

A letter from Pastor Kim Dorr-Tilley, First Presbyterian Church, Mountain View
September 11, 2025

HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE...

Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. So when Jesus says "Love your enemies," he is setting forth a profound and ultimately inescapable admonition. Have we not come to such an impasse in the modern world that we must love our enemies—or else? The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his book, **STRENGTH OF LOVE**, 1963

Dear Friends, no matter where we are on the political spectrum, we must all stop and mourn the death of Charlie Kirk in an assassination that not only ended his life but traumatized countless others with the sound of one fired bullet. Violence in heart, mind, and soul, violence in word and deed is escalating.

The fact that I'm writing this letter on September 11th does not escape me. We must consider this moment in time, in our nation, to search our hearts and consider what is coming from them. Are we holding hate for others in our hearts that we just never speak out loud? God knows our hearts. Are we quick to criticize another or flay them with words we **do** speak out loud, thinking this will bring no harm?

Too much harm is being done.

Jesus said:

Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person...

In the next few weeks, I call FPCMV to prayer. We have been called and equipped for such a time as this. Practice the inward prayer of examen. Ask God to send you in intercessory prayer for the world, the nation, the conflicts everywhere. Pray for peace. Sit still with God and listen for what He wants to share with you. Listen closely. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in new depths of wisdom and love. Find each other here on campus or in your neighborhoods and choose to pray together. Be kind and thoughtful to everyone.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.