

Pray For Peace

- **Victims of Gun Violence** – Already this year, 17,539 people have died in gun violence (up 859 from last week) including 744 children (up 40 from last week). 14,591 people have been injured (up 1,004 from last week) including 1,870 children (up 139 from last week). 9,900 of the deaths are suicides (up 462 from last week). There have already been 264 mass shootings (up 26 from last week) this year. (Gun Violence Archive statistics). June 2nd is Gun Violence Awareness Day. “On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a high school student from the south side of Chicago, marched in President Obama’s second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya’s childhood friends decided to commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. ‘Wear Orange’ originated on June 2, 2015—what would have been Hadiya’s 18th birthday. Now, it is observed nationally on the first Friday in June and the following weekend each year.” (Everytown For Gun Safety) Use the day & the weekend following it, to pray for all those touched by gun violence. Also, look for ways to help your community make changes that will help stop gun violence.
- **Guam** was hit by super typhoon Mawar last week. The storm is now heading for the Philippines. Thousands are being evacuated ahead of the storm which is expected to bring tidal surges, flooding, high wind, & landslides.
- **Refugees** – Church World Service reports that every 2 seconds, someone in the world has to leave their home & everything they know due to the threat of violence, persecution, or disaster. That means in the time it has taken to type this prayer request, 72 people have been displaced and become refugees. Leaving their homes is their only choice. . .More than 7 in 10 of all refugees under UN mandate & other people in need of international protection come from just 5 countries: Syrian Arab Republic (6.8 million), Venezuela (5.6 million). Ukraine (5.4 million), Afghanistan (2.8 million), & South Sudan (2.4 million). Only 204,500 refugees were able to return home in the first 6 months of 2022. 74% of all refugees & others in need of international help are hosted (given refuge) in low- and middle- income countries. The least developed countries – those with the fewest resources needed to help, provide asylum to 22% of the total number of refugees. (UNHCR statistics)
- **Rwanda, Congo, & Italy** continuing to recover from flooding.
- **Serbia** – massive peaceful protests against gun violence & calls for reform after the way the government handled 2 rare mass shootings.
- **Haiti** – the lawless situation there continues to get worse. Gangs continue to ‘control’ territory with fear, intimidation & violence, including rape. One third of the women & girls in Haiti have been sexually assaulted or raped by gang members.
- **Syria** – 12 years of war there continue.
- **Sudan** – 2 military groups are fighting for control of the country continue to tear the country apart. The civilian population is paying the price.
- **Ukraine where the war continues.** Attacks on civilians & atrocities against them are ongoing.
- **The Tigray region of Ethiopia** – where 3 years of war have taken at least 600,000 lives (probably many more). Brutality & atrocities have been committed by all sides. Pray for the people as they try to find a way to make peace negotiations work.
- **Myanmar & Bangladesh** – cyclone Mocha has caused major devastation. Many affected are already in refugee camps because they are fleeing violence.
- **Canada** –wildfires are burning in the west. The smoke is affecting U.S. air quality as well.
- **Turkey** – people are still suffering & trying to recover from February’s major earthquake there.
- **Continue to remember those dealing with COVID** – including long COVID.



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