

May 28, 2023

Remembering...

Deuteronomy 32:7

Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.



Remembering, the recalling of a memories and moments, is an important part of the life of faith. God is always calling on the people to remember the ways that God had been faithful, often when they had not done the same in return. Still, more often the Scriptures ask the people to remember those moments of God being present and active in past so that they will be strengthened in their present moment by that memory. God was with them in the past and God will be with them in the present and the future. We have the stories we do in our sacred texts so that we can recall those moments when God was faithful and present, when God a made a way when their seemed to be no way.

Memorial Day is a time to remember, to do the sacred act of remembering those who have fallen in service to our country. For many, the memories are fresh, almost new ones, as we witness the grieving of both Ukrainian and Russian families as they begin their life-long journey through their grief. I'm amazed that mothers, fathers, friends, and families find some way through that maze of grief, or at least that they can keep walking in it and not collapse from the burden of sadness. And yet maybe it's memories of the fallen that allows them to do so. When offering condolences, my Jewish friends often say: May his or her memory be a blessing. Just as remembering the deeds of God from long ago are a blessing, may the memory of those who have died in service to our country always be a blessing.

- Rev. Kevin J. McLemore,
 PSEC Associate Conference Minister for Search & Call

Memorial to the Lost

For the first two weeks in May, Gulph United Church of Christ hosted the **Memorial to the Lost**, a public display honoring and remembering Montgomery County residents who have been lost to gun murder in the last five years.

Seventy mounted t-shirts inscribed with the names and ages of the children of God who have died lined the church property along Matsonford Road. People who wished could park in the church lot and wander prayerfully among the shirts and names.

The congregation is partnered with Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence, an

organization made up of faith communities coming together to witness in the face of the gun violence that destroys so many lives. Combating the flow of illegal guns, stopping straw purchasing, and removing the weapons of war are among our common goals.

The people of Gulph Church found the experience to be one of deep reverence and inspiration.

- Rev. Scott Hutchinson, Pastor of Gulph UCC

