

Greetings! We have a TREMENDOUS opportunity this month to dramatically reduce gun violence -- but we need your help now! ***It's time to stand up with more than 1,300 faith congregations across our state!***

On Stand-Up Sunday, January 31st, we'll honor the Emanuel AME 9 by attuning our hearts and voices to address the epidemic . . . and by calling for moral, nonpartisan solutions that don't threaten the 2nd Amendment right to lawfully own guns.

Stand-Up Sunday — endorsed by the SC Christian Action Council and supported by the bishops and leaders of nearly every denomination — is when we all stand up for the 9:

- The 9 killed by a gun purchased without a completed background check at Emanuel AME.
- The 9 citizens of our state killed by guns every 5 days.
- The 9 out of 10 South Carolinians who want background checks on all gun purchases (Public Policy Polling, 2015), along with 85% of gun owners nationally.

We know it's time to act when churches are hiring armed security to guard their congregations, when our teachers and children are hiding in lockdown drills to prepare for a gunman on the loose in our schools, and when 90% of crime guns are being sold by 5% of dealers. ***That can happen only when moral people are silent.***

Everything you'll need to participate is in this packet. On Stand-Up Sunday, faith leaders will:

- **Address gun violence** and the importance of our faith communities making their voices heard on this moral and public-health crisis. *Talking points are enclosed.*
- **Encourage congregants to sign letters to legislators** (see enclosed letters) asking for background checks on all gun sales as they exit the service. Find names and addresses at www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php for your district's state senator and representative.
- **Ask for members to "stand up" for the Emanuel AME 9** by committing to travel to the State House for a rally when our state legislature is about to vote on background checks. You may wish to begin putting out feelers now for those volunteers and acknowledge them on Stand-Up Sunday. Send names and email addresses of your volunteers to standupsundaySC@gmail.com so they can be notified of the date.

Faith leaders, of course, can fashion Stand-Up Sunday in the way that's most fitting for their churches. To learn more and watch a brief video about Stand-Up Sunday, please visit our website at standupsundaySC.org. Email any questions to standupsundaySC@gmail.com.

Thanks for taking this vital step to keep guns from falling into the wrong hands and for making South Carolina a safer place to live, learn and worship!

P.S.: We're documenting Stand-Up Sunday and would appreciate you emailing us at standupsundaySC@gmail.com with smart-phone videos and photos of your entire congregation literally "standing up" to gun violence . . . and lining up to sign letters to legislators.

Stand-Up Sunday is hosted by Gun Sense SC, a grassroots group of South Carolinians that formed after the Emanuel AME killings to reduce gun violence through nonpartisan solutions. Visit us at GunSenseSC.org. Gun Sense SC: saving lives, preserving rights.