

SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES EVENT AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL—JUNE 14, 2026

SEE THE SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES MINISTRY NETWORK WEBSITE on ECCT:

<https://www.episcopalct.org/swords-to-plowshares-ministry-network/>



BELOW IS ADAPTED FROM A June 5, 2023 ON-LINE POST for a similar event in Salisbury, CT in 2023

<https://www.ruralintelligence.com/the-rural-we-bishop-jim-curry/>

The Rural We: Bishop Jim Curry

The retired bishop co-founded Swords to Plowshares, which works to transform guns into garden tools

Anyone who despairs about the incidents of gun violence in our country should take note: there are groups transforming guns into garden tools. On Sunday, June 14, Bishop Jim Curry, retired bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, will be bringing his portable forge to **Trinity Episcopal Parish at 300 Main Street, in Old Wethersfield, Connecticut, to take place after coffee hour, from approximately 11-1.** As a founding member of Bishops United Against Gun Violence and co-founder of ***Swords to Plowshares***, he will invite community members to take a few swings at dismantled gun parts that will be reformed into garden tools and other useful items. The idea of turning “swords into plowshares” for community gardens captures the imagination, Curry says. “You have to try new ideas, because the old ideas don’t work.” I was an elementary school teacher in Huntington, Massachusetts, then went to Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and joined the ministry in Connecticut. I became a bishop in 2000 and retired in 2013.

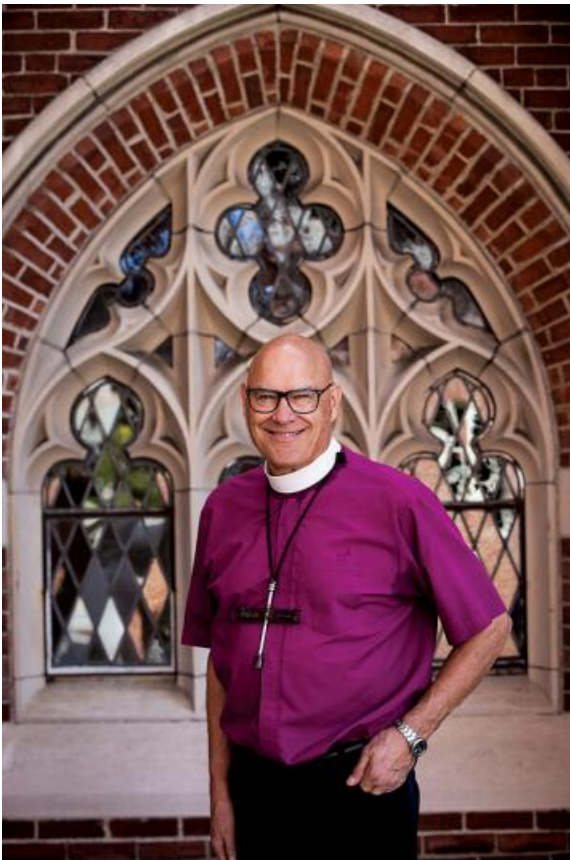
In 2016, we were introduced to a group, Raw Tools, which started this concept. It was developed by a Mennonite father and son. After Sandy Hook, they started inviting people to disarm their weapons, then make them into different gardening tools using blacksmithing techniques. We started talking with police departments around Connecticut, and invited leaders in this movement to New Haven. I learned as much as I could about blacksmithing, and began raising money to get the equipment and co-created Swords to Plowshares.

Before the pandemic, we were working with inmates at the New Haven Correctional Center, teaching blacksmithing. They made a lot of our tools at the beginning, which we gave away to community gardens. We work with police departments in Connecticut to get the guns. We have to follow good dismantling procedures. The way it works is I destroy the weapon under their eyes to make sure it can never be put together again. Once they’ve certified that, the police give us the material we use for all these projects. It’s such a win-win. The gun buyback is an opportunity to turn in a gun and receive remuneration. Lots of people actually want to get rid of their guns.

Join us at the forge and anvil! People will be making tools and jewelry.

There will also be garden tools and jewelry available for sale.

This is an invitation to face the reality of guns and do something.



Melanie Stetson Freeman/Staff

Bishop Curry co-founded Swords to Plowshares Northeast. "We forge rings from shotgun barrels into hearts – symbolizing that the change we need begins in the transformation of our own hearts," he says.

Pictures taken from

The Christian Science Monitor: Jan. 21, 2025:

A RETIRED BISHOP TRANSFORMS GUNS INTO GARDEN TOOLS TO HELP YOUTHS ENVISION PEACE

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Perspectives/Making-a-difference/2025/0121/gun-violence-prevention-blacksmithing>



Melanie Stetson Freeman/Staff

Retired Episcopal Suffragan Bishop Jim Curry (right) gives a blacksmithing demonstration at Parish of the Epiphany church.