



## UCC leaders call for action to end gun violence now

Written by **Connie Larkman**



After two mass murders in just over 13 hours that left 29 people dead and scores injured in Texas and Ohio, the President of the United States echoed the call that religious leaders and gun violence prevention advocates have been sounding for years: It's time for swift bipartisan action to address the national epidemic of gun violence.

United Church of Christ leaders think the U.S. needs to go a step further. They issued a call to action, urging churches and congregants to make gun violence prevention a prominent campaign issue – in addition to offering prayers for victims, their families and the communities of El Paso, Tex., and Dayton, Ohio, where the Aug. 3 and 4 shootings occurred.

"In one voice our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," President Donald Trump [said from the White House](#) Monday, Aug. 5. "These sinister ideologies must be defeated. Hate has no place in America. Hatred warps the mind, ravages the heart and devours the soul."

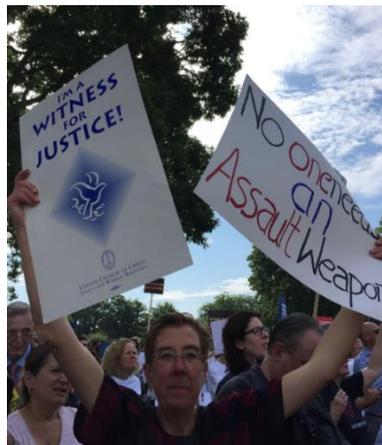
In his Monday remarks, Trump stopped short of advocating for gun control legislation, calling instead for the need to disrupt hate crimes and domestic terrorism. He blamed the violence on the internet, video games and mental illness. "First we must do a better job identifying and disrupting early warning signs. Stop the glorification of violence in our society. We must reform mental health laws to better identify mentally disturbed individuals who may commit acts of violence. Get treatment, and when necessary, involuntary confinement," Trump continued. "Mental illness and hatred pull the trigger, not the gun."

Immediately after the weekend massacres, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ spoke out against white supremacist rhetoric and said it's long past time that lawmakers focus on domestic terrorism and sensible gun control legislation.

"These shootings are utterly horrifying. America must stop thinking prayers for the victims alone will resolve this. Two things must happen. Responsible gun laws must pass through Congress. And the President must be censured when his rhetoric crosses the line of decency and incites violence," said the Rev. John C. Dorhauer.

News reports identified the [shooter in El Paso](#) as a white male acting on racially motivated extremism. He drove 10 hours from Allen to El Paso, opened fire at a Walmart and killed 20 people on Saturday. Little is known about the motivation of another white male [who killed nine people in a Dayton entertainment district](#) early Sunday.

Monday morning, [Dorhauer said](#) in addition to prayer for the victims, their families and our country, advocates need to keep going. Despite the "continued trauma of these tragedies on our nation's soul and psyche" people of faith need to keep after "legislators who still do not take any action, to even talk about any sensible gun control laws, they are so beholden to the NRA and the powerful gun lobby. We have to get out and vote and any lawmaker who refuses to even talk about responsible gun control, they can no longer serve in our name and on our behalf. We have to walk out into the streets and march until the arc of history continues to bend toward justice."



"In February of this year the House passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 which would require checks on gun transfers between unlicensed dealers. It has languished in the Senate for months without a vote," said Sandy Sorensen, director of the UCC Washington, D.C. Office. "If there were the political will, Senate Majority Leader [Mitch] McConnell could call the vote today. We await the President's call to McConnell to hold the vote today. Prayers and platitudes are not enough."

The National Council of Churches, noting [in a statement](#) that "elected leaders are guilty of negligence and cowardice" and are "captives of the gun lobby," is asking the 100,000 local churches that comprise its member communions to contact elected officials and demand actions that will renew the assault weapons ban.

"There is no reason for anyone to own assault weapons which were created for use in war. There is widespread public support for requiring licenses to own guns, for a ban on assault weapons, and for background checks.

The only reason elected officials refuse to take action in the face of desires of the voters is because they fear the power of the gun lobby," said the Rev. Jim Winkler, NCC president and general secretary. "The combination of readily available weapons of mass destruction and a toxic white racist nationalist ideology is a recipe for disaster. If we cannot confront these two evils, far greater violence and social disruption awaits our nation."

Also awaiting Senate action is a host of additional gun violence prevention measures, including reversing prohibitions on funding for the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health for studying gun violence as a health and safety epidemic, and provisions in the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization – passed by the House and stalled in the Senate – that would provide critical protections for victims of stalking, dating violence and domestic violence. Lawmakers could also ban large capacity ammunition magazines and extreme risk prevention measures.

### **What can be done?**

- UCC leaders are urging members to [call on the Senate](#) to act immediately on pending gun violence legislation.
- They are also urging voters to attend town halls and candidate appearances and ask the candidates what they plan to do to end gun violence. For instance, a strong bipartisan majority of the House of Representatives recently passed background checks for all gun sales. More than 90 percent of Americans consistently support universal background checks. Ask the candidates about their position on passing those background checks, and what action they are taking now to see that the bill is signed into law.

