

Prayers Needed

- **Victims of Gun Violence** – 29,662 people have died in gun violence this year, including 1,124 children. 26,464 people have been injured including 3,023 children.
- **Migrants & Refugees** – especially those who are exploited by smugglers. Remember those facing excessive heat and other weather challenges. Remember those who are returned to their countries where they continue to face abuse & death.
- **All those dealing with natural disasters. Among them:** excessive heat in much of the world. As well as drought, fires, flooding, earthquakes, storms. A third of Pakistan is under water from flooding. They are also dealing with extreme poverty and hunger.
- **Countries Dealing with Major Political and/or Economic Upheaval** including Sri Lanka, Venezuela, the Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Columbia, Syria, Afghanistan. . .
- **Afghanistan where women and girls have lost their rights & children are starving.**
- **Women & Girls** – who are treated as second class citizens in many countries.
- **Ukraine where the war continues** as does hunger, the risk of epidemic disease, & the risk of nuclear disaster.
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic.** Case numbers were up again last week. A new vaccine booster covering current strains, will be out around Labor Day. Long COVID is a continuing problem. Remember those who are studying the virus to understand its impact of people over the long term. Its impact on the brain is a particular concern.



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 When we pray for the people in need in our world, we are praying for peace. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is Shalom – living in harmony with each other & with God’s creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, & rest – the welfare & prosperity of all. Praying for the needs of others is an important first step in loving people as God calls us to. Next steps include using our time, talents, & resources to help others when disaster strikes, offering comfort in times of need, & working for change when the suffering of others comes from discrimination, persecution, exploitation, or abuse. When shalom does not exist for everyone, no one is fully at peace!

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