

## Welcome to Guns to Gardens, Wisconsin

Guns to Gardens, Wisconsin began its affiliation with the nationwide movement in 2020. The purpose of Guns to Gardens, Wisconsin is not limited to, but primarily engages congregations from all Christian denominations through biblical and theological presentations and dialog, assisting with Firearms Safe Disposal events and transforming guns into garden tools at on-site blacksmithing demonstrations.



Photo by Spectrum News 1

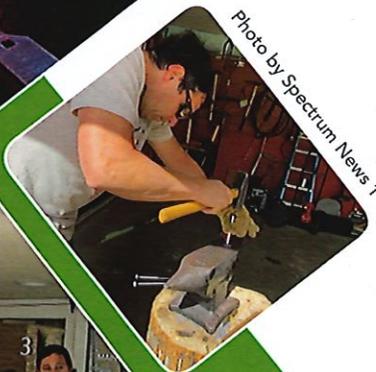


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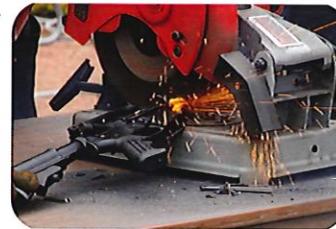


## Firearms Safe Disposal

A Firearms Safe Disposal is a service to the community where unwanted firearms are surrendered eliminating any chance of a firearm being used for destructive purposes. All firearms are disassembled on site according to the Bureau of Firearms, Tobacco and Alcohol guidelines.

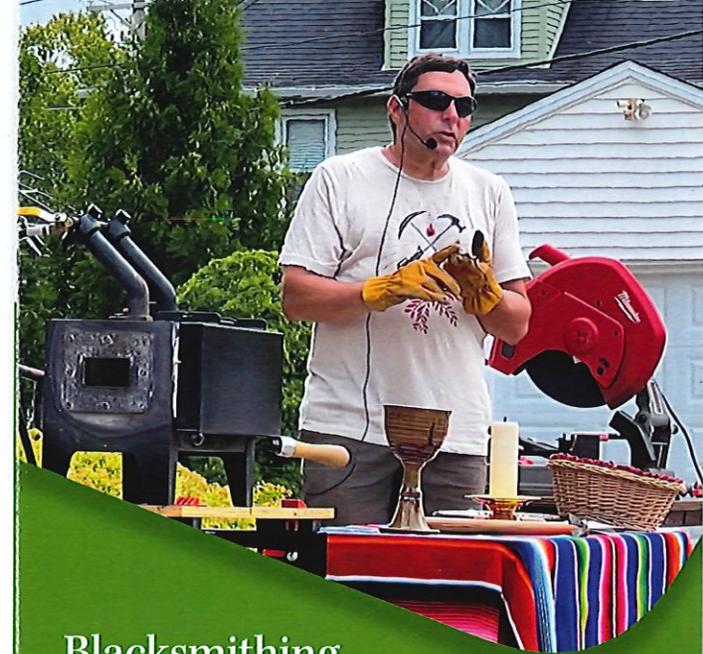
Congregations hosting a Firearms Safe Disposal receive excellent training through the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship (PPF). Participants attending the five zoom training circles receive helpful information covering, safety measures, set up and traffic control, promotion, and staffing for a successful Firearms Safe Disposal event. The PPF offers training circles four times each year. For more information see the PPF website at [presbyterianpeacefellowship.org](http://presbyterianpeacefellowship.org).

Guns to Gardens, Wisconsin will also assist congregations with planning, providing chop saws, offering guidance, addressing questions and concerns to implement an effective safe surrender event.



## What Does The Bible Teach About Guns, Violence and Loving Enemies?

Members of some Christian traditions claim, "Gun ownership is a God given right." Christians of other denominations will ask, "Where does it say that in the Bible?" What do you and others in your Christian community believe? How does our understanding of Jesus' life, death and resurrection shape our understanding of gun ownership? Sorry! No pat answers here, but a one hour presentation will provide participants with a perspective to ponder and discuss for months and years!



## Blacksmithing Demonstrations

Observers of a forging demonstration are invited to ponder the meaning of transformation as gun parts are transformed into garden tools. A propane fired forge about the size of a small microwave oven, a seventy five pound anvil, and hammers and tongs make it possible to demonstrate turning guns into garden tools at church sites, public parks and other gathering places.

Forging guns into garden tools is grounded in a Biblical text from Isaiah 2:4 "...they will turn swords into plowshares and turn their spears into pruning hooks." With close supervision, observers are welcome to assist with the transforming process by hammering guns on the anvil. Transforming guns into garden tools is not so much about having big biceps as it is about making steel pliable by heating to a very hot temperature.



