

TRIGGER: THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF GUN VIOLENCE

“You shall not murder.” The Sixth Commandment. When God gave the stone tablets to Mo-ses, they were divided in half. The first five Commandments deal with our relationship with God. The second five have to do with our relationship with each other. And the first commandment on the second list states “you shall not murder.” It’s one of the commandments that most people re-member. Most of us don’t need it. That is, no one has to tell us not to kill someone else. No one has to write that rule down. We already know that.

But murder continues to happen in America every day. And it happens too often without think-ing, without even choosing a victim. Gun violence happens in schools around the country, in mov-ie theaters, in shopping malls, on military property, in neighborhoods like yours and mine, and the perpetrators just started firing, aiming sometimes at people they don’t even know.

So, on two Wednesdays in August – the 20th and the 27th, your Christian Ed Committee has voted to show a documentary film, followed by conversation, about gun violence in America. It’s not about the Second Amendment. No one will ask you to give up your guns, or to vote against having them. It’s about violence. If you are a responsible gun owner, then this film is for you. If you are a gun advocate, then this film is for you. If you disagree with having guns in the home, then this film is for you.

Produced by the Presbyterians for Disaster Assistance (PDA), Trigger shares the story of how gun violence impacts individuals and communities and examines the “ripple effect” that one shoot-ing has on a survivor, a family, a community and a society. Trigger also addresses the critical is-sue of gun violence prevention by moving the conversation away from the polarizing extremes that have long dominated the debate, and lifting up the voices of those who seek a new way forward.

Please save the dates and come to this vitally important conversation. Perhaps we as a church cannot do anything about gun violence. But perhaps we can. Perhaps no one will hear us when we state our opinion. But perhaps they will. Perhaps this will never happen in Henderson.

Wednesday, August 20th and Wednesday August 27th. We will have a light dinner together, provided by the C.E. Committee, we will watch this documentary together in two meetings, and we will follow each presentation in dialog with each other. It’s time to talk. This is not the behavior that God wants our community to experience.

Peace, Candice “You shall not murder.” – Exodus20:13