

THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

(A periodic message about happenings at church, calls to action, and ways to engage the Gospel in Cheshire and the world.)

Buffalo, New York. Uvalde, Texas. These places are on our minds and hearts these days, but they are sure to be replaced by other places, faces, names, and stories next week or next month. The cycle of violence now spins like a tornado, and we can scarcely keep up with it. It's exhausting.

The politicians will parse this to pieces. And we will come to church, relieved that these kinds of political arguments do not meet us here. And they shouldn't. -- But what does meet us here is the Gospel of Jesus. And his Gospel calls us all – no matter our politics – to a higher kind of life, far above and beyond the machinations of cables news and social media and our own firmly held opinions.

To other people living in a violent society, Jesus once proclaimed:

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

(Matthew 5:9)

Not “Blessed are the peace-wishers.” Not “Blessed are the peace-hoppers.” Not “Blessed are the ‘thoughts and prayers’ speakers.”
But **“Blessed are the peaceMAKERS.”**

In the face of the unspeakable violence against our sisters and brothers in Buffalo and Uvalde, how are we **making** peace as a church? What is our congregation's witness to the Gospel of Jesus in the face of the slaughter of the innocents? These are real questions I hope we can engage together in the days ahead.

And, in the immediate, how will you **make** peace today in the way you speak and interact with your neighbors, and defend the vulnerable, and spend your money, and use your influence? How will I?

Pastor James