**Jeff Wild**

*Director of Guns to Gardens, Wisconsin*



Jeff Wild is a retired Lutheran (ELCA) pastor living in Madison. His calling to engage faith communities in gun violence is a convergence of factors. Jeff worked summers in a foundry in his hometown, Beaver Dam, during his college years.

As a parish pastor of thirty-four years, Jeff was deeply impacted by presiding at twelve funerals where suicide, most by firearms, was the cause of death. Jeff embraces the conviction that faith communities have a vital role in discussing social issues and shaping values and ethics through the lens of a biblical and theological engagement.



If you have an interest in hosting a safe surrender of firearms, scheduling a presentation or blacksmithing demonstration contact Jeff Wild at [jtwildwi@gmail.com](mailto:jtwildwi@gmail.com).

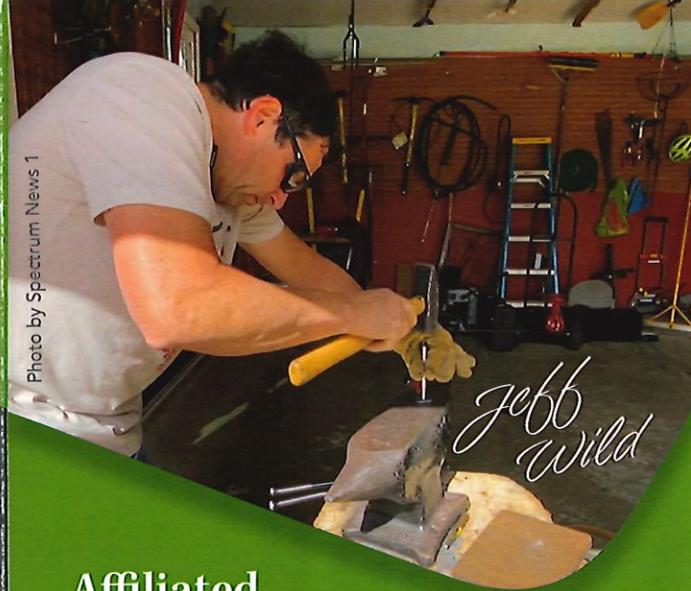
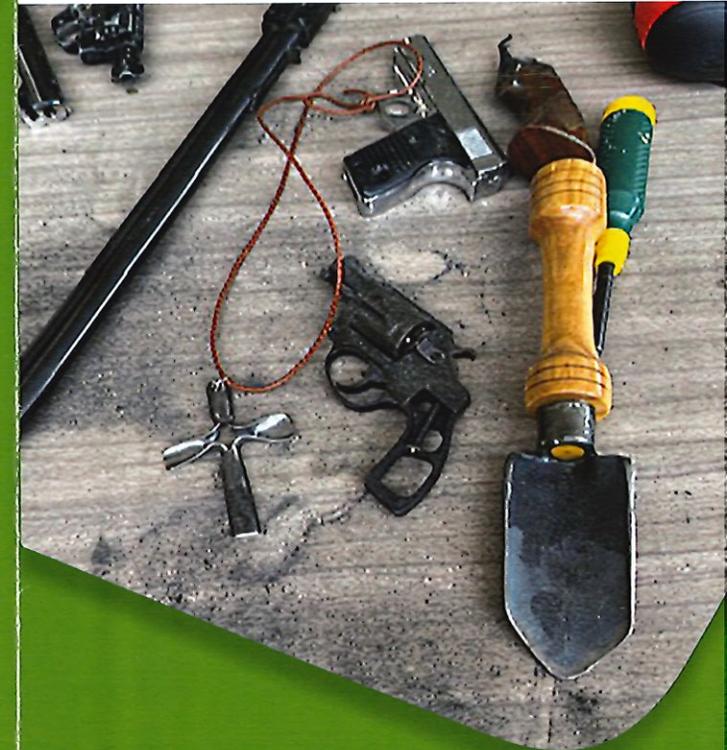


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## Affiliated Organizations

- 1 **Wisconsin Council of Churches**
  - Organizer: Rev. Scott Marese Wheeler
  - [psscottmw@icloud.com](mailto:psscottmw@icloud.com)
  - [wichurches.org](http://wichurches.org)
- 2 **RAW Tools**
  - [RAWtools.org](http://RAWtools.org)
- 3 **Presbyterian Peace Fellowship**
  - [presbypeacefellowship.org](http://presbypeacefellowship.org)



*... they will turn swords into plowshares and turn their spears into pruning hooks.*

Isaiah 2:4