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# Gun violence rally draws 30 to Main Street



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Posted Monday, June 13, 2022 5:44 pm

By John Besche

(June 11, 2022) About 30 people gathered outside the Methodist Church at the top of Main Street early Saturday evening to declare “enough is enough.”

In the wake of the mass shootings in Buffalo, N.Y. and Uvalde, Texas, Nantucket students, clergy members and musicians gathered to protest gun violence.

Attendees came bearing pro-gun-control picket signs reading “You don’t need a GUN to feel powerful,” and “Thoughts, Prayers, REFORM” among other appeals for change. Faith leaders from several spiritual communities, led by Rev. Linda Simmons of the Unitarian Meeting House, organized the nearly hour-long event.

JohnCarl McGrady, a 2021 graduate of Nantucket High School who just finished his first year at Williams College, recalled the day that students underwent an active shooter scare.

“I know what it’s like to sit in a classroom thinking that somebody is outside in the hallway trying to kill you,” McGrady said on the church steps. “I know what it's like to hide behind a desk while two kids are having panic attacks 10 feet away from you and you can't go to help them because the shooter might see you.”

Kathryn Kyomitmaitee and Maryann Vasquez-Cruz came directly from their high school graduation to speak to the crowd about gun violence.

Kyomitmaitee lamented the unrealized promise of mass-shooting victims. "These people could grow up to become amazing individuals that could help push our country to a better future. The numbers keep adding up, but little to no action has been made," she said.

"The NRA holds tremendous power over gun legislation," Vasquez-Cruz said, still in her graduation gown. "They're an association ridden with millions of dollars' worth of mismanagement and financial misconduct by their executives, yet all these people stand proud and tall as they tell us that guns are still not at fault for gun violence."

Susan Berman and Ray Saunders rewrote the chorus of the African-American spiritual "Down by the Riverside" and called on attendees to join them in singing "enough is enough."

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