

Dear friends of the Chebeague Community Church,

For those whom I have not met, I am the pastor on call until the new pastor arrives, and my heart felt like it was vitally important to send a note to you today to “gather us” in prayer.

As people who live in our beautiful peaceful state, we could not imagine this would happen in Lewiston - and yet, here we are. Our world is hurting so badly in so many ways, and today it is right in our own neighborhood.

With you, I lift my aching heart and tear-filled eyes before a God who can and does hold us in strong arms.

Let us pray to God

- for comfort for those who have lost a beloved family member or friend.
- for healing for those who have been wounded.
- for peace in the hearts of the children and the adults who witnessed last night's violence.
- for strength for those caring for the wounded.
- for safety and wisdom for those searching for the perpetrator.
- for comfort for all who are in fear.
- for quieting of mind and heart for the first responders whose lives are changed from what they have seen.
- for the very troubled man who, for some reason, carried and used that weapon last night, and for those who love him.
- in gratitude for the outpouring of support from around the state and country for the people of the Lewiston area and the state of Maine.

I'm sure there is SO much more that we can and need to pray for, so please let this just be a starting point for your prayers. I invite you to light a candle - an electric one in your windows if you wish - and ask for God's help in this time of tragedy.

Our governor just spoke on the news conference and said, If you, or someone you love needs someone to talk to - call “988”. I am so grateful for her leadership in making that help available. I also invite you to call (or email) me if you need to talk, pray, or need a pastoral visit.

Gov. Mills also said, "We will all help you carry that grief." Indeed, we, as the praying family of Chebeague, will help carry those affected by our prayers and in any other way that we can. And if any of you have lost loved ones, we will be here for you as well.

May God surround all with strength and comfort in this very sad and heartbreaking time.

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