



Overcome
evil
with
GOOD.

ROMANS 12:21

First Church of the Brethren
730 Church Street, Eden, NC May 25, 2022



Doug Diamond – Pastor

Once again, we wake up on the morning following a tragic event in our nation. Once again, our hearts break for the tragedy of lives lost. Once again, we mourn, especially because most of the lives lost were those of little children. We wake up again this morning with politicians and journalists and activists and others crying out that someone is at fault, and something must be done.

And then we listen. What can be done? What should have been done? Are more laws the answer? I think it's already illegal to kill people. Should there be more security at schools? Would an armed guard have been able to stop the actions of a mad man?

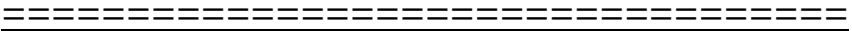
As usual, we are left with more questions than answers. Ronald Reagan is often quoted after these types of events with these words: "We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions." Though there are definitely shortcomings in our society, no law can prevent the hearts of evil men from being evil. We see that in a school shooter, a subway shooter, in an evil leader invading Ukraine.

This morning, we weep for the families of those lost. We weep for the children forever scarred have seen their friends, classmates and teachers gunned down. We can imagine, for a moment, how Christ wept over Jerusalem because of the lost souls that he saw there. May God intervene and bring comfort to those who mourn. May he bind the hand

of others who may try to do the same. May he cause guns to jam. May he bring someone into their lives to introduce them to him before they even get to that point so that they may be transformed. Lord, bring peace into this world today! And may we be an instrument of your peace by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent, who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day.

Psalm 140:1-2



Self-fulfilling prophecies

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are,” writes Amy Weatherly. “If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind.”

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven’t already mastered sharing Jesus’ goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we.

But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

“You are Peter,” Jesus tells Simon, “and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: “If we tell them they’re faithful, they become faithful.” And when Jesus declares, “You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are.

-Heidi Mann

FIRST CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Pray Without Ceasing

Eugene Barton, Lucy Bradford, Carolyn Combs,
Melissa Dalton, JT Hale, Barbara Janney, Tania Martin,
Salem Nelson, Marie Priddy, Aaron Roach, Jutta
Shelton, Roger Shockley, Leon & Gail Walker, Danny
Whitley

Thinking of You

Mary Frances Cox

District Prayer Request

Pray for the students and staff of the Christian Growth Institute as they gather at the Buena Vista, Stone Church on June 4 for Orientation Day. Let us express gratitude to God for those who are engaged in formation for the Gospel Ministry in Virgina and Shenandoah Districts.

Home and Family Life is taking donations for the Father's Day bulletin! Please submit your list of names with your donation by Sunday, June 12th in order to have your names listed in the bulletin. We look forward to celebrating all our fathers and father figures!

Make plans to satisfy your sweet tooth and enjoy some fellowship as you join the Ministry Commission on Sunday, June 12th



at 2:30 pm for an Ice Cream social! Look for signup sheets in the Sunday School classrooms and in the narthex so you can list the homemade ice cream flavor (or baked goods) you would like to bring. We hope to see everyone there!



Church of the Brethren is holding National Youth Conference in Colorado in July of this year and our congregation will be sponsoring five youth and two adults to attend. Those attending will be participating in a service project to package school kits to send to needed areas. We are asking the congregation to help in this project by donating **boxes of crayons (no larger than 24 count), and boxes of unsharpened pencils (in 12 count packages)**. A box will be located in the narthex for your donations. We will collect these items in May and June.



Your support with this service project is appreciated!

The Youth will be holding a Car Wash and Bake Sale fundraiser this Saturday, May 28th.

The fundraiser will run from 9 am until 1 pm. Please make plans to come by and support the youth!

Upcoming Birthdays

June 2: Nate Barton



Campbell.

"Gravity. One of God's wonders."