



To the Jewish Community in Berkshire County

Dear Colleagues, Neighbors, and Friends,

We write to express to you the deep distress we feel as hateful incidents of desecration, vandalism, and bomb threats disrupt the life of the Jewish community. We grieve with you, as these vile and criminal acts multiply almost daily. The horrible graffiti on Mt. Tom last fall and the bomb threat forcing the evacuation of the Springfield Jewish Community Center on March 3 have brought it home to us that this epidemic of hatred is not far from us here in Berkshire County.

We stand in solidarity with you as you face the fears these hateful acts are intended to heighten. We are committed to confronting the lie that anyone has the right to discriminate against or threaten any religious, ethnic, or cultural community.

We know that it will take more than a few words in a presidential speech to assuage the grief of families witnessing the toppled gravestones of their loved ones. We know that it will require more than the 140 characters of a tweet to address the horror of watching the forced march of little children evacuating Jewish community centers across our nation.

We call upon all our elected leaders to speak and act-- consistently, frequently, and forcibly-- to help end these attacks on the Jewish community. We will also be sending the enclosed letter to the Berkshire delegation of the State Legislature and to Congressman Neal, Senator Warren, Senator Markey, and Governor Baker expressing our sincere concerns. To us, these acts represent an assault on the soul of the American nation, a profound violation of the American vision.

Please remember that you can call on us, and we will demonstrate the solidarity we pledge to you.

Yours in the fellowship we have long treasured,
The Lutheran & Episcopal Clergy of Berkshire County, undersigned

The Rev. Marc L. Britt

The Rev. Cricket Cooper
Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Pittsfield

The Rev. Mary Frances Curns
Rector, All Saints of the Berkshires, North Adams

The Rev. Tom Damrosch



Berkshire County Episcopal and Lutheran Clericus
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

The Rev. Bruce Duncan

The Rev. Peter Elvin

The Rev. Tad Evans

Curate, St. Helena's Chapel, Lenox

The Rev. Joseph Farnes

Assistant Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Stockbridge

The Rev. Jenny Gregg

Priest, Cathedral of the Beloved, Pittsfield

The Rev. Frances A. Hills

The Rev. Sam Smith

Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Stockbridge

The Rev. Noreen Suriner

Pastor and Priest at St Luke's, Lanesboro

The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman

Priest Associate, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Stockbridge

The Rev. Michael Tuck

Rector, Trinity Church/St. Helena's Chapel, Lenox

The Rev. Libby Wade

Interim Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Williamstown

The Rev. Timothy Weisman

Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Pittsfield

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. White

The Rev. Randy Wilburn

Interim Pastor, Christ Trinity Church, Sheffield

The Rev. Dcn. Jinney Vogel-Polizzi

Assistant, Grace Episcopal Church, Great Barrington

The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Great Barrington