Presbyterian Advocacy Hour ~ Hunger and Agriculture

We were so grateful to gather on Wed April 23rd for our Presbyterian Advocacy Hour focused on hunger. We gained so much from the wisdom of our guest speakers **Angelina Jial**, Founder and executive director of Hope Restoration South Sudan, and **Susuyu Lassa,** Alumni and Partnerships Coordinator at Soul Fire Farm (NY). (see longer bios and links below) The Presbyterian Hunger Program (pcusa.org/hunger and php@pcusa.org) is happy to connect with you in ongoing ways so we invite you to please be in touch if this is an area of passion for you!

The zoom recording is available here.

The powerpoint slides are available here.

Resources from this Presbyterian Advocacy Hour:

- The prayer-poem with which Jessica Maudlin started out meeting is here.
- The collection of **current PC(USA) action alerts on advocacy topics that align with our General Assembly policy is available here.** ALSO, this is the place where you can go to the right-hand side of the screen to **"Election Center"** to enter your zip code and be taken to a new page that will allow you to get contact information for your elected representatives. Scroll down on that page to see the blue button "View Officials." Click through and use (and save for next time!) the phone numbers there.
- **Restore Foreign Aid** action alert.
- **SNAP and domestic food aid** action alert.
- **Link to register for Advocacy Hour** Share with your friends, congregations and mid-councils!
- **Global Solidarity Collective** is a great way to continue to hear international voices and partners, as well as opportunities to learn more about the Doctrine of Discovery in the U.S.
- More about **faith-based investing** and the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment.
- **Shareholder resolution directory** available here.

Resources from Speakers and Bios

Angelina Nyajima Simon Jial is the founder and executive director of Hope Restoration South Sudan (HRSS), a national NGO (non-governmental organization) she co-founded in 2010 to empower women and girls through gender-based violence prevention, peacebuilding, and community resilience initiatives. A survivor of displacement and hardship, she holds degrees in International Relations and Humanitarian and Conflict Studies, and has represented South Sudanese women at global forums, including a 2019 briefing to the UN Security Council on sexual violence in conflict. Angelina also serves in key leadership roles within the South Sudan NGO Forum and various UN coordination bodies, advocating for local, women-led organizations in humanitarian and peace processes.

Susuyu Lassa, Partnerships Coordinator @ Soul Fire Farm. Lover of earth and all life sustained by land, farmer, herbalist, artist, tender of relationships, younger sibling of creation. Nigerian background. Farming on unceded Mohican Land, otherwise known as upstate NY.

Soul Fire Farm: an afro-indigenous farm and learning center dedicated to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty in our food system. With deep reverence for the Earth and wisdom of our ancestors, we practice regenerative agroecology, raise and distribute life-giving food, equip the rising generation of BIPOC farmers, and mobilize communities to work toward food and land sovereignty.

Links from Susuyu:

- Learn more about Soul Fire Farm by visiting our website: *https://www.soulfirefarm.org/*
- Read this blog post to learn more about the history of USDA discrimination, particularly impacts on Black Agrarian communities
- Values aligned funders and donors: Read Soul Fire Farm's equity guidelines for donors and foundations by visiting this document
- Impacted programs and farmers: Learn about how frozen IRA contracts and funds are impacting farmers at this time by visiting this link
- Federally Funded Nutrition Programs: Federal budget appropriations and reduction requests could mean that SNAP funding is under scrutiny. Read about how these federal cuts might impact states and local level
- Take action: Policy Advocacy:
    - Some tips on how funders and donors can be strategically bold in this current moment.
    - Include and uplift Honor Farmer Contracts Bill in communication with your policy makers
    - Include and uplift support for Land, Capital, and Market access programs that are under scrutiny at this time. Learn more about existing advocacy to protect these programs here
    - Plug in and keep track of policy developments impacting food and land stewards at this time by checking out this resource.

Thank you for joining us in these Presbyterian Advocacy Hours and we hope to see you every month as we delve into current issues!