

Pentacost Prayers!

Special prayer for the Church. This Sunday, June 5, is Pentecost – the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ Disciples, considered the birthday of the church. Annual Conference Moderator, David Sollenberger, asks that we be in special prayer for the Church of the Brethren as we prepare for Annual Conference (July 10-14). “Pray that we might be open to, & guided by, the Spirit in our worship, our study, & our deliberations. Pray that we will be given the grace to treat each other as brothers & sisters in Christ in the best tradition of the Church of the Brethren. Pray for safe travels for those that give of their time & talent by serving the church at Annual Conference. Pray that each person who gathers in Omaha will experience a renewed anointing of the Spirit that will give energy & courage in abundance for moving Christ’s church into a confident future.”



- **Uvalda, TX – continue prayers:** for those mourning the 19 children & 2 teachers killed; for the 17 injured; for all who survived & now live with the horror of the Ross Elementary school shooting. As of May 30th, 6 of the injured were still hospitalized (a 10-year-old girl in serious condition, an adult in fair condition, 3 victims in good condition, 1’s condition is not known). Pray for the investigation to determined why it took so long before the shooter was stopped. The time factor is increasing the anguish for survivors. A Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) team is in Uvalda & a second team is on standby to go if needed. These teams are trained to work with children who have been traumatized. Pray for the CDS volunteers & their work.
- **Victims of Gun Violence** – there have been 231 mass shootings (up 18 from last week’s 213) in 2022. The 2022 gun death total is now 17,980. 685 deaths & 1,699 of the injured are children (17 or younger). 786 people were killed by guns last week alone. Many states, are weakening gun laws, even though the number of homicides & other gun crimes increases where gun laws are weakened. The Ohio bill allowing people to carry concealed firearms without training or permits goes into effect on June 13. Ohio police, like police in other states with such laws, say they will now assume everyone is armed. The ramifications of that are frightening. There are 393 million civilian owned guns in the U.S. – 120 guns for every 100 people. In 2020, firearms became the leading cause of death for children & adolescents in this country, surpassing motor vehicle crashes (*The New England Journal of Medicine*). Pray for the victims. . . – but if we value life, we must also find a way to change our gun culture & stop this.
- **Nigeria** A major wind storm damaged buildings at Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) headquarters & Kulp Theological Seminary (the EYN seminary, formerly Kulp Bible School) as well as homes in the community May 12th. Unrelated & elsewhere in Nigeria, 30 people died, mostly children, at a gift item give away at a polo club in the southeastern city of Port Harcourt. The event was sponsored by Kings Assembly Church (not a Brethren group).
- **Ukraine:** Pray for Ukrainians living with the daily bombardment, hunger, thirst, fear, danger, & the destruction of their world all around them. Pray for the 5 million plus Ukrainians who have fled & are living as refugees in foreign lands. Pray for those, desperate for home & willing to go home despite the risk, as the war continues. Mass graves & unburied bodies continue to be found in areas where the Russians have left. Pray for Ukrainians in Russian held areas who are being taken to Russia, often by force. What happens to these people is not known. Remember, in Russia, not everyone supports Putin’s war despite intense pro-war propaganda & government control of the media. Many Russians are willing to run the risks & openly protest the war. More than 15,000 protestors have been arrested so far. Pray for them as well.
- **The COVID Pandemic.** The COVID pandemic continues. The number of cases, both light & severe, is climbing world-wide. 1 in 4 seniors & 1 in 5 of the rest of the population will have long COVID, most having had only a light case of COVID initially. Be in prayer for the sick & their caregivers. Pray that we will be able to find & accept a new normal that will let us keep each other as safe as possible & move forward.

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