October Newsletter UPF USA

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UPF USA
BRIDGEBUILDER
NEWSLETTER

October 2026

A monthly snapshot of peace stories, insight, and inspiration.

Thanksgiving: Preparing Our Hearts for a Season of Gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are invited to reflect on our blessings and how gratitude can inspire positive change. Dr. Hak Ja Han, the Holy Mother Han, expressed this spirit in her words: “Today I will be more grateful than yesterday; tomorrow I will be yet more grateful.” At UPF, gratitude connects to the vision of One Family Under God, where peace grows through compassion, understanding, and respect for all people.

Gratitude becomes most meaningful when expressed through action. Through interfaith dialogue, community service, and cooperation across differences, UPF promotes the principle of living for the sake of others. This season, may we turn our thankfulness into generosity and service, strengthening our families, communities, and our shared human family.



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Ambassador for Peace Spotlight

Rev. Clenard H. Childress Jr.



Rev. Clenard H. Childress Jr., an Ambassador for Peace, has dedicated decades to pastoral ministry, community service, and pro-life advocacy. As a regional leader of the Life Education and Resource Network (L.E.A.R.N.), he founded BlackGenocide.org, co-produced the documentary *MAAFA21*, and participated in public awareness campaigns and national media programs.

In 2017, L.E.A.R.N. honored Rev. Childress with the Erma Clardy Craven Award for his longstanding commitment to pro-life advocacy. He was also featured in the PBS *Frontline* documentary *Anti-Abortion Crusaders: Inside the African American Abortion Battle*. Through his ministry and outreach, he continues to bring his faith and convictions into discussions of human dignity, family, and the protection of unborn life.

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Bridge of Peace Promotes Reconciliation in Virginia

On October 3, 2026, UPF and WFWP celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace in Manassas, Virginia, under the theme “Invest in Peace — For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.” The gathering brought together local residents and faith leaders for prayers, Korean and Bengali devotional songs, small-group discussions, and an international meal celebrating cultural diversity. Participants reflected on how peace begins in families, friendships, and communities through everyday acts of kindness and understanding.

The highlight was WFWP's Bridge of Peace ceremony, in which participants embraced across differences of gender, race, culture, and nationality, symbolizing forgiveness and reconciliation. The event reflected UPF and WFWP's commitment to interfaith and cross-cultural cooperation and the vision of One Family Under God, reminding participants that peace is not simply something we hope for, but something we intentionally build together.



Read Full Story

Peace in the Park Brings Community Together in Indianapolis

FFWPU, ACLC, and UPF-USA in Indianapolis co-hosted *Peace in the Park* on October 3, 2026, combining Peace Road, International Day of Peace, and Bridge of Peace. The event brought members and guests together for a picnic, volleyball, and a Bridge of Peace program featuring personal testimonies of reconciliation and spiritual transformation.

Participants explored how inner peace, genuine friendship, and living for the sake of others can strengthen relationships across cultural and religious differences. Three guests were inspired to share their own testimonies, including an African-American Christian pastor who also practices Buddhism and praised the emphasis on interfaith unity. The event deepened connections among participants and inspired invited guests to reach out to their own friends, helping expand the community's culture of peace.



