

Prayerful response to the tragedy at Virginia Tech

Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have been affected by the horrendous tragedy of April 16, at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

We have just entered the season of Easter, a time when we recall most vividly through Good Friday the pervasive nature and power of evil and sin in this broken world, but also hold fast to the promise of the Easter Resurrection that God is filled with gracious love which is more powerful than even the strongest evil. This hope does not ignore or diminish the grief felt when horrors such as this occur. We weep with those who are mourning, grieve the lives which have not been permitted to be lived to their fullness, and suffer with those who are wounded. Yet we do not grieve as ones without hope. We grieve, trusting in the One who shares our sorrows, seeking the comfort of the Comforter, and reaching out in compassion with the love of our risen Savior.

Please know that three members of the Presbyterian Disaster National Response Team – Anne Van Allen, Robert Barnes, and James Kirk – were sent out immediately to be of assistance. NRT members have been in contact with Catherine Snyder, Presbyterian Campus Minister; George Goodman, Presbytery of the Peaks; and Alexander Evans, Pastor of Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

Your prayers are requested for:

All students, faculty and staff of Virginia Tech

The families and friends of those wounded or killed

The community of Blacksburg

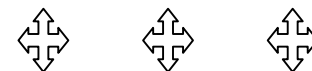
Blacksburg Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of the Peaks

All those responding with care and support including police, ambulance attendants, hospital staffs, counselors, Red Cross, faith communities, our National Response Team members and others.

The various communities across our country, including a number in our presbytery, who are dealing with the loss of friends and loved ones.

The family of the shooter, who must grieve one whom most others are condemning.

And, in keeping with our Savior who prayed from the cross, “Forgive them, for they know not what they do,” please pray for the shooter himself.



To assist with the pastoral care, donations can be made to PDA, Account DR000177, Pastoral Caregiving and Support. For additional ways you can help, please check the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website (www.pcusa.org/pda)