

Special Weekly Update

Nov. 2nd, 2023



Ya Rab as-salami, amter alayna as-salam.
Ya Rab as-salami, Im la' qulubana as-salam.
God of peace and justice, rain down upon us your peace.
God of peace and justice, let every heart be filled with peace.
-Traditional Palestinian hymn

Thank you to the many who have contacted us in recent weeks, seeking an update from our friends in Wadi Foquin. In light of the war on Gaza and escalating violence across the West Bank, we will work to provide weekly updates, share prayer requests, and invite you to engage through timely education, action, and advocacy opportunities. Please look for an email in your inbox each Thursday.

We would also love to hear from you: how can we support your engagement at this time? What do you need and want to ground your solidarity work? Do you have suggestions for inclusion in the e-blast, including events, action items, and resources. Send us a note! We will review submissions on Wednesday at noon. Submissions received after this time will be considered for the following week's e-blast.

-FOWF Communication Circle (Emily Lin, George Han, Ken Schoon)

Updates from Wadi Foquin via Ata:

- The Israeli military entered the village on Wednesday, November 1st, disrupting olive harvesting activities. In three different locations, farmers were ordered to stop their olive harvesting, and return home without olives or tools. An Israeli drone was also spotted overhead seemingly monitoring their movements. **To learn more about the importance of olives and the olive industry in Palestine, visit [here](#).*
 - 60 year old Habes Manara was beaten by IDF soldiers during the above disruption as reported [here](#) in Ma'an News. Additionally, Ata's nephew was also beaten by IDF soldiers at a check point on Tuesday.
 - A video of Meir Rubenstein, the Mayor of Beitar Illit (the settlement encroaching upon Wadi Foquin's land), was recently released in Israel showing him distributing weapons to resident settlers and encouraging them to join the "war" on Palestinians. **As of July 2023, settlers in the West Bank hold some 2,600 weapons issued by the Israeli Army. Read more about that [here](#).*
 - Settlers posted flyers on people's cars in Wadi Foquin this past week. The flyers warned of a bigger impending catastrophe than 1948's Nakba that is awaiting residents who do not flee to Jordan. "We will kill all our enemies and we will kick you out by force from our holy promised land."
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Pray:

- In thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Fahmi back in Canada.
- For the suffering in the village due to the continued lock down. The school remains closed. There is no work, no access to healthcare, and no connection to other Palestinian communities.
- For the fear in the village of settler violence.
- For the possibility of a meaningful ceasefire and an end to military aid to Israel.

The monthly **Prayer Circle** meets **Thursday, Nov. 9th, at 10:00 a.m. PST** by Zoom. Please email Rev. Michael Yoshii [michaelyoshii1@gmail.com] for link.

Learn:

- **"Faith, Justice, and the Struggle for Change: A Theological Dialogue"**, a webinar offered by Friends of Sabeel (FOSNA)

Friday, November 3rd at 11:30am PT / 2:30pm ET

Join Sabeel on Zoom for a theological discussion and reflection on the current situation in Palestine.

Speakers include: Rev. Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis, Rev. Munther Isaac, Fr. Michael Lapsley, and Rev. Waltrina N. Middleton.

Register [here](#).

- **Friends of Wadi Foquin Palestine 101 Teach-In**

12:30 Gathering time

1:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

Lake Park United Methodist Church, [281 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland, CA 94610](#)

Facilitators: Dr. George Han & Rev. Ken Schoon

Are you concerned about the crisis in Gaza but don't feel like you know enough to speak out? Join Friends of Wadi Foquin for this introductory teach-in covering the current crisis and what led up to this point.

By the end of this teach-in you will be able to speak knowledgeably, faithfully, and compassionately about the current crisis in Gaza and the West Bank; you will be able to help friends understand the situation; and you will come away with concrete actions that you can take to advocate for the people of Gaza and Palestinians more broadly.

The teach-in is intended to be a space for learning as well as building relationships with other Christians who are interested in justice for Palestinians. It will be interactive, consisting of 3 sessions with time for breaks and break-out groups.

You are invited to gather at 12:30 p.m. for coffee, tea, and baklava (you are welcome to bring your own lunch). Program starts promptly at 1 p.m. and concludes by 3:30 p.m.

Please register below or at <https://tinyurl.com/FOWF-Teach-In-Nov2023>. Invite a friend!

REGISTER for TEACH-IN

If you would like to invite someone to visit your congregation or community and share about Friends of Wadi Foquin, or to preach, please contact Rev. Michael Yoshii [michaelyoshii1@gmail.com].

Give:

Many have been asking how you can help Wadi Foquin in this very challenging time. Ata Manasra has reported to us that the Emergency Committee of the Wadi Foquin Village Council has met and established a process to identify families with highest priority needs given work stoppages, closure of school, and restricted access to Bethlehem for shopping for basic necessities of food and supplies. To these ends we are establishing a designated "Emergency Fund" to support families in need.

Donations can be made in 2 ways:

1. Please follow the "Give" button below and make an online donation through Berkeley Methodist's online giving platform, Tithly. Please select "Friends of Wadi Foquin" in the drop down menu and write "Emergency Fund" in the Note/Memo Box.
2. Please send checks made out to BMU-FOWF with "emergency fund" in the memo line to: Jean Hart, FOWF Treasurer, [730 Tree Top Lane, Auburn, CA 95603](https://www.google.com/maps/place/730+Tree+Top+Lane,+Auburn,+CA+95603).

Thanks to all who have supported the Guest House project. Given the current situation, the construction of the Guest House is on hold. These funds will remain secured and not co-mingled with the "emergency fund." We will keep you updated on the plans for the Guest House as the situation on the ground unfolds.