"We are not helpless in the face of this unrelenting violence," Sorensen said. "We can take meaningful bipartisan steps to reduce gun violence. From a faith perspective, it is nothing short of idolatry to put protecting guns ahead of protecting lives."

"I pledge I will contact religious leaders all over this country this week to see how we can bring our collective capacity together to make a difference," Dorhauer said. "May Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead so we could have our life, sustain us and give us the strength and the courage and the patience to see this through to the end."



### **Pastor Glenn's Contact Information & Schedule:**

Cell phone: (414) 550.1553 E-mail: SPPastor@yahoo.com

At the church office Monday-Wednesday: 9:00 am to noon

Thursday: I work at home writing sermons and making calls

Friday: Pastor's day off

\*Available other times by appointment—just give me a call!

\*\*Schedule subject to change depending on evening meetings, weddings, funerals, SE UCC clergy meetings, etc.



## FEED THE HUNGRY

### Extending the Table September 1

We will be “Extending the Table” to our neighbors in need by collecting goods for area food pantries again on Communion Sunday, September 1. Here are the items currently most needed: canned peas, canned carrots, pasta sides, rice sides, boxed potatoes, canned mandarin oranges, applesauce, jelly/jam, pasta (shells, mastaccioli), juice (64 oz. bottles).



### Fall Bible Study Begins September 15

Pastor Glenn will lead a lectionary-based Bible study beginning on Sunday, September 15, after worship from 11 am-12 noon in the upstairs Conference Room. No Bible knowledge or experience necessary. Start the new church year off on the right foot and join us—and invite a friend!



### Reunion Sunday September 8

We will begin a new church year together with worship at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 8. Wear your Packer gear to church to celebrate the beginning of the new church year and new season! The First Day of Sunday School is also September 8, which will be held immediately following the children’s sermon in worship. Join us—and invite a friend!



### St. Paul’s Youth!

**YOU** are invited for a year full of fun and ADVENTURES as

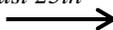
*we become St. Paul’s TREASURE SEEKERS! We will **Explore** the Bible and learn the amazing stories of Respect, Wisdom, Trust and so much more! **Follow us** on a Journey you will never forget!*

## The Adventure begins September 8<sup>th</sup>!

*Brewers Game Fellowship Outing August 24th*



*Richfield Parade August 25th*





### **Homemade Bread and Soup Lunch / Bake Sale**

St. Paul's Guild Homemade Bread and Soup Lunch and Bake Sale is on Saturday, September 21. We again ask your help advertising the

event by inviting friends and neighbors and giving them a flyer (available on the greeter's stand) which also includes the date of St. Paul's Chili Dinner and this year's Cookie Walk. Business posters are also available (see Carol) if you work or shop at a business in this area which has a public posting area.

If you can help at the sale (11 AM to 3 PM – Saturday, September 21) or with set up and pricing (6 PM to 8 PM - Friday evening, September 20) please see Jill. We do need more help.

St. Paul's bake sale is popular and the wonderful homemade bars, sweet and yeast breads, cookies, pies, jellies, etc. fly off the tables. Start thinking of what you can make for the sale to keep our enthusiastic customers happy and keep those tables stocked. Bring baked items to church on Friday, September 20. The church will be open to accept baked goods from 9 AM to noon, and from 6 PM to 8 PM. If that time doesn't work for you, please contact a Guild member to make other plans.

We will again be holding a basket raffle with proceeds going to help fund Vacation Bible School and St. Paul's Mission Committee. Any church group or church member who would like to furnish a basket or gift card for the raffle, please see Debbie Schlafer.



### **Fall Confirmation Class Organizing**

Pastor Glenn is beginning to organize our fall Confirmation class. If there are any students 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older seeking to be confirmed, please contact Pastor Glenn at (414) 550.1553 or [SPPastor@yahoo.com](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com). A Confirmation Orientation will be held in late September or early October.



### **CHILI DINNER & HOLIDAY PIE SALE November 10**

Mark your calendar for the churches fall fundraiser.

#### **Looking for help**

Our Chili Dinner fundraiser will be Sunday, November 10. Last year we tested a Holiday Day Pie sale as part of the fundraiser. Since it went over very well, we would like to expand the number of pies available. The committee is seeking someone to coordinate the pie/candy sale. The responsibilities would be to arrange pie makers and candy makers. Please see Connie Johnson for more information



### **Know of Someone in the**

#### **Hospital?**

If you know of someone in our congregation who is currently hospitalized or would like a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Glenn at [SPPastor@yahoo.com](mailto:SPPastor@yahoo.com) or (414) 550.1553.



### **Women's Guild**

Anna Kluever attended our September Guild meeting and told us about her recent trip to Germany as a

foreign exchange student. Anna shared pictures of her group, her German family, and the many places that they toured and enjoyed. Her interest in the customs, history, and culture of the region and the German people was evident in her descriptions and her enthusiasm. We enjoyed Anna's pictures and were impressed with her delightful presentation. Thank you, Anna.

