

A Call to Prayer and Action in Response to Gun Violence

We are called as United Methodist Bishops to respond to the devastation and disruption due to gun violence. Communities around the world are traumatized, we are facing a global and national health crisis, and children, families, and communities are left with emotional scars that beg for angels of mercy and the healing balm of Gilead.



In Louisiana, firearm deaths have increased

24.3%

by from **2015 to 2020**, making it the **23rd largest** increase among states.

Across the globe,

44%

of all homicides involve guns. According to Amnesty International, 2,000 people are injured every day by gun shots and more than 500 of them die.



The Church is called to be an instrument of God's grace. As people of prayer, we followers of Jesus are called to be "counter-cultural change makers." To that end, we must reject the idolatry of guns and the distorted attachment to our right to own guns without safeguards for the communities of the world.



LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
The United Methodist Church