

Remember In Prayer

- **New Zealand** – experiencing record setting heavy rain & flooding (a month's worth of rain fell in one day)
- **Haiti** –Gangs control the capital & most of the country. Gang violence has forced hospitals to close & led to rampant malnutrition, famine & a cholera outbreak. Pray for the country & for the Haitian Brethren there trying to survive in this crisis. The US government has put Haiti on the no travel list because it is not safe to go there.
- **Pakistan** – still recovering from flooding made worse by political crisis.
- **Refugees fleeing political crisis and violence** – the US has put in place “a safe & lawful way” for qualifying Haitians, Cubans & Nicaraguans, with US-based supporters, to travel by air to & temporarily reside in the US. They may apply for work authorization while here. Numerical caps on a similar program for Venezuelans have been lifted. Also remember refugees who do not have access to this option.
- **Those dealing with winter storms & cold weather** – especially those with no shelter.
- **Iran** –peaceful protests against the extreme Islamic government, & their violent repression continues.
- **China** – New COVID cases & deaths continue to climb & overwhelm their medical system. The government is still not reporting case or death numbers. With so many new cases, the possibility of developing new variants continues to be serious.
- **Ukraine where war continues** – attacks against Ukrainian civilians are ongoing. Russia is using both Russian forces & private troops against Ukraine. Cutting power, heat, & water to civilians in the midst of winter, remains a Russian tactic.
- **Somalia** – severe food insecurity continues. Drought & violence have displaced millions.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 3,709 people have died in gun violence (up 767 from last week) including 151 children (up 30 from last week). 2,734 people have been injured (up by 517 from last week) including 343 children (up 59 people from last week). 2,112 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 52 mass shootings (up 12 from last week) this month. (Gun Violence Archive statistics). In 2021 an estimated 4.6 million children in the U.S. were living in a home with at least one unlocked & loaded gun. 54% of guns in the U.S. are not stored safely (the National Firearm Survey).
- **The continuing COVID Pandemic** – COVID, RSV virus, & flu continue to be a serious issue. Vaccines & treatments have reduced COVID death rates, but COVID continues to spread. The new COVID variants, now circulating, are the most contagious yet. 2,500 people (including 90 in Ohio) are dying every day of COVID.



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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 and with God's creation. Shalom means health, safety, tranquility, wholeness, and rest – the welfare and 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, and resources to help others when disaster strikes, offering comfort in times of need, and 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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