

# Kentucky governor calls for prayer groups to combat violence

By BRUCE SCHREINER  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin called on the “power of prayer” to help combat Louisville’s rising murder rate as he urged people to form prayer groups to walk high-crime neighborhoods.

His plan, outlined at a community meeting, was met with a mix of support and derision. Bevin urged volunteers to form teams of 3-10 people that pick the same block to walk at the same time of day, at least two or three times a week. He urged participants to make a yearlong commitment.

“Go around the block, pause on each corner, pray for the people there, move to the next corner,” Bevin said later in describing his plan to reporters at a city park. “And over the course of the year, here’s what’s going to happen — they’re going to get to know the people on the block.”

Bevin, a socially conservative Republican, said it’s a chance for “people of faith to put their faith to work.” He hopes residents from the neighborhoods walk with people living elsewhere.

“Pretty unsophisticated. Pretty uncomplicated. Pretty basic,” Bevin said. “But I truly believe we’re going to see a difference in our city. I personally believe in the power of prayer.”

Louisville Metro Police investigated a record 118 criminal homicides last year, but this year’s murder rate — at 52 through May — was on pace to surpass



Gov. Matt Bevin told the audience of around 400 at Western Middle School Thursday, that roaming prayer groups in the city’s West End could be a start of helping curb the violence.

last year’s total.

Skeptics of Bevin’s roving prayer group plan included Micheshia Norment, the mother of a 7-year-old boy killed by a stray bullet last month. Her son, Dequante Hobbs Jr., was eating a bedtime snack at his kitchen table when the bullet smashed through a window and struck him in the head.

Norment, who attended the community meeting, said later that Bevin’s “heart is in the right place,” but predicted many people would be fearful to walk neighborhoods plagued by crime.

She also doubted it will be much of a deterrent for those prone to violence.

“They can do walks all day long but it doesn’t mean it’s going to change anything,” she said.

Bevin took to Facebook to condemn the boy’s death, and he paid his respects to the family by meeting with Norment at her son’s visitation, a day before his burial.

Asked Thursday if she would join a prayer group, she replied: “I’m trying to get out of the neighborhood that I’m in because I’ve still got another child.”

What would help curb violence, she said, is to make it harder to get guns.

Earlier in the week, Bevin downplayed the availability of guns as a problem behind Louisville’s murder rate. He called the homicide spree a cultural, spiritual and economic problem.

“If you honestly believe it’s a gun problem, then you’re missing the point,”

he said.

Gun-rights advocates including the National Rifle Association wield considerable political clout in Kentucky.

A ministerial group from some Louisville neighborhoods hardest hit by the violence offered its own plan to combat the crime wave. The preachers called for updating what they see as lax gun laws that make it “easier to buy a gun in West Louisville than a piece of fresh fruit.”

Other parts of their plan call for protecting people who cooperate with police, updating school curriculum to highlight contributions of black culture and creating more employment and housing opportunities in minority neighborhoods.

## LIMEY PASTOR

# Back in the saddle

Reporting for duty! I’m back in the saddle again, back on the little hill in Boardman upon which our church stands overlooking the town. I haven’t written for a while. My brain is rattling in its skull as I work up some thoughts.



COLIN BROWN  
Faith

any other unusual behavior.

The curious thing was that I did not feel any pain in my chest, with the exception of coughing or sneezing, for which I was given a heart-shaped cushion to brace against my chest wall when the urge came. Even though my breast bone

This last Sunday, May 28, I showed up again at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. My open heart surgery is done. I am now equipped with a new set of innards, four new arteries, and a slightly more svelte physique. It has been two months since I had my surgery. Now I have a zipper style scar in my chest, and exit wounds on my left leg where the arteries were extracted for the back-up plumbing, and a strange clarity caused by the influx of much larger amounts of oxygen than usual. I am reconstructed. I am Pastor 2.0.

I have found that there are two types of people, those who want to see the scar and those who don’t. A nurse told me that seeing scars was something they got into the business for. I didn’t like seeing scars before, but now I must admit that it’s a lot cooler than I thought it would be.

I can remember a strange calm coming over me when I was receiving the anesthetic at St. Vincent’s. I remember thinking how eerie it was, and how this moment could really be it. This could be my last remembered moment of my lifetime. This was not a thought I shared with anyone else, not my wife or my son. It was an occasion of great moment. I was ready to meet God, but I was equally happy to wait.

My surgery had taken seven hours. Twice as long as planned. My surgeon had been drained by the effort as apparently my internal structures weren’t that cooperative. Initially finding places on my heart to hook up the new arteries was not so easy.

I can’t remember waking up, but I did. The depth of the anesthesia had been profound, and the heart machine I was hooked up to had shaken my blood into a red froth which had added to my brain’s confusion. When I woke I wanted to leave — to get out of bed and drive home. I pulled the tubes in my chest out, which were there to drain. This did not endear me to all the nurses who then wired me up to motion detectors to warn them of

had been cut in half, and then brought back together and joined with steel wire, I did not feel discomfort. I turned down all offers of pain killers as I actually did not have any at all.

However, for the next week I lived in a strange in-between state, with unusual hallucinations that I couldn’t distinguish from reality. I thought that I was moved from room to room, on one occasion being moved to the hospital guard shack, on another two occasions being taken to a nurse’s meeting off-site, some kind of lodge meeting. In each place the same room number was on the wall. I still remember these artificial memories vividly.

