

Unitarian church plans 'peace vigil'

Posted: July 29, 2008 - 10:30pm

By Savannah Morning News

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah plans to conduct a "service of solidarity, followed by a vigil of peace" for victims of a Sunday shooting at a Unitarian Universalist church in Knoxville, Tenn.

The gathering is scheduled to take place at 6:30 p.m. today in the sanctuary of the Savannah church at 313 E. Harris St.

The program will include speakers, music and candle lighting. Participants then plan to gather in Troup Square for the peace vigil.

"Our heart goes out to our Knoxville congregation," said the Rev. Joan Kahn Schneider, pastor of the Savannah church. "We stand solidly with them in our pride in our Unitarian Universalist principles, and we celebrate the worth and dignity of all people."

"Our doors are open to all. We send our prayers and know they will heal stronger in the broken places."

On Sunday, an unemployed truck driver walked into the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville and opened fire during a children's performance, killing two people and injuring seven.

Witnesses said the attack ended when people in the audience tackled the gunman.

Authorities said Jim D. Adkisson, 58, intentionally targeted the church because of its liberal policies.

Adkisson remained jailed Monday on \$1 million bond after being charged with one count of murder. More charges are expected. Four victims remained hospitalized, including two listed in critical condition.

The Unitarian Universalist Church advocates women's rights and gay rights and has provided sanctuary for political refugees. It also has fed the homeless and founded a chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, according to its Web site.

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