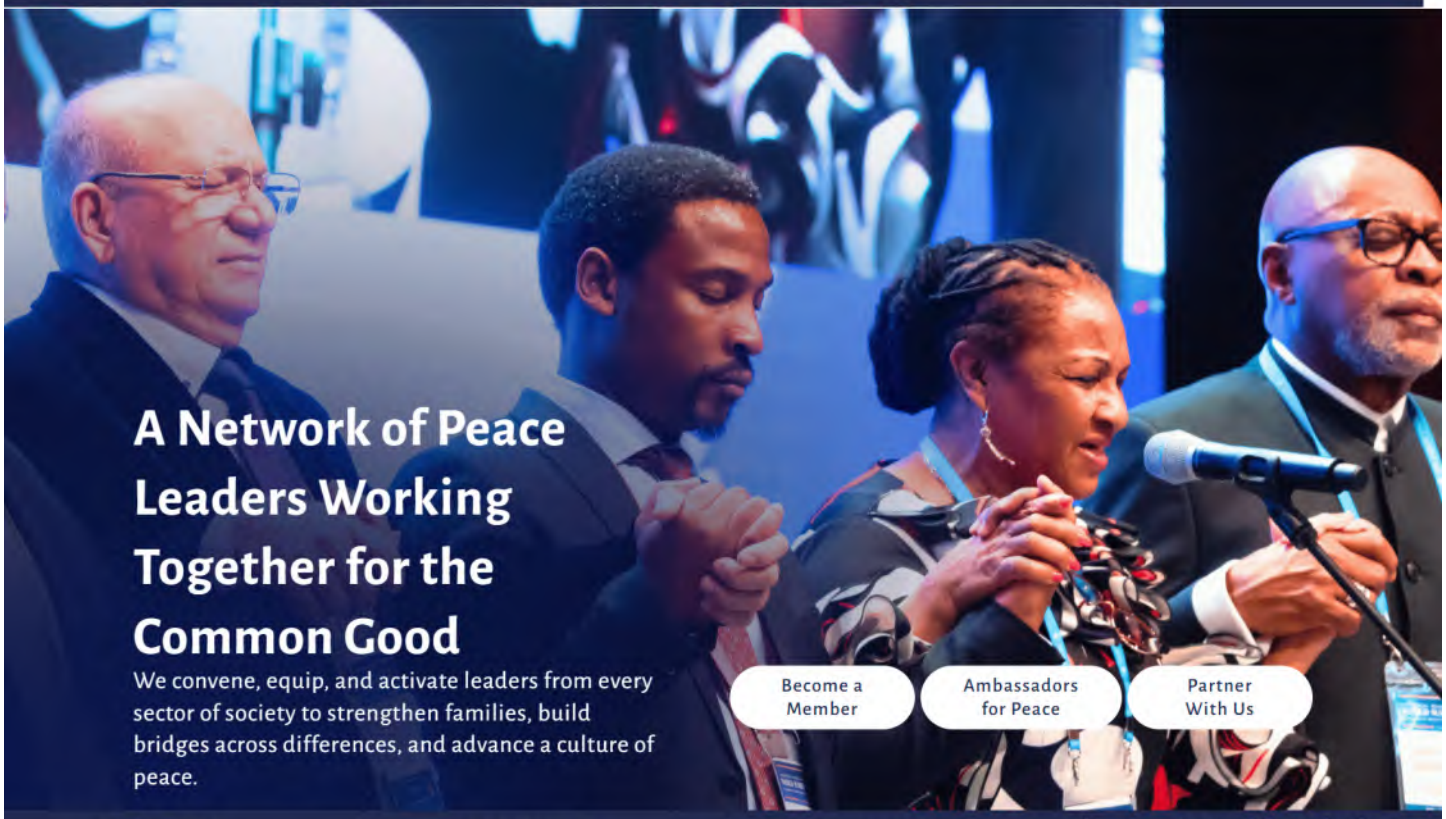
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A Network of Peace Leaders Working Together for the Common Good

We convene, equip, and activate leaders from every sector of society to strengthen families, build bridges across differences, and advance a culture of peace.

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10,000+ Ambassadors for Peace

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General Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC

Peace Requires Shared Leadership

Today's challenges cannot be solved by governments, faith communities, businesses, or nonprofits working alone.

UPF brings together leaders across sectors, cultures, and faith traditions to build trust, strengthen communities, and create solutions rooted in shared values.



Our Five Principles of Peace

One Human Family Under God
Building unity through our shared humanity.

Spiritual & Moral Leadership
The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral in nature.

The Family is the School of Love
Strong families are the cornerstone of a peaceful society.

Living for the Sake of Others
Becoming other-centered is the key to reconcile our divided humanity.

Cooperation Beyond Boundaries
Peace grows when people work together across differences.

What We Do

Convene. Equip. Activate.



Convene

We bring leaders together across differences to build trust and collaboration.



Equip

We provide education and leadership development rooted in timeless peace principles.



Activate

We foster partnerships and initiatives that turn shared values into shared action.

Ambassadors for Peace
A Global Network of Peace Leaders



Ambassadors for Peace are leaders who exemplify moral leadership, service, and cooperation.

Being appointed an Ambassador for Peace is not simply an award—it is a commission to help advance peace within one's community, profession, and sphere of influence.

Learn more about AFP



"Given the current world situation, we cannot leisurely sit back and wait for the arrival of world peace. It is a time of urgency. Each of us, the ambassadors for peace and everyone else, has to hold back nothing for the creation of world peace."

