

# 2012 Peacemaking Workshop - XXVI

*An InterFaith Coalition*

*Sunday, March 4, 2012 - 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.*

*First United Methodist Church*

## *Featured Speaker ~ Jim Hightower*

*Mind the Gap: Between the 99 and 1  
Growing Inequity Between Rich & Poor  
"America's Leaders are Small, but Americans are Not:  
Turning our Leaders' Failures Into our Inspiration."*

Hightower is a popular public speaker who is fiery and funny, a populist road warrior who delivers more than 100 speeches a year to all kinds of groups. He publishes a populist political newsletter, *The Hightower Lowdown*, which has more than 135,000 subscribers and is the fastest growing political publication in America. The hard-hitting "Lowdown" has received both the Alternative Press Award and the Independent Press Association Award for best national newsletter. Hightower is a national radio commentator carried in more than 150 commercial and public stations including Lincoln's own KZUM.

Read more about Jim at <http://www.jimhightower.com/>



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### Workshop Series begins at 3:00 p.m.

- A. Blanket the World
- B. Speaking Truth to Power
- C. Haves & Have-Nots: Bridging the Gap
  - Health & Nutrition - Empowerment & Distribution - Literacy & Education - Mental Health & Disability Issues - Housing

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**Peacemaking Workshop XXVI**  
Sunday, March 4 from 1:30 - 5:30 pm  
1st United Methodist Church - 2723 N. 50th St. - Lincoln

**MIND THE GAP**

**Between the 99 and 1**

**Growing Inequity Between Rich & Poor**

**Keynote Speaker 1:30 pm**  
**Jim Hightower**

*America's Leaders are Small, But Americans Are Not  
Turning our Leaders' Failures Into Our Inspiration*



*Heard on KZUM  
Community Radio  
Lincoln @ 89.3 FM  
M-F 11:55 a.m.*

**This event is FREE and  
open to the public.  
Free-will donation meal &  
conversation at 5:30 pm**

**Workshop Series beginning at 3 pm**

- A. Blanket the World**
- B. Speaking Truth to Power**
- C. Haves & Have-Nots: Bridging the Gap**

(Choose one topic for Workshop C.)

- Health & Nutrition
- Empowerment & Distribution
- Literacy & Education
- Mental Health & Disability Issues
- Housing

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PEACEMAKING  
Workshop XXVI





# MIND THE GAP Peacemaking Workshop is March 4



First Church will host a **Peacemaking Workshop** titled "**Mind the Gap**," bridging the gap between rich and poor.

Please come, and bring friends with you to the event, **March 4th from 1:30-5:30.**

"**Mind the Gap**," the title of the Peacemaking Workshop, is a phrase on signs throughout the London subway stations that urge riders to pay attention to the open space between the doors of the train and the station platforms.

The Peacemaking Workshop on March 4 will have a keynote address by **Jim Hightower**, nationally known commentator and former elected official in Texas. His "down-home humor" is mixed with insightful analysis of national policies.

Following his address will be 3 workshops: **one is a hands-on opportunity to help**, one is about **advocacy for the poor**, and one is a chance to **meet people who run agencies** that are currently serving the poor and marginalized in Lincoln. All of these workshops will be designed to give you information on how you can continue to make a difference in the lives of people right here in Lincoln.

Why have a Peacemaking Workshop on the widening gap between haves and have-nots? If you "Google" the phrase "gap between rich and poor," you will see research shows that gap is growing in most countries around the world countries the fact that that gap is growing, and is being credited with increasing political and economic instability.

The first people of the Methodist movement worked addressed a growing gap between rich and poor, by working to get people out of debtors' prisons and organizing to end child labor in factories. They trained children and adults to read and write English in "Sunday Schools," and Methodist small groups brought people together to better their physical lives as well as their spiritual understandings.

In the frontier days in the U.S. the Methodist people often built schools before they built churches. Right here in University Place, Methodists built a University and started a new town in 1888, long before building our church building in 1908.

The gap between rich and poor is growing again worldwide. The average income of the richest tenth of the population is now about nine times that of the poorest tenth, according to the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's studies. Those reports show the gap has increased about 10 percent since the mid 1980s. **Mexico, the U.S., Israel and the Great Britain are among the countries with the biggest divide between rich and poor.** The earnings multiple is 14-to-1 in the U.S. and Israel.

In the U.S., the report documents that "the rising incomes of executives and finance professionals account for much of the rising share of top income recipients."

"The social contract is starting to unravel in many countries," OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said in a statement. "This study dispels the assumptions that the benefits of economic growth will automatically trickle down to the disadvantaged and that the greater inequality fosters greater social mobility."

The income gap has risen even in traditionally egalitarian countries, such as Germany, Denmark and Sweden, from 5 to 1 in the 1980s to 6 to 1 today. The gap is 10 to 1 in Italy, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom.

-Pastor Larry

## Peacemaking Workshop XXVI will take action!

After Jim Hightower's presentation America's Leaders are small, but Americans are Not, how can we do otherwise? The workshops that follow offer opportunities to take action on the spot! But they also offer opportunities to continue to take action beyond the day. One opportunity may be to join others of faith to take action on policies that remove structures that continue to keep people from improving their economic position.

Workshops A, B and C will be offered three times during the afternoon and our intention is that everyone attend all three. The afternoon ends with a final Action Discussion and meal catered by our friends at El Chapparro in Black Fellowship Hall.

### Workshop A: Blanket the World

**Outcome:** Production of tied fleece blankets while developing commitment to action.

### Workshop B: Speaking Truth to Power

**Outcome:** Trained advocates to remove structural barriers to poverty

### Workshop C: Haves and Have-nots - Bridging the Gap

There will be five areas in the gym each with its own focus. Choose one.

**Outcomes:** Action commitments from participants to bridge the gap.

#### **1. Health and Nutrition**

Clinic With a Heart - Theresa Harns;  
Community Gardens - Ingrid Kirst  
CROPS Community Gardens

#### **2. Empowerment and Distribution**

Center for People in Need -  
Beatty Brasch; Good Neighbor Center -  
Sheila Schlisner

#### **3. Literacy and Education**

City Impact - Brad Bryan  
Lincoln Literacy Council - Marvin Almy  
Good Neighbor Center

#### **4. Mental Health & Those with Disability**

Lancaster County Community Mental Health  
Center - Dean Settle  
Nebraska Advocacy Services - Tim Shaw

#### **5. Housing**

City Urban Development Dept -  
Steve Werthmann  
Habitat for Humanity - Nancy Meuhling