonakuy, a network of Protestant universities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns, Mennonite and director of the Center of Peace Church Theology at the University of Hamburg.



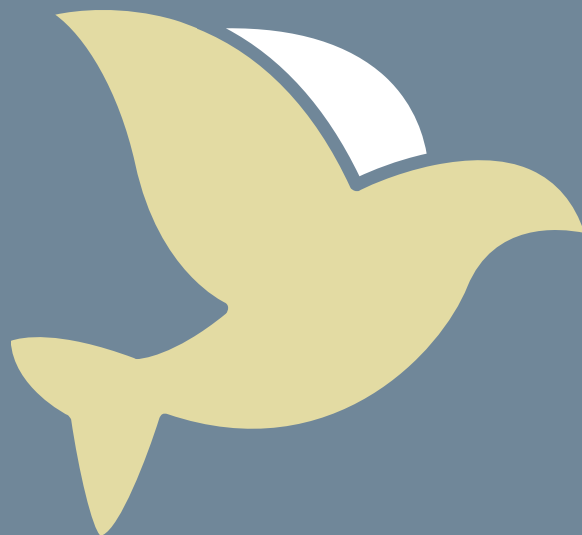
MENNO-SIMONS-SERMON-AWARD

Award of the Menno Simons Preaching Prize 2023 to Pastor Joachim Leberecht, Herzogenrath/Germany

On Sunday, September 3, 2023, the Center for Peace Church Theology (University of Hamburg) together with the Mennonite congregation Hamburg-Altona will award the international Menno Simons Sermon Prize to Joachim Leberecht, pastor of the Evangelische Lydia-Gemeinde Herzogenrath. The public award ceremony will take place after the service in the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona (10:00 a.m.), where the award-winning sermon will be heard. All interested parties are cordially invited.



NEWLY PUBLISHED



gewagt! gewaltlos leben

500 Jahre Täuferbewegung – Themenheft 3
Herausgeber:

Verein „500 Jahre Täuferbewegung 2025 e. V.“

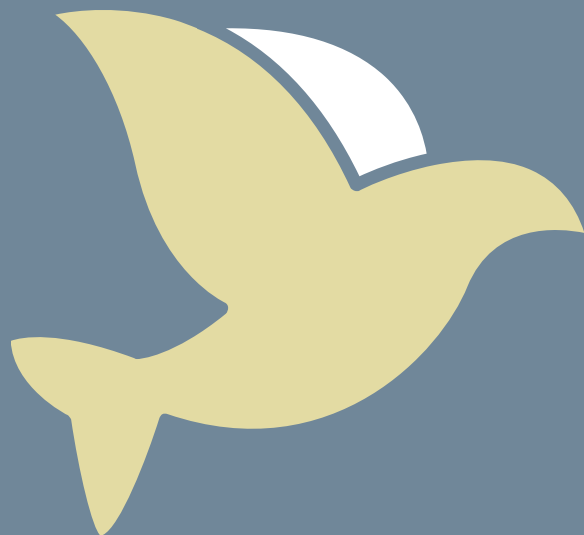


Fernando Enns, Auf dem Weg zu einer ökumenischen Theology of Companionship. Der Pilgerweg der Gerechtigkeit und des Friedens als kenotische Bewegung; in: Ökumenische Rundschau Jg. 71 (2/2022), 234-251.



Fernando Enns, „Fürchtet Euch nicht!“ – angesichts der militärischen Invasion in der Ukraine; in: Die vielen Gesichter Christi. EMW Themenheft 2022, hg. von EMW, Hamburg 2022, 37-40. (ISBN: 978-3-946352-14-3)

DATES



Public Lectures in Amsterdam - Wars For Resources & Good Practices for Just Peace

March 23-May 11, more information:

<https://www.religionpeacejustice.com/projects-2-1>

EMSTM - European Mennonite Students of Theology Meeting

13-16 April 2023 in Detmold

AMG Community Day

April 28 - May 1, 2023 in Neuwied, Germany

ATF Workshops:

- History of the Mennonites in the GDR (Bernhard Thiessen)
- The 'Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace' in the WCC (Fernando Enns & Andrés Pacheco Lozano)
- Climate justice as a topic of peace theology (Rebecca Froese & team of ATF).

- Intercultural Bible reading - with brothers and sisters from Colombia (Fernando Enns, Catalina Bonilla, Daniel Serrano, etc.)

Bible Study: "Only Dreamers and Visionaries Can Shape the World - When God Himself Dreams Us", Revelation 22:1-8 (Corinna Schmidt & Fernando Enns)

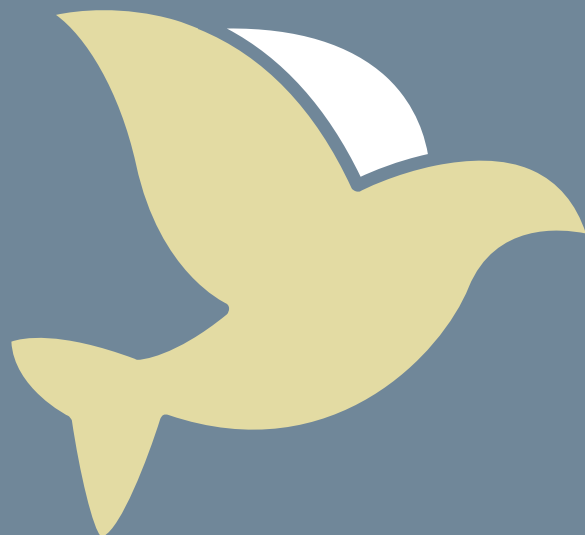
Block seminar Ecumenical Peace Theology

May 5-6 and June 2-3, 2023, University of Hamburg (Fernando Enns, Andrés Pacheco Lozano, Friederike Willhoeft), incl. mennoForum at Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona.

mennoForum "War and Peace - in Ukraine, in Colombia".

May 5 and June 2, 2023 in the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona

DATES



Worship service in Hamburg Altona

June 4, 2023, Mennonite Church (ATF Team)

DEKT - German Protestant Church Congress

June 7-11, 2023 in Nuremberg (with participation of the ATF team)

3rd Global Mennonite Peace Conference and Festival

June 15-18 at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia.
(with ATF workshops)

Menno Simons Sermon Prize - Award Ceremony

September 3, 2023 at the Mennonite Church Hamburg-Altona

Summer-School "(De-) Construction of Realities and Identities"

September 4-9, 2023 in Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

"Christian Peace Witness and Non-Conformism"

from November 3-5, 2023, a conference will be held at the University of Hamburg, Germany. will take place. It is jointly organized by the Society for Free Church Theology and Journalism, the ATF, the Museum for Russian-German Cultural History and the Mennonite Historical Association.