



**AKRON AREA  
INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2022**

# I No Longer Pray For Peace

*By Ann Weems*

On the edge of war, one foot already in,

I no longer pray for peace:

I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn  
to tenderheartedness,  
and evil intentions will turn  
to mercifulness,  
and all the soldiers already deployed  
will be snatched out of harm's way,  
and the whole world will be  
astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"  
will take bones,  
and stand up and shed  
its cloak of faithlessness,  
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might  
sit down together and share  
its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,  
but then I've always applauded the holy fools  
who never seem to give up on  
the scandalousness of our faith:  
that we are loved by God.....  
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:  
I pray for miracles.



THE MOST FAMOUS ICON in the world is probably the Virgin of Kyiv, which was made by a Byzantine artist about the year 1132 for Prince Mstislav(1125-1132) of Kyiv. Mstislav, the son of King Volodymyr Monomakh (1113-1125), of Kyiv Rus, decided to build a church in Vyshorod, near Kyiv, for which the foundation stone was laid in 1132. He commissioned an icon of the Virgin and Child from Byzantium. The icon's beauty and importance were fully realized by the Kyivans as two historical chronicles, the Laurentian and Hypatian, noted.

For more information visit this website:  
[infoukes.com/culture/paintings/virgin-of-kyiv/](http://infoukes.com/culture/paintings/virgin-of-kyiv/)

AAIC supports the Ukrainian people in its struggle for peace in their homeland, and prays and acts toward promoting dialogue and peacemaking to this conflict, rather than destruction and war. All faith groups are called to study these issues and contact their legislators for humanitarian relief for the Ukrainian people, in addition to promoting nonviolent means to resolve longstanding conflicts.

### **Places to Donate:**

Here is a list of some of the organizations you can donate to, in order to help those in Ukraine. Many are from Regina Brett's column:

Fr Vsevolod Shevchuk  
Holy Ghost Ukranian Catholic Church  
1866 Brown St  
Akron, OH 44301  
Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia  
810 North Franklin St  
Philadephia, PA 19123-2005  
[ukrarcheparchy.us/](http://ukrarcheparchy.us/)

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
pda.pcusa.org/](http://pda.pcusa.org/)

UNICEF Ukraine  
Save the Children  
U.N. Refugee Agency  
United Help Ukraine  
Nova Ukraine  
Voices of Children  
Ukrainian Red Cross  
World Jewish Relief  
Jewish Agency for Israel  
Jewish Federations of North America  
Your local federation  
American Joint Distribution Center



# 2022 INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE SERIES

## Cultural Humility: Opening Hearts and Connecting Lives



This series on cultural humility focuses on having a humble and respectful attitude toward others, especially those who are different from us. At its core it is about empathy, avoiding stereotypical thinking, challenging our own cultural biases, reflecting on privilege, racism and living with diversity.

**Mr. James L. Knight** is Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at St. Edward Catholic High School in Lakewood, author of *Heart: A Journey Toward Cultural Humility*. He is an educator, coach/mentor, consultant, author, itinerant speaker/teacher, and equity and inclusion strategist. Mr. Knight received a doctorate in education from Ashland University

**Mr. Carey Dabney**, Professor of Systematic Theology with a specialty in Black Catholic Studies, Walsh University, collaborates with James Knight in workshops on cultural humility.

***Join us in-person or virtually!***

**Wednesday, March 9 - St. Hilary Parish**

*Carey Dabney: An introduction to Cultural Humility and the growth process*

**Wednesday, March 16 - Temple Israel**

*James L. Knight: The power of awareness and the art of looking within*

**Wednesday, March 23 - New Hope Baptist**

*James L. Knight: The power of empathy and the danger of one story*

**Wednesday, March 30 - Faith Lutheran**

*James L. Knight: The four dimensions of racism and what you can do about it*

### ***Evening Schedule:***

6:30 p.m. - Sign-in/registration

6:45 p.m. - Welcome & Introductions

7:00 p.m. - Worship

7:30 - Presentation, questions & discussion

8:30 - Time for additional questions

James L. Knight's book, *Heart: A Journey Toward Cultural Humility*, is available for purchase and pickup at each congregation. If you are interested in purchasing the book, please select the purchase option when registering.

