

First Hebrew Congregation
c/o Remy Rubin, President
622 North Shore Drive
South Haven, MI 49090

Dear Remy,

At our monthly gathering last week of the South Haven Area Ministerial Association (SHAMA) there was a deep desire to communicate with you and the Jewish faith community. I was asked, as their Facilitator, to coordinate such a letter.

In that spirit we, the undersigned, express our heartfelt sympathy to you, our friends and neighbors, for the senseless and overwhelming tragedy of the mass shooting in the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue. Our hearts go out to and our prayers go up for you in this time of sorrow, loss, confusion and hurt.

We furthermore share our outrage at the antisemitism surrounding the event. We acknowledge not only its role in the shooting but also its evil existence in our society. We affirm it has no place in our community, our state or our nation. We believe we can and must overcome all such evil that preys upon the innocent. We stand with you in the deep desire to freely and safely practice and live out a life of faith without opposition and condemnation.

It is our hope that our faith communities in the South Haven area can jointly express this desire and our mutual support for one another. We are open to considering a way, or ways, to do this.

We are forever grateful for the rich heritage provided by your Jewish faith community in the history and development of South Haven. You have been faithful to our father Abraham's charge to "be a blessing." It is our hope and prayer that the firm faith foundation you built will always be recognized and honored even as we work together to continue building a greater South Haven and even stronger communities of faith.

The Psalmist stated it well:

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."

Sincerely Yours on Behalf of the Undersigned,

Rev. Curry Pikkaart - SHAMA Facilitator
72689 6th Ave.
South Haven, MI 49090
269-767-2609

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Pastor Bernice Thomas – Greater Faith Community Church
Janet MacKenzie - Member – Epiphany Episcopal Church
Rev. Jeffrey Dick – First Congregational Church – UCC
Rev. Ron VanLente – First United Methodist Church – South Haven
Rev. Todd VanGrouw – First Congregational Church – Grand Junction
Rev. Curry Pikkaart – Facilitator of SHAMA
Rev. Julie Cowie
Aaron Cobbs
Pastor Travis Wilson – Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Eric Jarvis – First Assembly of God
Father Rick Turner
The Rev. Michael Ryan – Rector – The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
Pastor Darryl Williams – Lily of the Valley Church – Covert
Pastor Milan Blumberg and the people of LifeBridge Church
Steve Smallegan
Susan Trabucchi – We Care Inc.
Rev. Ken Kruthoff
Gary Heme – Interim Pastor of First Congregational Church of Covert
Duane Jones