After a week of being in the hospital I really did move out of the hospital, being transported by taxi to a rehabilitation facility in Mount Angel. I remember the strange taxi ride I took. I didn’t recognize the roads I knew so well; it was as if my memory had been partially wiped. At the facility I began working with the rehab team. I was lucky in that my heart had not been damaged by my two heart attacks, and so the new access to oxygen gave me a zesty energy that was amazing.

My reconnected breastbone was protected by regulations that forbade me lifting small weights, and did not allow me to hoist myself up to stand. I learned to rock backwards and forwards until I could roll forward onto my legs in order to stand. I learned to think in a calculating geometry, consciously and carefully.

Everything was new and my Lord had guided me carefully back to new life. All praise to him and thankfulness for his care of all those who looked after me!

I have returned home to my family, all members accounted for including the cats and the dogs. It’s good to be home. Thanks are due to God for his amazing mercies!

Colin Brown is the pastor of Boardman’s Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Locust Road.

## BRIEFLY

### Christian church starts summer schedule

MILTON-FREEWATER — With the season changing, the Milton-Freewater First Christian Church is resuming its summer schedule.

Beginning June 4, regular Sunday services and the junior worship begins at 9:30 a.m. The church is located at 518 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater. Other Sunday activities, including Kids Klub, breakfasts and Bible classes, are suspended for the summer and will resume in the fall.

Valet parking and entry via a ramp are available on the west side of the church. Also, there’s an elevator at the north entrance.

For more information, call 541-938-3854 Monday through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

### Christian illusionist to perform in Pendleton

PENDLETON — The reality of God’s love is presented during a full-scale magic show by a Christian illusionist.

Phil Dalton, who has spent 25 years as performer, offers a one-of-a-kind experience with several tons of equipment and a cast of seven. The free event is Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Pendleton First Christian Church, 215 N. Main St., Pendleton.

The Cincinnati-based performer incorporates his faith during the shows. People of all ages and faiths are encouraged to attend.

Embarking on a tour that includes all 50 states, the Pendleton show is the only Oregon performance by Dalton and his crew.

For more information about the

local performance, call 541-276-5358. The magician’s website is www.50magicshows.com.

### Liberty Quartet stages Hermiston show

HERMISTON — A familiar Southern gospel quartet returns to the region for a concert in Hermiston.

Liberty Quartet, a Boise-based traveling ministry, will perform Friday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at Hermiston Church of the Nazarene, 1520 W. Orchard Ave. There is no admission charge, but a love offering will be taken.

Founded in 1995, the group began a full-time ministry in 1997. They perform at church services, nursing homes, prisons and music festivals.

For more information, call the church at 541-567-3677. The group’s website is www.libertyquartet.com.

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Groups for all ages:  
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For more info visit  
[WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM](http://WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM)

Come meet Jesus at  
**PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3202 SW Nye Ave Pendleton, OR  
541-276-7590  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM  
Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM  
Mon. Community Women’s Study  
9:30 AM & 6 PM  
Awana Kids Club (K-6th grade)  
Wed Men’s Study 6 PM  
MOPS meeting the 1st Thur of the Month 6 PM

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
in Mission for Christ LCMC  
Bible Study.....9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM

**Red Lion Hotel  
( Oregon Trail Room )  
[www.faithpendleton.org](http://www.faithpendleton.org)**

**Grace Baptist Church**  
555 SW 11th, Hermiston  
567-9497  
Nursery provided for all services  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Worship - 10:45 AM  
6:00 pm  
Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM  
“Proclaiming God’s word, growing in God’s grace”

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**Peace Lutheran Church**  
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To share your worship times  
call Terri Briggs 541-278-2678



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241 SE Second St. Pendleton  
(541)276-3809  
[www.pendletonepiscopal.org](http://www.pendletonepiscopal.org)  
Sunday Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Holy Communion Noon  
Weekly Adults Spiritual Life Group  
**All Are Welcome**

**Community  
Presbyterian Church**  
14 Martin Drive,  
Umatilla, OR  
922-3250  
**Worship: 10 AM  
Sunday School at 11:30**

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Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided)  
Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School  
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Website for More Information  
**541-289-4535**  
Tom Inch, Pastor  
Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA  
(First United Methodist Church)  
191 E. Gladys Ave. / P.O. Box 1108  
Hermiston, Oregon 97838

**The Salvation Army**  
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9:30 - Sunday School  
**10:30 - Worship Service**  
Wednesday Bible Study  
5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study  
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**150 SE EMIGRANT  
(541)276-3369**

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FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM  
SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM  
712 SW 27<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
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[www.fcogpendleton.com](http://www.fcogpendleton.com)

**Faith Center Church**  
Worshipping God  
Loving People  
108 S. Main • 276-9569  
**Sunday Worship  
10:30 am**  
Sr. Pastor,  
Ray O’Grady  
[pendletonfaithcenter.org](http://pendletonfaithcenter.org)

**Seventh-Day  
Adventist  
Church**  
Saturday Services  
**Pendleton**  
1401 SW Goodwin Place  
276-0882  
**Sabbath School 9:20 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am**

**Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
LCMC**  
Sunday worship at  
11:00 AM  
420 Locust St. • Boardman, OR  
**541-481-6132**  
Colin Brown, Pastor

**Living Word  
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401 Northgate, Pendleton  
**Celebration of Worship  
Sundays 10:00 am  
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Youth: 0-6th grade**  
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[www.livingwordcc.com](http://www.livingwordcc.com)

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[www.pendletonbahais.org](http://www.pendletonbahais.org)