**To register, visit [sthilarychurch.org/2022interfaith](https://sthilarychurch.org/2022interfaith)**

# JOURNEY TOGETHER THIS LENT

## 2 VIRTUAL SERIES

### **SERIES 1: FOCUSING ON DEATH PENALTY AWARENESS & ENDING OHIO'S DEATH PENALTY**

The Diocesan Social Action Office staff has planned two meaningful Lenten virtual series, which can impact an important area of concern:

#### **Lenten Death Penalty Awareness Virtual Series!**

##### **Three Fridays at Noon, via Zoom**

**March 11:** Fr. Neil Kookoothe & Joe D'Ambrosio will present a special reflection on death penalty advocacy and Joe's exoneration. Fr. Neil pastors St. Clarence Parish in North Olmsted. Joe just celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his exoneration.

**March 18:** Mary von Carlowitz, Diocesan Human Life Office Director, will present on the Church's respect life teaching against the death penalty. Concluding prayer to end Ohio DP.

**March 25:** Death Penalty Awareness Stations of the Cross

**April 8 (tentative):** Local guest speaker. Conclude with prayer to end Ohio's DP.

**Note:** Each session will include a call to action to write state legislators in support of current, bipartisan legislation to end Ohio's DP.

**To register (and for Zoom link):** Email **Paul Kipfstuhl**, at [pkipfstuhl@ccdoble.org](mailto:pkipfstuhl@ccdoble.org), with dates you plan to attend.

### **SERIES 2: "FROM LAUDATO SI' TO LAUDATO DO"**

#### **SERIES ON LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM ENROLLMENT**

The second Diocesan Social Action Office virtual series focuses on how to promote and enroll in the Laudato Si' Action Platform and the seven goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform:

**Lenten Weekly Virtual Series: "Moving From  
Laudato Si' to Laudato Do: Practical,  
Hopeful Ways to Live the Laudato Si'  
Action Platform Goals"**

##### **Wednesday Evenings of Lent (7:00-8:00 PM) – Zoom events**

Presented by the Cleveland Diocesan Social Action Office featuring weekly guest speakers

**Session dates and focus topics:**

**March 9:** "Hearing and Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor"

**March 16:** "Living Laudato Si' through More Ethical Lifestyles, Purchasing and Consumption"

**March 23:** "Forming Our Faith and Discipleship to Live Laudato Si' and Christ's Gospel: Ecological Education and Spirituality"

**March 30:** "Community and Communal Ways to Live Laudato Si': How We Are Interconnected and Better Together"

**Sponsored by:** Cleveland Diocesan Social Action Office, with the support of the Conference of Religious Leadership's Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Subcommittee.

**To register (and for Zoom link):** Email **Jeff Campbell**, at [jcampbell@ccdoble.org](mailto:jcampbell@ccdoble.org), with your parish or school.

## DEATHS BY SUICIDE ARE ON THE RISE (ESPECIALLY AMONG OUR YOUTH)

Would you or someone in your faith group like to help prevent suicide deaths in your community? Here are 3 local opportunities for this month and 2022 to get you started.

### **Opportunity #1: For anyone who seeks to build a healthier, safer community!**

Get trained to provide initial help to someone with a mental health or substance use or mental health crisis. Join the Love Akron team of community-based, Mental Health First Responders! To get a flyer with dates & info on how to register for one of the FREE trainings by the ADM Board, send an email to: [training@redoakbh.org](mailto:training@redoakbh.org) or call 330-564-4648.



