

MEDIA ADVISORY:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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“Praying with Their Feet:

Pilgrims for Peace to Walk around Connecticut September 10-24, 2006

New London, Conn. September 1 , 2006. A group of pilgrims – people of faith from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist and other traditions – will be “praying with their feet” for peace as they walk around Connecticut between Sunday, September 10, and Sunday, September 24, 2006. The walkers will make stops every day along a route that goes from New London to New Haven to Hartford to Norwich into Rhode Island and back to New London, Conn. Stopping in many diverse communities, the pilgrims will be hosted by local faith groups but seek to address the wider community to sing and talk about genuine peace in a war-torn world.

Planners for the Pilgrimage for Peace include Sara Barr, of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Gale’s Ferry, J. Vincent Burns, of Hamden, the Rev. Emmett Jarrett, TSSF, of St. Francis House, New London, and the Rev. Eric Swanfeldt, of Uncasville United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Glennys Ulschak, of New London.

The Pilgrimage will begin at St. Mary Star-of-the-Sea Church, with a commissioning service led by the Rev. Robert Washabaugh, pastor, at noon on Sunday, September 10, and will conclude with a welcoming celebration at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Congregation, led by their pastor, the Rev. Carolyn Patierno, also in New London, at their 11 a.m. service on Sunday, September 24. People are invited to walk with the

pilgrims for as much of the time as they are able as a way to share in the pilgrimage for peace.

Rev. Swanfeldt noted the significance of the concluding days of the Pilgrimage: the Jewish high holidays begin with Rosh Hashanah, and the same day is the first day of the Muslim fast of Ramadan. Every Sunday, of course, is a Christian festival of the resurrection. The pilgrims hope to proclaim peace in the name of all people and all faith traditions and to invite neighbors to a conversation about what they can do to make peace in a war-weary world.

Churches, synagogues, mosques, and people's homes will be places of rest, refreshment and welcome to the Pilgrims on their route. The theme of "walking," or pilgrimage, is important for all great religious traditions, and the Rev. Emmett Jarrett, an Episcopal Franciscan priest, noted that the prophet Isaiah wrote in the eighth century BCE of "how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one[s] who bring glad tidings, announcing peace." In the Muslim tradition, the *hajj*, or pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca, walking the last leg of the journey, is enjoined on all the faithful who are able.

To learn more about the pilgrimage, to join the walkers, or find out where gatherings for conversation will be held around the state, please telephone Fr. Emmett at 860 437-8890, or contact the pilgrims by email at stfrancishouse@mindspring.com.