



**First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist  
Church of Santa Barbara**

150 Pebble Hill Drive  
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

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October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Rabbi Daniel Brenner and members of Congregation B'nai B'rith,

On behalf of the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church of Santa Barbara, we hope this letter finds you despite the challenging times that have befallen us. It is with heavy hearts and deep sympathy that we write to convey our condolences and unwavering support for the recent outbreak of war in Israel. We are acutely aware of the profound pain and suffering that this conflict has brought to your nation, and we want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during these trying times.

As members of local Ukrainian church in Santa Barbara, we are deeply saddened by the active war and the tragic loss of life in Israel. It is a time of great sorrow for your people, and we share in your grief. We want to express our heartfelt sorrow for the loss of innocent lives and the profound impact this conflict has had on your community.

In our congregation, we have been praying fervently for peace in Israel. We firmly believe in the power of prayer to our God and the importance of unity in times of crisis. We will continue to lift your nation up in our prayers, asking for a swift end to the hostilities and a lasting peace that will bring comfort and security to all Israeli citizens and inhabitants.

It is worth noting that your support for Ukraine during the war outbreak last year did not go unnoticed by our church community. We remember and deeply appreciate the solidarity that the Jewish community demonstrated to Ukraine during our time of need. Your actions served as a shining example of compassion and brotherhood, and we are grateful for your unwavering support.

As we stand by you in your hour of need, please accept our warmest greetings and our heartfelt hope for peace and tranquility to be restored in Israel. May the voices of reason and diplomacy prevail over those of conflict.

In closing, please know that our congregation will continue to include Israel and Jerusalem in our prayers, and we fervently pray for God's protection and blessings upon His chosen land and city, as written in **Psalms 122**. We send our love and support to your congregation during this difficult time and remain committed to strengthening the bonds of friendship and understanding between our communities.

With deepest sympathy and prayers for peace,

Senior Pastor Mikhail Smiyun  
FUEBC Santa Barbara  
msmiyun@msn.com