### **Opportunity #2: March 10 (Thursday) 9:00 – 10:30 am**

**Summit County Suicide Prevention Coalition** is offering a free 1.5 HOUR TRAINING on suicide prevention using QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) approach. For more information, call 330-376-9494 x 211 or email: [preventsucide@admboard.org](mailto:preventsucide@admboard.org)

### **Opportunity #3: March 29 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm.- 7:30 pm**

**Highland Square Theatre, Akron**

**Come to a Mental Health Symposium.** Talk about the problem, after viewing: “Reducing the stigma of Mental Illness” –with a focus on youth and young adults. For more information, call Ms. Gloria Terry 330-255-8102. (\$10 donation suggested for adults 21 and older)

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS DURING SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SEASONS**

Hindu: Maha Shivaratri/Shivaratri - Tues, March 1

Christian season of Lent --- begins Wed, March 2, 2022- April 16<sup>th</sup>

Bahai 19 Day Fast - begins Wed, March 2nd

Jewish Feast of Purim – begins at sundown Wed, March 16

Muslim season of Ramadan – begins at sundown Sat April 2 – May 2

## **March Birthdays for Death Row Inmates at Chillicothe Institution**

Kareem Jackson—#A354-156—3/5/74

Andre Jackson—#A203-859—3/9/66

Abdul Awkal—#A267-328—3/10/59

Delano Hale—#A490-551—3/10/68

Tyrone Noling—#A222-599—3/22/72

William Sapp—#A337-278—3/22/62

Robert Bethel—#A455-970—3/23/70

Gerald Hand—#A449-014—3/23/49

George Skatzes—#A173-501—3/29/46

Inmate's name and number

PO Box 5500

Chillicothe, OH 45601

Single-fold cards only



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Akron Area Interfaith  
Council**

# **Hunger Walk**

## **Sunday, May 1, 2022**

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of Akron  
3300 Morewood Road  
Fairlawn, OH 44333

**100% of all donations goes directly  
to**

**The Akron Canton  
Regional Foodbank**



Registration: 2:00 pm      Walk begins at 3:00 pm  
Make checks out to AAIC Hunger Walk

### **WAYS TO DONATE:**

**MAIL CHECKS** payable to AAIC Hunger Walk to  
3300 Morewood Road  
Akron, Ohio 44333

**IN PERSON DONATIONS** on Sunday, May 1, 2022

**DONATE ONLINE:** <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/hungerwalk>

### **SAVE THE DATE : UPCOMING EVENTS**

**HESBURGH FILM - June 10**

**MITZVAH DAY - June 25-26**



## SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday May 1, 2022 The Akron Area Interfaith Council is sponsoring the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunger Walk. This year we are hoping to walk together in person again after two years of walking virtually. It is our hope that we will have more walkers than ever coming together to stamp out hunger in Summit County. Your help is needed to spread the word on all your favorite social media platforms or actually talking with friends, or you could organize all the members of your faith communities, friends and associates to join us on Sunday May 1, 2022. Registration for the walk is at 2:00 pm and the walk will start at 3:00. We will have a one mile and a two mile hike with light snacks and beverage outdoors afterwards. Please feel free to copy the flyer and use it in whatever way works best for you to get the word out to as many people as possible.



For those who may not be able to make it to the actual walk, we are currently accepting donations for this year's Hunger Walk. Information on how to donate is available on the AAIC website at [akroninterfaith.org](http://akroninterfaith.org) or you can donate using Fund Hero at <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/hungerwalk>.

Together, with your help, this Hunger Walk will be the most successful ever in stamping out hunger in our community.

Thank you for your help. We are looking forward to seeing you all there IN PERSON on May 1st!

## Join us for Mitzvah Day

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**

Temple Israel created Mitzvah Day in Akron in 2002 to focus on helping different agencies in the Metro Akron community, by collaborating with other faith-based organizations.

In keeping with Judaism's teachings of tikkun olam, to repair the world, Mitzvah Day strives to inspire participants to pursue social justice through social activism. We have more than a dozen projects. To learn more, visit the website at <http://www.mitzvahdayakron.com/history/>

If interested in helping with a project by AAIC, contact Kathy Ress and Cheryl Warfield at [kress3545@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kress3545@sbcglobal.net). For a project for your faith group, contact Art Krakauer at [artkrakauer@gmail.com](mailto:artkrakauer@gmail.com)



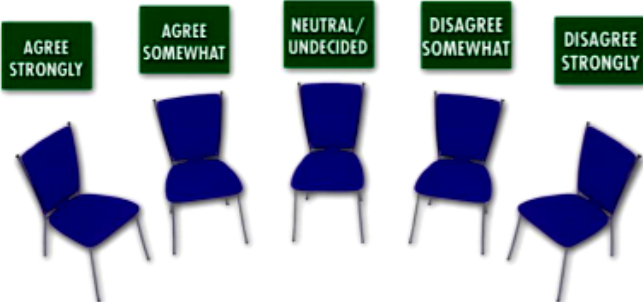


# "We The People" - Dinner and a Fight

Dialogue

Educate and Inspire. Supported by:

