

March 11 Offering: Letters to End Gun Violence

One of our church's covenant groups is inviting the congregation to write letters as an act of discipleship calling for our government officials to prioritize the safety and sanctuary of our nation's children amidst the repetitive and escalating violence we are witnessing. These letters can be placed on the altar during worship on Sunday, March 11.

Consider writing to:

Fox Chapel Area School Board Members and School Superintendent Dr. Gene Freeman

611 Field Club Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

PA State Representative (find yours!):

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/find_ourlegislator/index.cfm

PA State Senator (for Fox Chapel, O'Hara, Blawnox, Aspinwall, Indiana Twp.):

Senator Randy Vulakovich

300 Wetzel Road
2nd Floor, Suite 302
Glenshaw, PA 15116

U.S. Representative (find yours!):

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

U.S. Senators:

Senator Bob Casey

310 Grant Street, Suite 2415
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Senator Patrick Toomey

310 Grant Street, Suite 1440
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

U.S. President Donald Trump

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

If you choose to write a letter, consider the following set of measures as possible guidelines, as stated in our *United Methodist Book of Resolutions*, #3428 "Our Call to End Gun Violence":

- Universal background checks on all gun purchases;
- Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty;
- Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers;
- Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing a gun;
- Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their communities, from purchasing a gun;
- Ensuring greater access to services for those who have mental illness;
- Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession;
- Banning large capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled;
- Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and promote public safety.