

A Time to Remember & Act

Take a
Moment to
Pray for
Peace!



This week there are several reasons to learn, remember, and reflect as we seek ways to move forward peacefully and with hope.

First; while International Holocaust Remembrance Day is January 27, many Jewish communities observe Yom HaShoah (Holocaust & Heroism

Remembrance Day) on the 27th day of Nisan (on the Jewish calendar) which falls in April or May (on the Gregorian calendar). This year, Yom HaShoah is April 20th. Both are days of solemn remembering. 6 million Jews, (and nearly as many other people), died at the hands of Hitler and the Nazis in their forced labor and death camps during World War II. We need to take the time to learn the history of the Holocaust so that we do not forget the horrors its victims suffered, and the political realities that lead to it. If we do forget, or worse, try to deny it happened, we allow such inhumanity to happen again. . .

Also; April 22 is Earth Day, and 2020 marks the 50th year of this commemoration and call to action. It is a day to remember our responsibility to care for and protect the earth and all the living things God created that we share it with. The earth is a gift from God and the only home we have. We are charged with the task of caring for the earth and all its creatures out of gratitude to God for his creation. Of all the creatures God made, only people can make decisions that either cause harm or protect the world around them on a massive scale. Many of our choices have and are causing great harm as they contribute to climate change. The 2018 Annual Conference Creation Care statement says: “. . .we must first accept that climate change is a moral, spiritual, and human issue, and not a political debate. We must confess our role in the problem and be willing to reflect, pray, and have loving conversations about these complex challenges. We must seek and support solutions that restore dignity to the underprivileged, promote peace, and protect God's earth.” Pray, and find ways to take action. (see *Newsline 4-18-2020*)

In addition; in March the United Nations secretary general called for a world-wide ceasefire so that everyone could concentrate on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, stopping its spread, and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Some places have heeded this call, while others have not. Pray that all people involved in conflict will lay down their weapons and work together to create conditions that will facilitate the delivery of life-saving aid, and bring hope to places where people are the most impoverished and vulnerable (Churches for Middle East Peace statement on the UN action. See *Newsline 4-18-2020*). Remember Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, South Sudan, & other places where people are living with violence, suffering, and now must face COVID-19 as well. Pray they will try a ceasefire and use it as a starting place for making a lasting peace.

Do not forget there are still people with other needs in the world too. Remember those dealing with the aftermath of storms & bad weather. Remember refugees and all displaced people. Remember those living with economic or political difficulties.

Again; continue to remember everyone facing the coronavirus – those who are sick and those who are caring for them. Remember those people who are separated from their loved ones while facing this virus. Be with those working to stop the virus, and those responsible for public policy about it. Help all of us do our part to work together for the good of everyone in this time of pandemic.

Take a Moment to Pray for Peace #93 April 22, 2020 Linda Fry, District Peace & Conciliation Advocate

A Time to Remember & Act

Take a
Moment to
Pray for
Peace!



This week there are several reasons to learn, remember, and reflect as we seek ways to move forward peacefully and with hope.

First; while International Holocaust Remembrance Day is January 27, many Jewish communities observe Yom HaShoah (Holocaust & Heroism

Remembrance Day) on the 27th day of Nisan (on the Jewish calendar) which falls in April or May (on the Gregorian calendar). This year, Yom HaShoah is April 20th. Both are days of solemn remembering. 6 million Jews, (and nearly as many other people), died at the hands of Hitler and the Nazis in their forced labor and death camps during World War II. We need to take the time to learn the history of the Holocaust so that we do not forget the horrors its victims suffered, and the political realities that lead to it. If we do forget, or worse, try to deny it happened, we allow such inhumanity to happen again. . .

Also; April 22 is Earth Day, and 2020 marks the 50th year of this commemoration and call to action. It is a day to remember our responsibility to care for and protect the earth and all the living things God created that we share it with. The earth is a gift from God and the only home we have. We are charged with the task of caring for the earth and all its creatures out of gratitude to God for his creation. Of all the creatures God made, only people can make decisions that either cause harm or protect the world around them on a massive scale. Many of our choices have and are causing great harm as they contribute to climate change. The 2018 Annual Conference Creation Care statement says: “. . .we must first accept that climate change is a moral, spiritual, and human issue, and not a political debate. We must confess our role in the problem and be willing to reflect, pray, and have loving conversations about these complex challenges. We must seek and support solutions that restore dignity to the underprivileged, promote peace, and protect God's earth.” Pray, and find ways to take action. (see *Newsline 4-18-2020*)

In addition; in March the United Nations secretary general called for a world-wide ceasefire so that everyone could concentrate on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, stopping its spread, and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Some places have heeded this call, while others have not. Pray that all people involved in conflict will lay down their weapons and work together to create conditions that will facilitate the delivery of life-saving aid, and bring hope to places where people are the most impoverished and vulnerable (Churches for Middle East Peace statement on the UN action. See *Newsline 4-18-2020*). Remember Syria, Venezuela, Ukraine, South Sudan, & other places where people are living with violence, suffering, and now must face COVID-19 as well. Pray they will try a ceasefire and use it as a starting place for making a lasting peace.

Do not forget there are still people with other needs in the world too. Remember those dealing with the aftermath of storms & bad weather. Remember refugees and all displaced people. Remember those living with economic or political difficulties.

Again; continue to remember everyone facing the coronavirus – those who are sick and those who are caring for them. Remember those people who are separated from their loved ones while facing this virus. Be with those working to stop the virus, and those responsible for public policy about it. Help all of us do our part to work together for the good of everyone in this time of pandemic.

Take a Moment to Pray for Peace #93 April 22, 2020 Linda Fry, District Peace & Conciliation Advocate