



## Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

Three Palestinian college students were shot in Vermont this week. I saw an interview with an uncle of one of victims, who'd said he didn't want his nephew coming home to Palestine during the college break because it would be too dangerous. Please read that sentence as many times as you need to let that sink in.

I think we can take sides in this idea alone, "Stop the violence!" Let's not pretend that the United States of America has its hands clean, when we invaded Iraq and killed hundreds of thousands of people based on trumped up falsehoods of 'weapons of mass destruction' and pre-emptive strikes. We, as Americans, have shot up, bombed, and vilified mosques and Jewish synagogues and churches, whose members are in the minority of our nation. We are the only nation that has regular school shootings. Before we condemn others, let us first get our own house (this nation) in order. Let us repent our violent ways and turn towards true justice and peacemaking.

"Violence only begets more violence" as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was quoted preaching. It will only drag us downward, and we are taking too many innocent people with us. I truly hope that soon our country will wake up and stay woke to the falsehoods and propaganda that more guns, more military spending, more weapons (especially nuclear) will insure a better today and tomorrow for anyone, least of all our children, their present, and their future.

We need peacemakers, artists, lovers, joyfulness, gratitude, beauty, music, dance, nature, parks, diversity, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, stories, justice, acceptance, vulnerability, healthy bodies, brains, communities, nations, and a healing of our planet.

Where can we continue to bring hope and light in this world today?

Peace