

## from Diane F., Rev. Jim M. & the PMC Board,

We have already been in a climate of escalating prejudice and violence locally and nationally against our Asian and Asian-American neighbors and friends with as many as 3,800 documented instances in the last year alone according to STOP AAPIHATE <a href="https://stopaapihate.org/">https://stopaapihate.org/</a>. As people of faith, we regret the national rhetoric that blames any communities for the coronavirus, and we resolve to hold ourselves and our leaders accountable for the language we use and for our actions.

The members of the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition pledge our solidarity to affected communities and we say unambiguously: We Notice, We Care, We Stand With You. You are not alone. To the communities most affected in Atlanta by the recent gun shootings, we pledge our prayers. To women everywhere we say we promise to advocate for your protection and safety, and to examine the ways in which we raise our children to respect girls and women. We plead with our lawmakers to provide stricter controls so that no one can purchase a lethal weapon without a waiting period, just a few hours before killing eight people, as happened on Tuesday. As people of faith, we say: Stop the Hate and Stop the Violence.

Rev. Jim Mitulski and Diane Fahrner Co-presidents Peninsula Multifaith Coalition