The first box of new blinds for the Fellowship Hall which were ordered by the Guild arrived during our meeting! We hope to have them all delivered and installed in time for the Homemade Bread and Soup Lunch. Most of our meeting was planning for that event. We will be needing many hands, so please read the article in this Chapel Bells and see what you can do to help.

The next Guild meeting is September 19. All St. Paul's women are invited and encouraged to attend.



### **September 21 Serving Day at Sussex Food Pantry**

We are responsible for providing a team of 4-5 people to serve at the Sussex Food Pantry from 9:30 am-12:00 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our next serving day is scheduled for Saturday, September 21 (friends are welcome, too!). Please sign up on the sheet in Fellowship Hall or let Pastor Glenn know if you are interested in serving. The Sussex Food Pantry is located in the new Sussex Civic Campus at N64 W23760 Main Street, Sussex, WI.



### **September Liturgist**

#### **Schedule**

September 1 Curt Hulterstrum  
September 8 Stephanie Danz  
September 15 Steve Manuell  
September 22 John Duwell  
September 29 Alice Manuell

### **Greeters for September:**

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Fred & Wanda Dieball  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Jo Swanson  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jerry & Vicki Lubbert  
September 29<sup>th</sup> – Janene & Anna Kluever

### **Coffee & Conversation Hosts:**

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Jim & Jo Swanson  
September 8<sup>th</sup> – Needed  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Cheryl Fischer  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Buy some Bake Sale leftovers  
September 29<sup>th</sup> – \*\*Needed\*\*



### **Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls & visits:**

- \*Ron Perschon, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer
- \*The Truman family as Jeff continues to battle brain cancer
- \*Lois Winkler, now home in LaCrosse after completing physical therapy
- \*Ron Smith, undergoing physical therapy at Crossroads Care Center in Pewaukee
- \*Sheila Anderson, battling COPD
- \*All teachers, students, and parents as the new school year begins

**St. Paul's UCC  
Church Council Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2019**

**Attendance:** Pastor Glenn, Jill Paddock, LouAnn Evert, Curt Hulterstrum, Sue Miller, Connie Johnson, John Duwell, Adam Staus   **Absent:** Wanda Dieball

1. **Opening prayer**
2. **June minutes** were reviewed and unanimously approved. Pastor Glenn moved, LouAnn seconded.
3. **June financials** were reviewed, discussed and unanimously approved. \$500 was donated to the church by Steve and Mary Nachreiner for Brian and Tom donating their time and music during a recent birthday celebration. Brian and Tom are also donating their time and music for the brat fry. (Pastor Glenn moved, Curt seconded)
4. **Pastor's Report** presented and reviewed with council. Report included June-July ministry highlights, upcoming events and prayer needs. No motion needed for Pastor's report.
5. **Committee liaison reports**-Buildings and grounds-An insurance adjuster came out and confirmed that the cross on the steeple was damage from wind. The church received a check for \$1577 for the damage to the cross. Council agreed to move forward with getting estimates for the church steeple repair or replacement as well as the rest of the roof to bring up at the annual meeting.
6. **July 28<sup>th</sup> fundraiser report and discussion**-Lucy will be donating 200 brats, we are receiving 2 free banners from the beer distributors, 3 additional banners are being purchased for \$40 each, tickets will be used to purchase food and beverages, anyone 21 and older will get a stamp on their hand, and worship will be at church not the park the morning of the fundraiser.
7. **From council master calender**
  - a. Confirm who orders pledge cards-Stewardship Committee
  - b. Review list of who served on stewardship committee-stewardship committee is now a year round committee, members are: Dave and Betty Zimpleman, Eugene and Vicki Dost, Pastor Glenn, and Adam Staus.
  - c. Membership review begins in August.
8. Next meeting is set for August 12<sup>th</sup>
9. Meeting adjourned-Jill Paddock moves, Curt seconds.

# BACK TO SCHOOL September 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:30 am worship w/ communion +Extending the Table	2 Sharon Jossart	3 11:30 am Senior Group  Debbie Braden	4 Jim & Jo Swanson's Anniversary	5 Adam & Jess Staus' Anniversary	6	7
8 9:30 am Reunion Sunday worship, Sunday School begins Machelle Callen	9 6 pm Church Council mtg.	10	11 Brenda Klemmer Judy Nell	12 Tom & Mary and Rick & Vicki Guetzke's Anniversary	13	14
15 9:30 am worship; 11 am-12 noon Bible Study	16	17 Sharon Schlafer	18	19 Guild 12 Noon  Brett & Susan Miller's Anniversary	20 Jim Branchford Connie Johnson Elise Gothard Jason & Becky Duehring's Anniversary	21 9:30 am-12 noon Serving day at Sussex food pantry; 11 am-3 pm Bake Sale and Homemade Bread & Soup Lunch
22 9:30 am worship	23 Charmaine Duehring Jake Klemmer	24	25 Dave & Betty Zimpelmann's Anniversary	26 Art & Deb Schlafer's and Cliff & Debbie Braden's Anniversary	27	28
29 9:30 am worship  Tory Raether	30					