

**CENTRAL
ATLANTIC
CONFERENCE**



UNITED
CHURCH OF
CHRIST

International Transgender Day of Remembrance



Dear Central Atlantic Conference

Today, November 20th, marks the International Transgender Day of Remembrance. We set aside this day to reflect and remember transgender individuals who have lost their lives due to anti-transgender violence.

May we remember...

... that worldwide 320 people transgender and gender nonconforming persons were killed last year.

May we remember...

...that the majority of these killed were women (94%).

May we remember...

...that the majority of these killed were people of color (80%).

May we remember...

...that the majority of these killed were between the ages of 19 and 40 years old (77%).¹

May we remember...

... that the above are statistics of reported hate crimes against transgender persons, and the number could be substantially higher because of underreporting, misidentification, and lack of ability of data collection.

May we remember...

.. that despite gains in recent years, transgender persons are being targeted legislatively with 586 anti-transgender legislation introduced across the country in 49 states this year.

May we remember...

... that this legislation aims to deny transgender persons education, employment, public affirmation of gender identity, participation in events ranging from sports to drag performances, basic medical care, gender-related medical care, and gender affirming medical surgeries...²

May we remember...

... that according to a recent study 81% of transgender adults in the U.S. have thought about suicide, 42% of transgender adults have attempted it and more than half have

considered suicide over their lifetimes with similar rates among transgender youth and teens.³

May we also remember...

...that there are no exceptions in God's 'very good' creation (Genesis 1:31)

May we remember...

...that transgender and gender-nonconforming persons are our siblings and members of the body of Christ, and that "if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. (1 Corinthians 12:26 The Inclusive Bible)."

May we remember...

... that the doors of our churches have not been, and are not, as open as they could be to our transgender and gender-nonconforming siblings.

May we remember...

...that Jesus commands us to "love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to "love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37,38 The Inclusive Bible)."

May we remember...

...that on this Transgender Day of Remembrance, God calls us to live our lives individually and together as the Church of Jesus Christ to love all, seek peace for all, and pursue justice for all.

May we remember and May it Be so,



Freeman Palmer

1 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiewareham/2023/11/13/beaten-stabbed-and-shot-320-trans-people-murdered-in-2023/?sh=3d1c21131646>

2 <https://translegislation.com>

3 <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transpop-suicide-press-release/>