Several Interfaith Leaders + Your org \_\_\_\_\_ + This org \_\_\_\_\_ + That org \_\_\_\_\_



**Join In:** To experience civil dialogue about a tough topic. Volunteer to be an on-stage-participant. Or join just to observe. We will use the 5-Chair Civil Dialogue(R) method developed over the last 18-years at Arizona State University: Hot Topics - Cool Heads

**Hot Topic:** TBD, vaccine, immigration, voting repairs?

**Purpose:** A recent survey concluded that 77% of Americans are exhausted by politics! Is it because our political environment often asks us to vilify our neighbor!? Are you ready to get back to "We The People"?

**Location:** St George Social Hall, 3204 Ridgewood Rd, Fairlawn

**When:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 6pm to 8:20pm (please arrive early to get situated)

**Format:** Round tables of 5 for dining & visiting. 5-Chair Method (the "fight") for all to observe and question.

## Why bother?

- \*Maybe you have friends, or even family members, that you don't visit any more.
- \*Maybe you had a meal, a holiday, a party stained by a blow-up.
- \*Maybe you are angry at leaders who foment division, or media spewing half truths.
- \*Maybe you ache for a path to cross-the-aisle.

**Maybe it is time to re-member United-We-Stand?**

## Sign up:

Marshall Ariza  
mtariza@live.com 330-414-3620

**Fee:** \$20 dinner + Freewill Donation



[www.Fighting-To-Understand.us](http://www.Fighting-To-Understand.us) is a local non-profit 501c3 organized for civic education.  
Ted Wetzel 330-607-6829 cell

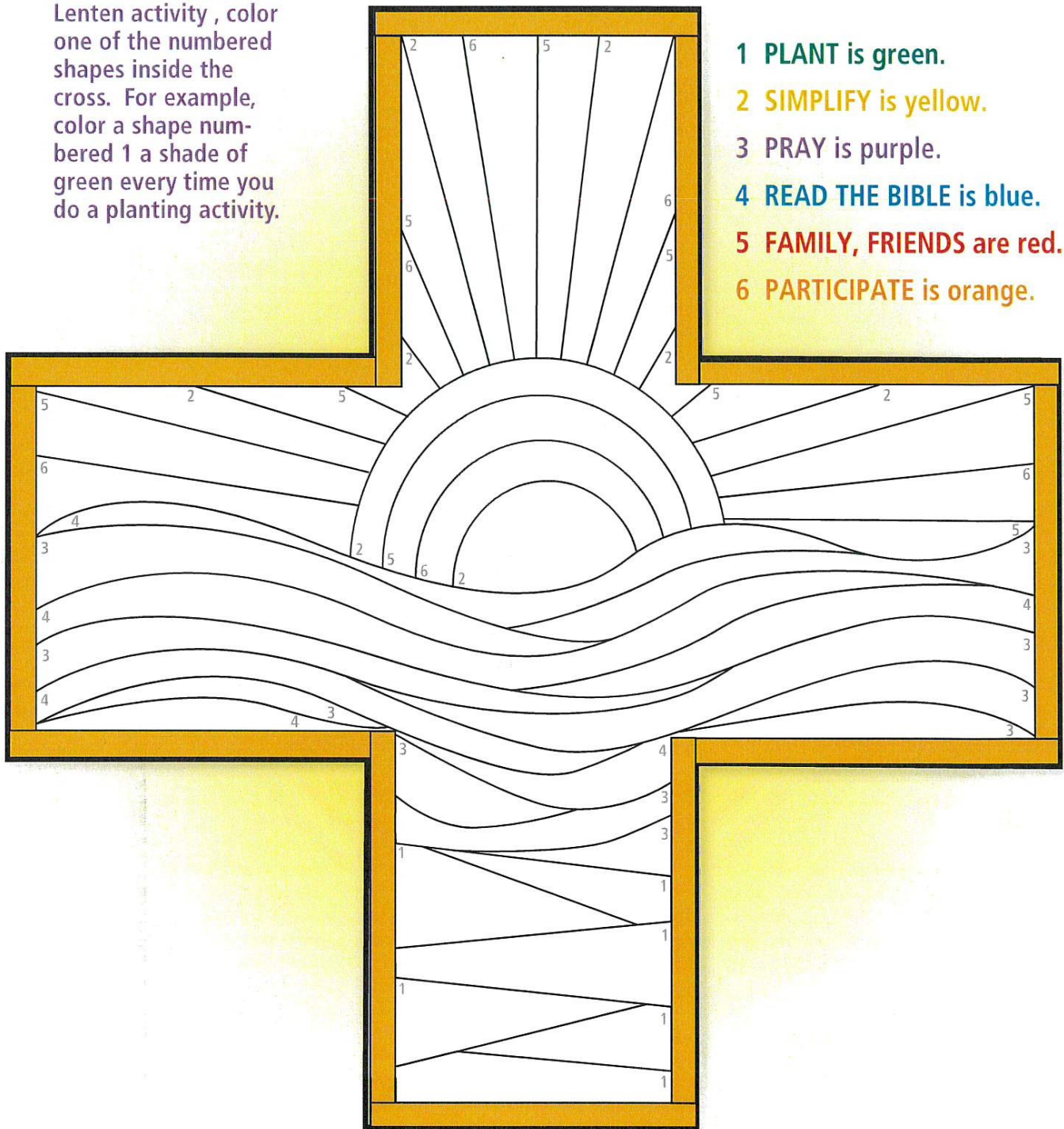
(Dinner continued on page 8)

