

## **A Word on the Overland Park, KS Shootings**

From Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

In this week of holy days for Jews and Christians, our prayers surround those who are mourning the tragic loss of life at two Jewish centers in Overland Park, Kansas.

As the Jewish community prepares to commemorate their liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt in the festival of Passover, yesterday's shootings are a disturbing reminder of the depth of hatred and violence that still holds some captive today. Though the shootings have not yet been labeled a hate crime, their impact on the Jewish community is the same.

With all those who suffer, we cry out to God for mercy and healing. We pray for the victims and their families, including a not-yet-identified woman shot in the parking lot of Village Shalom, and for a grandfather and his grandson shot at the Jewish Community Center, Dr. William Lewis Corporon and his 14-year-old grandson Reat Griffin Underwood – members of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. We pray also for the alleged shooter, Frazier Glenn Cross, and his family.

While the people of Overland Park, and for all those who live and work in communities marked by violence throughout this country and world, we grieve.

Linked by our forebears in faith, as Jews and Christians we are bound together in our suffering, and also in our God-given calling to bring healing to this broken world. May it be so.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
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