- Father Sun Myung Moon & Mother Hak Ja Han, Co-Founders, UPF USA

Our Signature Initiatives



Ambassadors for Peace Assemblies



Interfaith Bridgebuilding



National Parents' Day



Peace Road

Leadership education and networking for peacebuilders.

Building trust and cooperation across faith traditions.

Strengthening families and honoring parental leadership.

Uniting communities through service and global citizenship.

Join a Growing Coalition of Peacebuilders

Whether you're an individual, organization, faith community, business, or nonprofit, there is a place for you in the work of peacebuilding.



Become A Member

Support UPF and connect with a national network of peace leaders.



Become a Partner

Collaborate with UPF through programs, events, and shared initiatives.



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Help expand grassroots peacebuilding efforts nationwide.

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Thanksgiving: Preparing Our Hearts for a Season of Gratitude

"I have but one life goal: to live in utmost gratitude. Today I will be more grateful than yesterday; tomorrow I will be yet more grateful."

- Dr. Hak Ja Han, "To Live in Utmost Gratitude," July 31, 1984



As Thanksgiving approaches, we enter a season that invites us to pause, reflect, and recognize the many blessings in our lives. Beyond gathering around the table, sharing a meal, and expressing appreciation for family and friends, Thanksgiving offers an opportunity to consider a deeper question: How can our gratitude become a force for good in the world?

At UPF, gratitude is closely connected to the vision of building a world of peace, where all people live together as one human family under God. When we recognize the value of others and appreciate the contributions they make to our lives and communities, we begin to see beyond our individual circumstances. Gratitude opens our hearts to compassion, strengthens our relationships, and inspires us to take responsibility for the well-being of others.

The teachings and example of UPF co-founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han, the Holy Mother Han, emphasize living for the sake of others as a foundation for lasting peace. This principle reminds us that peace is not simply the absence of conflict; it is built through everyday acts of love, service, and genuine concern for our fellow human beings. A grateful heart naturally asks not only, "What have I received?" but also, "What can I give?"

UPF's work to convene people of different faiths, backgrounds, and perspectives reflects this same commitment. Through interfaith dialogue, community service, and partnerships among leaders and organizations, UPF seeks to strengthen the bonds that unite humanity. These efforts remind us that we do not need to agree on everything to work together toward a more peaceful world. When we approach others with humility, appreciation, and a willingness to serve, differences can become opportunities for learning and cooperation rather than division.

Thanksgiving also reminds us of the importance of family and the relationships that shape our lives. The family is a school of love, where we learn to care for others, practice forgiveness, and develop the habits of generosity and responsibility. These lessons can extend outward, helping us build stronger communities and a more compassionate society. By nurturing gratitude within our homes, we help prepare the next generation to value service, respect others, and recognize the dignity of every person.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the holiday season, we can make gratitude more than a moment of reflection. We can turn it into a daily practice: naming the blessings we often overlook, expressing appreciation to those around us, reaching out to someone in need, and

finding meaningful ways to serve. Families can establish new traditions of giving, congregations can organize service projects, and communities can bring people together around shared goals.

The season of thanks and giving offers each of us an invitation to help build a world where gratitude inspires generosity, generosity strengthens relationships, and service becomes a shared expression of our common humanity. Through UPF's vision of One Family Under God, we are reminded that every person has a part to play in this work.

This Thanksgiving, may our gratitude move beyond words and become action. By living for the sake of others, we can honor the blessings we have received and help create a future in which peace, dignity, and care for all people are not simply aspirations, but realities we build together.

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Walking Side by Side: Peace Road Salisbury ›

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Ambassador for Peace Spotlight: Rev. Clenard H. Childress Jr.



Rev. Clenard H. Childress Jr. has dedicated decades of pastoral ministry and community activism to advocating for the protection of unborn life and raising awareness about abortion within African American communities. His work brings together faith, public education, and grassroots engagement to address issues he considers central to human dignity and social responsibility.

In August 1999, Rev. Childress was appointed president of the Northeast Region of the Life Education and Resource Network (L.E.A.R.N.) and served as a chief organizer of the "SaySo" March to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. In November 2000, he received the Community Service Award from the Montclair Chapter of the NAACP in recognition of his dedicated community service.

