



Minister's Column

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A Response to the Mass Shooting in Texas

Since last Sunday's mass shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs Texas, I have been trying to find words to express my grief that, in a place of love, connection and sanctuary, such tragedy occurs again. I have not found the words.

I also search for words to express my outrage that this carnage has become an acceptable byproduct of a powerful lobby that distorts the inherent values of democracy. I have not found the words for that either.

As your minister, I struggle to find words of comfort to offer to you.

I believe many of us are experiencing emotional whiplash from the barrage of traumatic events in our world. These are indeed extraordinary times that require our individual and collective action to assure that our life, and our country, reflects our shared values. It can seem as if action is the most important step we can take.

However, there is reason to be mournful and to not turn away from our grief. We must see the faces of the ones who died this week, and know them as our brothers and sisters. It is our shared humanity that will help us find our way forward, not our anger.

In response to this shooting, Rev. Joel will reconvene the Risk Management Team and review the church's safety plans. Other congregations have safety plans that may be useful for our community, so we will also consult with them.

We must call on our shared UU faith to provide our spiritual grounding during this unprecedented time. We must be kind to one another and to ourselves, and know in our heart that love is the strongest power on earth. We can rest in that knowledge, so we have the strength to continue our work for justice, equity and compassion.

In faith,
Rev. Tina