First Presbyterian CHURCH

April 20, 2026

A Statement for Decency and Peace

As people of faith, we believe every person is worthy of dignity, compassion, and care. Guided by these values, we cannot remain silent in the face of actions that undermine our shared humanity.

We are deeply troubled by rhetoric that dehumanizes others—including language directed at religious leaders such as Pope Leo — and by a broader climate of hostility that contradicts the call to love one another.

We are equally concerned by immigration practices that result in unjust or inhumane detentions. We believe in the right of all people to seek safety, opportunity, and a better life, and that these pursuits should be met with fairness, due process, and compassion.

We reject the notion that violence against innocent people—at home or abroad—can ever be justified as a path to peace. True peace is built through justice, respect, and care for human life.

As Desmond Tutu reminded us, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." At this moment, we choose to stand for dignity, justice, and peace.

We invite all who share these values — people of faith and people of goodwill — to join us in speaking out, supporting one another, and working toward a more just and compassionate community. History has shown us the cost of silence and reminds us that our choices matter.

With love for all humanity,

First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln NE