

Written comments from community discussion about gun violence at Trinity Episcopal Church, Toledo on June 4, 2023

What are your fears about gun violence?

"Worry for our schools.
Continues to get worse
I do have concerns about leaving our doors open during the service."

"We are unsure what can be done."

"Grandkids, won't get better or will stay the same, can happen anywhere anytime, safety in general"

"Worried in public places, and concerned with PRIDE coming up"

"Escalating violence restricts our lives, makes up fearful to enjoy being out in community"

"I am concerned every time in public—stores, malls, etc."

"It does affect us in teaching careers."

"Mass shootings and the safety of a disabled daughter"

"I fear gun violence will hit close to home."

"Gun violence is scary
Want gun violence to end
We should make them stop"

"Fears particularly regarding schools
We have become numb to it
No one needs an assault rifle"

"Mindset in the country needs to be changed
Changing family dynamics=exhaustion"

"Shooting at church/worry"

"I have a grandson & his wife who live in Wisconsin and have 4 children they are home schooling because they are afraid to send them to the public schools because of gun violence, but they have a right to get an education.
End gun violence."

“Son—gun-rightist in Wyoming, son in S.F.=‘dangerous’; it awakened fears I thought were dormant”

“Indicative of lack of humanity. Impoverish time. Don’t see others as human. Teach children we are in peril. Cultural. Victims of sense of masculine dominance. Even celebrate guns. Dogged defenders of 2nd Amendment. Red herring for groups in power to stay in power. Haves and have nots. Privilege. No reason that we don’t all have our own basic needs met. Competing for supplies. Culture of fear.”

What are your hopes about gun violence?

“Encourage community and be inclusive.
Can stop potential shooters from feeling excluded.
Vote”

“At the very least get assault weapons out of the hands of citizens, improved mental assistance, that incidents of gun violence decrease, that it becomes less political”

“We choose not to live in fear.
The silent majority will speak up.”

“Increased access to mental health resources
Increased gun laws
Increased training for owners
Increased red flag laws
Increased community building efforts”

“Hope for stricter gun laws and making it more difficult to purchase guns. Hope the NRA loosens its hold on our country soon.”

“Common sense laws reinstated, expanded for automatic guns off the market.
Licenses & training for gun ownership”

“Legislation, less divisive discussion”

“I hope gun violence is not only deterred but eliminated.”

“Remove AR guns all together
Must have waiting period
Must be mandatory reporting of gun dealers of multiple purchases
Background checks required”

“That we do something to stop it and see a decrease”

“Increased scrutiny for gun owners; political advocacy; maintaining awareness/education; participate in vigils/protests”

“No guns, just dogs” on a neighbor’s sign”

“People (us) need to demonstrate (literally) in D.C. against gun violence (mass movement).
Influence politicians to change gun laws”

“Our household is anti-gun.”

Is there anything specific about gun violence that you would like to see the Trinity community do?

“I would prefer the back doors (or all doors) to be locked during service. I think we’re too comfortable and vulnerable. There are too many people that are suspect to me, that wander in.”

“Trinity block party to talk about gun violence. Poetry, art, music, fellowship to shed light on this subject.”

“Security for Trinity Church. We need it!
Education related to gun laws. Advocacy, policies.
Community partners to promote involvement at local, state and national level.”

“Keep talking about it at least, stay sensitive to any involvement we choose to do”

“Security guards in the church should definitely be put in place.
Minimum—A guard or 2 at the door”

“Host more events here.
Discuss security at Trinity.
Address the issue from the pulpit.”

“Give us active shooter training”

“Share any legislation efforts we can push forward.”

“Writing letters to our politicians as a community. Teaming up with families of the affected in Toledo. Partnering with Moms Demand Action.”

“Education; collaborate & co-op with community youth programs”

“Trinity could possibly hold educational seminars on gun safety in the home, gun safes, smart guns, trigger locks, etc.
A relentless presence in the streets, or our elected representatives’ offices & social media sites”

“Education about gun violence—My grandfather is afraid that his hunting guns will be taken away from him. How can we have the conversation with him?”

“I worry about us here at church, a little blue island in a sea of red. I feel like we could be targeted. We need a plan for what to do if someone comes in the front door.”

“Become publicly active
Proactive
More security at the church.”

“Letter writing campaign; National Issues Forum dialogue”

“Consider concealed carry during church services.”

“My heart breaks with every shooting. However, I am not afraid at church & would not like security that closes us off from the community. I believe in strict gun laws & am very happy to participate in activism.”

“We feel safe at church”

“I would love to see Trinity get more involved with Domestic Violence Awareness, since it accounts for such a high percentage of gun violence.”

“Security for all here without fear”