

*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you. (Isaiah 66:13)*

Dear Friends--

I invite you to join me in prayer for our neighborhood as we mourn the loss of six young lives in a house fire a block from our church building:

*Gracious, loving Father, Mother God, we come before you this day in pain and sorrow. We grieve the loss of these children, these precious human lives. Give your grace to the family and to our neighborhood that they, and we, may find comfort in your presence and be strengthened by your Spirit. Be with the family as they mourn, and draw them and us together in your healing love; in the name of the one who suffered, died, and rose for us, Jesus our Savior.*

Amen.

And for those who have died, whose names we do not yet know:

*Our companions in faith and fellow children of Christ, we entrust you to God. Go forth from this world in the love of God who created you, in the mercy of Jesus who died for you, in the power of the Holy Spirit who receives and protects you. May you rest in peace and rise in glory, where pain and grief are banished, and life and joy are yours for ever.*

Amen.

Remember that we have a morning prayer service on Saturday morning (tomorrow) at 11:30 in the sanctuary. It is a good time and place to gather in our sorrow, grief, and confusion. I invite you to join us then and, of course, on Sunday.

I have contacted the public relations office of the Fire Department to offer our help--perhaps as a distribution center for free smoke alarms. Please email/call me with any other suggestions for support.

In Love,

**ANN+**

