



We are a community united in God's love, actively sharing that love with all.

A Pastoral Letter to the People of the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church

May 31, 2022

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher of Life and Love! I am writing today in response to the unbearable tragedy that happened this past week in Uvalde, Texas. Unfortunately this is not the first mass shooting in our country. They have become part of the fabric of our society. And in turn we feel almost helpless in trying to fight against gun violence and to be part of the solution.

This past Sunday, we prayed for the victims of the Uvalde massacre. On our altar were 21 vases with a flower and a name plate below commemorating each of the lives lost. In my sermon I issued a call to action and encouraged our congregation to come together with millions of other people across our nation and world to create a more peaceful and just society for all our citizens, but especially for our children.

To that purpose, I offer the following constructive suggestions as ways to be part of this call to action:

1. Write your members of Congress and tell them to support sensible gun legislation. This would include a ban on assault weapons.
2. Join an advocacy group against gun violence. Here are three groups that you may consider supporting through volunteering and your donations:

March For Our Lives (www.marchforourlives.com)

The Brady Campaign (www.bradyunited.org)

Sandy Hook Promise (www.sandyhookpromise.org)

Everytown For Gun Safety (www.everytown.org)

Moms Demand Action (www.momsdemandaction.org)

3. SHOW UP AND VOTE for legislators who support gun control legislation. Make your voice heard at the polls!

4. Support our teachers, students, administrators, and law enforcement in their efforts to make classrooms truly safe for students.
5. Speak out for common sense gun laws. Most of us agree that assault weapons have no place in our society. Advocate for background checks for the purchase of guns. Let us make sure that training is always a part of responsible gun ownership.

Finally, I would encourage you to not become discouraged. Turn your righteous anger into action. This is what we are called to do as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us be the ones who make this world a better place for our children and all people.

Blessings,

The Rev. Colin Kerr-Carpenter
Pastor, Walnut Creek United Methodist Church