## UPDATE

In June 2020, Summit County Council passed a Resolution declaring *Racism as a Public Health Crisis*. Since then, they have been doing some amazing work which constructively finds ways to make systemic change in our County and show love by making justice public. To read their findings, their recommendations, and press release of Feb. 1, 2022, go to: [www.council.summitoh.net](http://www.council.summitoh.net) and click on About Council and Public Information tabs.

Each time you do a Lenten activity, color one of the numbered shapes inside the cross. For example, color a shape numbered 1 a shade of green every time you do a planting activity.

- 1 PLANT is green.
- 2 SIMPLIFY is yellow.
- 3 PRAY is purple.
- 4 READ THE BIBLE is blue.
- 5 FAMILY, FRIENDS are red.
- 6 PARTICIPATE is orange.



# LENT 2022



# EASTER CROSS ACTIVITIES

## BIBLE

- ✚ **FIND** in Genesis 7.11 what threatens humankind with extinction.
- ✚ **FIND** in Genesis 9.12-13 the sign of the covenant between God and Noah, whose name means *Settler*. When have you experienced hope in this sign?
- ✚ **FIND** the number of descendants God promises Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 15.5.
- ✚ **WHAT** is the first term of the covenant God makes with Israel in Exodus 20.2?
- ✚ **HOW** true do you find the promise the prophet Jeremiah makes on God's behalf in Jeremiah 31.31-34?
- ✚ **PRAY** Lamentations 3.22-23 at dawn.

## PARTICIPATE

- 👉 **VOLUNTEER** to serve in a soup kitchen.
- 👉 **TAKE** food to a local food shelf.
- 👉 **PARTICIPATE** as a family in a local spring clean-up.
- 👉 **CELEBRATE** a birthday by working at a program such as Feed My Starving Children.
- 👉 **TAKE** part in a group that provides families in poverty with needed household supplies and furniture.
- 👉 **VOLUNTEER** to tutor immigrants in English.

## FAMILY, FRIENDS

- ♥ **GIVE** 10 minutes of uninterrupted, attentive listening to a family member.
- ♥ **COMPLIMENT** colleagues and coworkers on ways they do their jobs or on how their work matters to the whole enterprise.
- ♥ **TELL** friends and family members ways they matter to you.
- ♥ **MAKE** family meals or meals with friends a priority. Make slow food together, such as soup or stir fry. Eat and talk together.
- ♥ **GIVE** up grudges, imagined enemies, old hurts, overwork, sarcasm, self-pity, and self-righteousness. Pursue happiness.
- ♥ **EMBRACE** new relationships and new dimensions to long-lasting friendships.
- ♥ **TALK** more, or talk less.
- ♥ **MEND** a quarrel. Right a wrong. Renew a friendship.
- ♥ **WALK** and talk with a grandchild or grandparent.

