



**AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
December 2023**



INTERFAITH CANDLELIGHT PRAYER VIGIL

Join us as we come together with
area faith representatives
to grieve with those who are suffering
as a consequence of war,
to pray for peace throughout the world,
to reconnect with our humanity
and with each other.

**Akron Area Interfaith Council
Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron
3300 Morewood Rd**

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2023

5:30 pm

On the darkest day of the year,
Let us light a candle of hope as the light returns.
Come, let us pray together



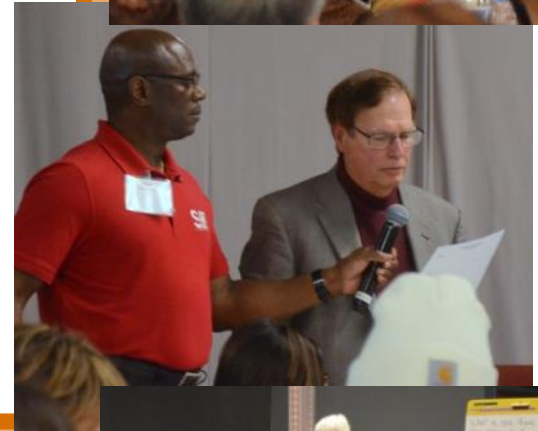


CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

Mayor-elect Shammas Malik was on hand Sunday, December 3, to hear preliminary results that were pulled from the Interfaith Community Conversations. The event, held at The Remedy Church, 1700 Brittain Rd., brought together nearly 200 members of various Akron area interfaith communities, and asked them to discuss a key issue that affects all of our lives, violence/the threat of violence. But, the conversations, which were guided by facilitators, went beyond the central topic and allowed participants to focus on what binds us together regardless of the diversity of faith traditions

This gathering started as an idea that Rev. Tom Bodie brought before AAIC. Then, Sue Lacy with Round River Consulting, was tasked with bringing the event together. Ms. Lacy then reached out to Dr. Robert DeJournett, a member of the Mayor-elect's Transition Team, and Rev. Nanette Pitt. Then the team was expanded to include table hosts, who received training from Sue and Lakesha Hayes, Executive Director of Project Ujima. A food team, registration team and volunteers from The Remedy Church all rolled up their sleeves to make the event come together, seemingly, without a hitch. The work, however, still continues. Worksheets and living tablecloths are still being examined. Even though Mr. Malik was there to here some of the "nuggets" that were pulled from the discussions, Round River is still working on a final report that will bring his team some possible next steps.

-Reesá Mathews





**Villa Maria Education
& Spirituality Center
presents
TaNaK Studies for
Christians
Jesus, the Torah Made Flesh with
Fr. George Balasko**

This free Bible education series is an opportunity for Christians to reflect on the Scriptures using video resources from various Scripture scholars. Working closely with the biblical text, we will explore the methods and insights of the sages of the Jewish tradition, their love for Torah, their eye for detail, their incisive questions, debates, and creative storytelling (midrash). In this way we will deepen our appreciation of a Torah tradition that is at the core of Jewish life, which formed Jesus as a Jew, and which is the root of our Biblical heritage as Christians. Join us in this fascinating journey of biblical and spiritual enrichment.

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8715427267?pwd=dkx4a0V0Zml4SVRIYnZwTU9JRFB4QT09&omn=88987571884>

Meeting ID: 871 542 7267 Passcode: VMESC

December 20, 2023

Who was Mary, the Mother of Jesus?

January 17, 2024

The Historical Jesus is Jewish

February 21, 2024

Who is Philo of Alexandria?

March 20, 2024

Who is Flavius Josephus of Rome?

April 17, 2024

Who is Origin of Alexandria?

May 15, 2024

Who is Rabbi Akiva of Jerusalem?

June 19, 2024

The Model of The Rabbis of Late Antiquity

Each class is from 1:00—3:00 p.m. EST

These documents are needed
for the December class:

<https://www.asu.edu/courses/rel376/total-readings/james.pdf>

https://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article_cdo/aid/280331/jewish/Nitzevet-Mother-of-David.htm

**Lobbying to End the
Death Penalty**



On November 15, AAIC members Susan Gallagher, John Beatty, Linda Beatty, Leah Holden, Judy DiNardo and Bernie Smith joined with members of Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) to “pack the room” at a Senate hearing in Columbus, OH. The hearing was a proponent hearing for Senate Bill 101, the bi-partisan bill to end Ohio’s death penalty. There is much hope that this bill will get passed in 2024 as more and more people are speaking out against Ohio’s death penalty. It is great to see members of AAIC showing up. For more information on this topic contact Allison Cohen at OTSE.org.

Peace,
Susan Gallagher



Left to right: Susan Gallagher, John Beatty, Linda Beatty, Leah Holden, Judy DiNardo and Bernie Smith





Akron
Urban League

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

A N N U A L

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Breakfast

HILTON AKRON/FAIRLAWN

3180 W MARKET ST, AKRON, OH 44333

8:00AM-9:30AM

SPONSORED BY



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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Department of Job and Family Services

akronurbanleague.org





MISSION

The Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective inter-faith 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 NONE's).]
- 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>.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month. We are meeting in person and via Zoom.

Website: Akroninterfaith.org

Facebook Group: Facebook.com/AAICOH