

*“Remembering Charlie Kirk”
This Is The Turning Point Tour – Montana State University
Montana Governor Greg Gianforte – Remarks As Prepared For Delivery
October 7, 2025*

Please pray with me.

Dear Lord, Maker of the universe, perfect and good God. We recognize Your sovereignty over our lives and all of life’s circumstances. We are thankful for Your provision and plan for each one of us. Tonight, we grieve the loss of our friend Charlie Kirk. We remember and lift up Erika, their children, and all Turning Point staff. Please comfort them at this difficult time of mourning.

Lord, we are thankful for each and every soul that is here tonight and those that are joining us online as we gather to celebrate and continue the great work of Your servant Charlie.

Lord, we pray tonight that this tragedy could truly be a Turning Point for our nation. Turn us away from divisiveness, separation and violence, and toward engagement, respectful dialogue, and reconciliation.

Lord, help us to know You, and Your ways. You promise in Your Word that You will work ALL THINGS together for good for those that love You and are called according to Your purposes. We hang on that promise. For Your Glory and our benefit. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

It’s great to join you all tonight, as we continue the mission that Charlie started a little over a decade ago. My wife Susan and I first met Charlie 13 years ago. He was 18 years old. We were grateful to get to know Charlie, and host him in Montana and to our home many times.

Charlie was always eager to spend time in Montana. One spring, Charlie and I spent three days together—just the two of us—hiking in the Hylite Canyon. Since his assassination, I have thought of that time with my friend often.

Susan and I were honored to help provide financial support to Charlie during the early days of Turning Point. In fact, he even told us we wrote him the second check of financial support Turning Point ever received. We have supported Charlie and Turning Point ever since.

We loved Charlie and Turning Point’s mission of faith, freedom and love of country. He was fearless and persuasive. He went where he was not welcome and engaged respectfully in dialogue. He gave voice to those who had been shouted down and cancelled. He spoke truth. And he gave us courage.

He will be sorely missed, but the work of Turning Point USA continues and has been amplified by his passing.

The question for each of us tonight is how do we continue the work of Charlie and Turning Point?

I want to suggest there are four ways.

The first way we can honor Charlie Kirk’s legacy is to pursue faith in God.

Charlie said, "I want to be remembered for courage for my faith. That would be the most important thing; the most important thing is my faith." Why would he say that?

For Christians, our faith is our foundation. It is our rock. For those that know and love Jesus, faith in Him provides peace during the storms of life, acceptance in the face of our own failures and unconditional love found nowhere else. Scripture says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

As a young man, that was a hard lesson for me to learn. I thought I was in charge of my life.

Boy, was I wrong.

As I worked harder and harder to control outcomes in my life, I got more and more frustrated.

It was only when I accepted Christ that I realized the only things I really have control over are my attitude and my efforts. The rest is in God's hands.

Maybe you have felt or are feeling that same frustration I felt.

Jesus will take it away.

Who here knows Jesus? Raise your hand.

Praise God.

If you did not raise your hand just now, one way you can honor Charlie is to seek out someone who did and get to know them. Ask them all your hard questions. Seek the truth. Search the Bible and then do what Erika Kirk recommended. Find a bible believing church and start attending. You will be glad you did.

The second way we can honor Charlie is to seek truth and understanding.

Charlie was not a college graduate, but he educated himself—better than most people with college degrees. He disciplined himself to learn economics, history, philosophy and theology. He read what great minds have written. He studied the Bible. And then he challenged what he learned against the thoughts of others who disagreed in respectful debate.

Charlie knew what many readers know: History tends to repeat itself and if we want to chart a course for the future, we must understand the past. To honor Charlie, I invite you to join the Great Conversation.

About 20 years ago, I started a reading journal. It is just a spiral bound notebook I keep in my bedroom. Every time I finish a book, I write down the date, title and author. I push myself to read at least 50 books per year...mostly non-fiction. As you read, authors reference other writers and works that have influenced them.

Those are the threads of the Great Conversation. Follow them.

You might ask, where should I start?

Thankfully, Charlie left us with a starting place. Just google, “Charlie Kirk’s book recommendations.” Start there and follow the threads.

The third way we can honor Charlie is to fall in love, get married, and raise a family. Those are Charlie’s exact words. If you want purpose in your life, get married and raise a family. Few things in this life can bring more joy and fulfillment—much more than a successful career which will fade away.

Charlie loved Erika and his two young children.

Staying married and raising a family is not easy. In fact, it is really, really hard. But few God-ordained institutions can bring more joy.

Susan and I have been married for 37 years and raised our four children right here in Bozeman. I could not have done what we have done in business or public service without Susan by my side. She is my partner, my dearest friend and I love her completely. We love each of our children unconditionally. We pray for them every day.

Take Charlie’s advice and don’t miss God’s gift of marriage and family in your life.

The fourth, and final way we can honor Charlie is to love our neighbors and engage.

When we accept Christ as our savior and we start to understand God’s perspective from the Bible we learn to see every human being as created in the image of God. Each individual has inherent worth, value, and purpose. This perspective permeated every interaction Charlie had.

When you see every individual as having intrinsic worth and nobility, you love them.

You seek to understand and engage with them. Charlie loved every person he interacted with, even the people who were nasty and treated him with disrespect.

But that is God’s plan for us. Dallas Willard called it the Divine Conspiracy: God’s plan for the world is to overcome evil with good. The Bible says, “The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.”

What is that Light? The Bible tell us, it is Jesus.

Charlie did not know his assassin, but I have no doubt he loved him. At the memorial, Ericka said that Charlie went to campuses specifically to engage young men just like the man who killed him. Erika, knowing God’s plan, and in an astounding act of Christian forgiveness, forgave the shooter even after he took her husband and the father of their children.

Jesus said, “Love your enemy and pray for those that persecute you.”

Do what Charlie did, love your neighbor—even if you disagree with them.

Are some of your neighbors hard to love? Pray for them. God will change your heart.

We must also engage face to face. We cannot and should not retreat to the dark corners of social media. Seek out people with different views. Engage them in respectful, in-person dialog. Go grab a coffee. Jordan Peterson said, “Go into every conversation expecting to learn something.” I think that is good advice. I try to follow it in my own life.

One other quick comment about social media. Don’t get sucked in. It is addictive.

Charlie disconnected from social media for a day every week so that it did not get an upper hand in his life. We should all do the same. My friend and fellow governor Spencer Cox said it very well recently: “Log off. Turn off. Go outside. Touch grass. Laugh with your friends. Hug a family member. Serve your neighbors. Remember, what happens online is not real life.”

That is another way we can honor Charlie.

I personally think that after the salvation promise of the Bible, the next greatest promise in scripture is Romans 8:28 which says: “All things work together for good for those that love God and are called according to his purposes.” The Word is clear, it says *all things* work together for good. Even tragic, evil things. God promises to use them for his Glory and our good. He is doing that with Charlie’s tragic death. But the baton has been passed to us now. It is our obligation to pick it up and carry it forward.

In the words of Secretary of War Hegseth, “Well done, Charlie. We’ve got it from here.”

As I conclude, please join me again in prayer.

Heavenly Father, thank You for Charlie Kirk and his work here on earth. Please give Erika the strength and wisdom she needs and surround her with people to support and uphold her.

We pray for the Turning Point team and the tremendous opportunity in front of them.

For each person within my hearing, to honor Charlie’s life I pray we will pursue You with vigor, seek truth and understanding in our lives, have the blessing of our own family, love our neighbors as ourselves...And Lord we pray, may Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.