## SIMPLIFY

- ✦ **MINIMIZE** the electricity you use for a day. Eat by candlelight.
- ✦ **FAST** from fast food.
- ✦ **TRY** a vegetarian food or recipe every week of Lent.
- ✦ **ORGANIZE** a junk drawer or storage area.
- ✦ **PUT** a water-saving head on your shower.
- ✦ **CLEAN** unneeded clothes and shoes out of your closet. Donate what is good.
- ✦ **FAST** with the Church on Fridays from meat and excess food.
- ✦ **FAST** from too much television. Give a dime to Catholic Relief for every commercial you see this week.
- ✦ **FORGIVE** a debt.

## PLANT

- ☀ **WORK** in your yard. Meet and visit with neighbors.
- ☀ **PLANT** a tomato in a large pot. Find a sunny spot for the pot. Water and care for the plant. Enjoy eating your own tomatoes.
- ☀ **PLANT** a tree to make air of sunlight.
- ☀ **PLANT** grasses and native flowers on your boulevard or in your yard. A patch of prairie provides seeds for birds.
- ☀ **GIVE** a crocus to a person you find it hard to appreciate. Plant love.
- ☀ **VOLUNTEER** at a community or school garden, or at a center that distributes fresh foods to low income families.

## PRAY

- ✚ **COUNT** your blessings. Develop a habit of recognizing ten a day.
- ✚ **WALK** in a park, on a beach, around the block, or down the road. Breathe consciously. Feel the sun. Notice the light, the rocks, the plants and animals. Reconnect with the mystery of all that is.
- ✚ **TAKE** time for silence. Breathe in, saying, "Spirit of God with me." Breathe out, saying, "Spirit of Love in me."
- ✚ **JOIN** or start a faith-sharing group or bible study. Listen each other into naming grace and recognizing the experience of God in our daily lives.
- ✚ **INVITE** family members at a meal to share where they see signs of spring.
- ✚ **PRAY** with the people of God as often as you can during Lent by going to daily Eucharist.
- ✚ **BEGIN** a family meal by having each person state a hope for the whole human family.
- ✚ **THANK** God for all you have learned from a painful failure.
- ✚ **WASH** your windows and thank God for what you see more clearly.
- ✚ **BE.**





## MISSION

The Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective interfaith responses to the social, moral, ethical and cultural issues of our community and to promote freedom of religion, equality and understanding.

## VISION

We envision a strong network of faith communities that collaborate to make our city a haven for all.

## GUIDEPOSTS

- Diversity is a blessing and enriches us all; the diversities of all peoples, languages, cultures, and colors must be cherished and celebrated.
- We are responsible for each other's welfare.
- Because of the importance of individual's faith traditions in developing underlying values, faith communities can contribute to the development of a more just, humane, and ecologically responsible society. [We refer here to "faith traditions" vs. "religion" as AAIC is interested in reaching not only congregations but also those who are searching and may not have a specific faith affiliation (such as the NONEs).]
- Members of AAIC oppose any and all forms of discrimination, especially those based on faith, gender, race, heritage, nationality and sexuality
- Advocacy and Social Justice: AAIC has consistently put issues of social justice at the forefront. Our past history shows a deep concern for inclusiveness. The group has been focused on the issues faced by the immigrant populations in Akron, ongoing issues of racism in the community, hunger, as well as xenophobia.

## TO JOIN AAIC

Please visit our website for information on yearly dues:  
Individual membership— \$30.00/yr., Institutional— \$50.00/yr.  
Send your check or donation to:

**Akron Area Interfaith Council**  
**3300 Morewood Rd.**  
**Akron, Ohio 44333**

or send a membership fee via the following link: <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/aaicmembership>

Website: <http://www.Akroninterfaith.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AkronInterfaith>

Phone: 234-206-0088