Rev. Childress expanded his outreach through media and educational initiatives. In 2002, he founded BlackGenocide.org, a website intended to inform the African American community about abortion from a pro-life perspective. In 2009, he partnered with Mark Crutcher of Life Dynamics to produce *MAAFA21*, a documentary examining the abortion industry and its impact on African American communities. In 2011, a Manhattan billboard featuring a message he created brought his advocacy to a wider audience and generated discussion among clergy and social activists.

In April 2013, Rev. Childress joined Day Gardner of the National Black Pro-Life Union at a press conference outside the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia, calling for greater media coverage of the criminal trial of abortion provider Kermit Gosnell. Fox News subsequently featured him in its national religious report with correspondent Lauren Green. In December 2017, L.E.A.R.N. presented him with the Erma Clardy Craven Award in recognition of his longstanding commitment to pro-life advocacy and his perseverance through social and political change. That same month, he was featured in the PBS *Frontline* documentary *Anti-Abortion Crusaders: Inside the African American Abortion Battle*, which explored the debate surrounding abortion within African American communities.

Through his pastoral leadership, public speaking, media participation, and community outreach, Rev. Childress has worked to bring his faith-based convictions into public conversations about life, family, and human dignity. His decades of service reflect his commitment to advancing the causes he believes will strengthen communities and protect future generations.

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Bridge of Peace Promotes Reconciliation in Virginia



On October 3, 2026, UPF and WFWP brought together local residents, faith leaders, and community members in Manassas, Virginia, to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. Guided by the theme "Invest in Peace — For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day," the gathering emphasized the role each person can play in creating a more peaceful world.

Barbara Moseley-Marks, founder and president of Pure Style, Inc. and executive director of UPF-Virginia, welcomed participants by reminding them that building peace is not solely the responsibility of governments and world leaders. Pastor Gerald MuBaira offered the opening prayer, followed by an introduction to WFWP's Bridge of Peace initiative by Pastor Natascha Phillips. The program featured Korean and Bengali devotional songs, small-group discussions on the meaning of peace, and an international meal with dishes representing several countries. Participants shared their perspectives on peace, including the importance of extending compassion beyond national and cultural boundaries.

The highlight of the afternoon was the Bridge of Peace ceremony, in which participants approached from opposite sides, met in the center, and embraced as a symbol of reconciliation. Three pairings represented reconciliation between men and women, friendship across cultures and nationalities, and interracial harmony. Through this simple yet meaningful gesture, participants demonstrated that healing divisions begins with a willingness to meet others with forgiveness, understanding, and an open heart.

The gathering reflected UPF and WFWP's commitment to strengthening families and fostering international, interfaith, and cross-cultural cooperation. It also brought to life the vision of One Family Under God, reminding participants that peace begins in our homes and communities and grows through the everyday choices we make to respect, understand, and care for one another. As the program emphasized, peace does not simply happen; it is something we intentionally build together.

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On October 3, 2026, FFWPU, ACLC, and UPF-USA in Indianapolis co-hosted *Peace in the Park*, combining Peace Road, International Day of Peace, and Bridge of Peace. Held in a city park shelter, the event brought together members and guests for a picnic, sports, and fellowship, with the goal of engaging more young members in community activities. After the picnic, participants enthusiastically joined a game of volleyball before gathering for the main program.

The Bridge of Peace featured four members sharing testimonies about experiences of reconciliation and personal transformation. One speaker described overcoming the resentment and anger caused by racism during his youth after attending church with his grandmother and accepting Jesus, an experience that changed his life. Another reflected on his years as a foreign missionary, explaining that building genuine friendships with people of different cultures and religions was more effective than focusing on witnessing techniques. He connected this approach to True Mother's teaching of living for the sake of others. Three guests were so moved by the testimonies that they volunteered to share their own experiences. One guest, an African-American Christian pastor who also practices Buddhism, expressed appreciation for the emphasis on interfaith unity as a foundation for peace.

The program emphasized that peace begins within the heart and grows through empathy, understanding, and sincere relationships. By creating an environment where participants could share personal experiences and learn from one another, the event strengthened connections among members and guests. A particularly encouraging outcome was that invited guests began reaching out to their own friends and inviting them to future activities, demonstrating a new level of personal investment in expanding the community. *Peace in the Park* offered a meaningful example of how fellowship, sports, personal testimony, and interfaith dialogue can work together to build lasting relationships and advance a culture of peace.

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We invite you to join our effort, share your ideas, and contribute to this global effort to build a world of sustainable and lasting peace.

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