



**AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
November 2023**



CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS

The ballots have been cast and counted, and Shammal Malik is now Akron's Mayor-elect. But, before he is sworn into office, part of his transition team is already working with AAIC and other interfaith leaders to bring a spectrum of voices to the table for conversations that will lead to action.

The gathering that is set for Sunday, December 3, 2023, at The Remedy Church (1700 Brittain Rd., Akron), is not just for religious leaders. This will be an opportunity for people of faith to focus on issues that affect Akron, and surrounding communities, as a whole. However, it is not just a convenient way for the Mayor-elect to check a box, before moving on to the next thing. This meeting, which is being organized by Round River Consulting, will bring people into the conversation, so that they can compile actionable plans for next steps, that will lead to change.

On the following page there is more information about the upcoming event, along with a QR Code you can scan, which will take you to a registration page.

As the event gets closer, we will send out more information. helping the interfaith community move things forward in the Rubber City.

—Reesá Mathews

YOU'RE INVITED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

The Remedy Church, 1700 Brittain Road, Akron, Ohio 44310

1:00pm Light Lunch; 1:30-4pm Community Conversation

Interfaith Community Conversation

*Coming Together to Listen, Connect, and
Imagine a Community of Peace in Akron*

RSVP NOW



With Mayor-Elect Shammias Malik

<https://bit.ly/Interfaith-Convo>



As of 11.20.23 Event Endorsed By



[Click here](#) to donate to this event, or go to donate.fundhero.io/aaic/aaicmembership

INTERNATIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Each year, for the last 35 years (except during the COVID-19 shut down) there has been a free Thanksgiving dinner for foreign exchange students at the University of Akron. Recently, it has expanded to include Kent State University foreign exchange students. The event is usually held at St. Bernard's in downtown Akron.

This year, the celebration included a very lively group of students from Latin America which were visiting the U.S. At well over 100 total attendees, it was the largest ever.

Global Ties Akron sponsors the dinner and cooked the turkeys. Members of the community (including AAIC members) bring side dishes, desserts, and meatless entrees.

The objective is to help those far from home to feel at home in Akron, and it provides a great chance to meet students from all over the world who speak excellent English.

This year the program ended with karaoke sung in any language and with up to three mics. The audience danced and cheered and sometimes sang along. In spite of ominous international events, it is still a smaller world than you think.

Consider attending a future dinner.

—Ken Williams



You are Invited to the Annual

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, November 23
9:00 am

this year at

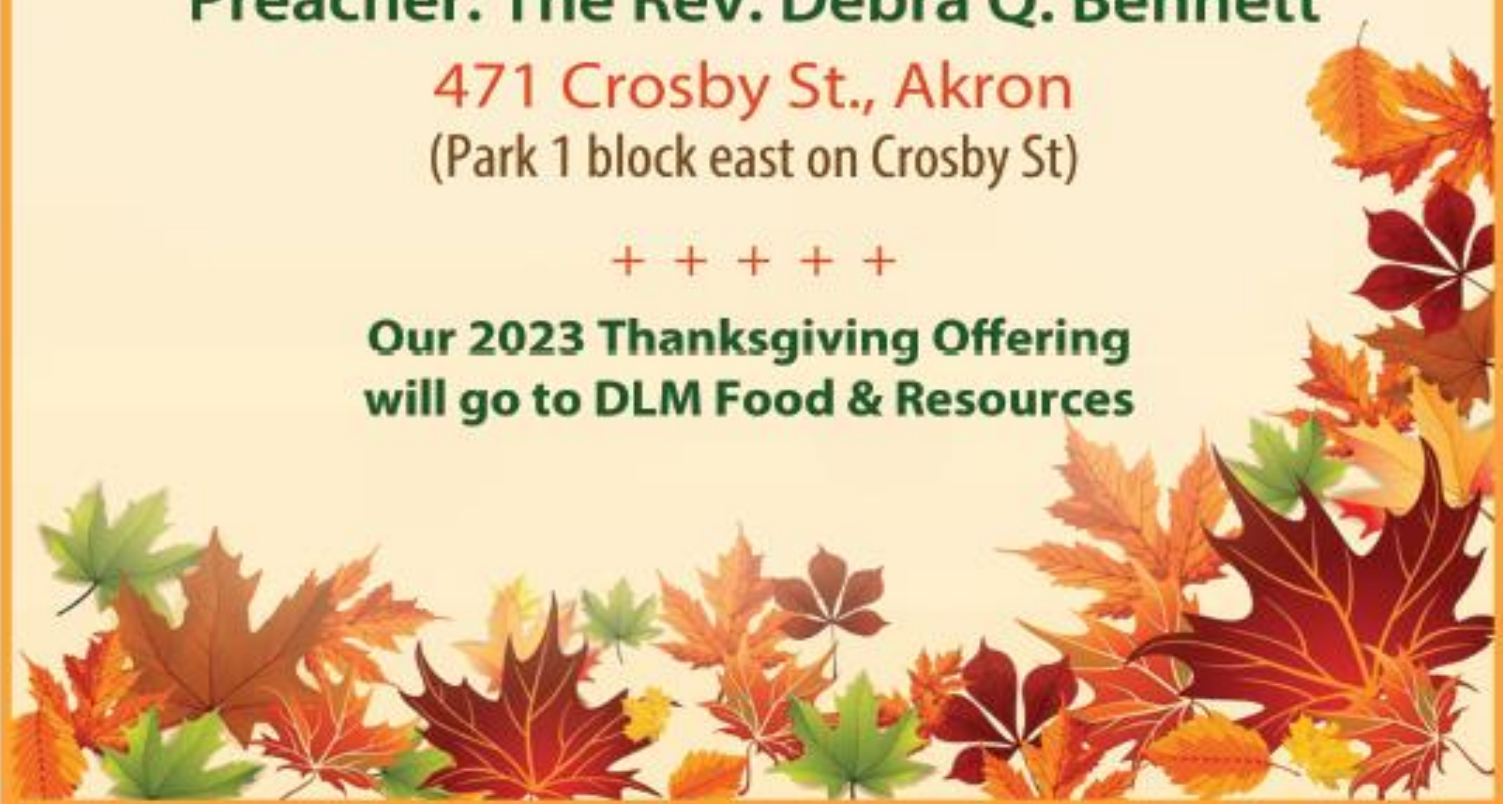
Church Of Our Saviour

Preacher: The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett

471 Crosby St., Akron
(Park 1 block east on Crosby St)

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**Our 2023 Thanksgiving Offering
will go to DLM Food & Resources**





AKRON INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

For North Hill Immigrant Families

Help us supply their essentials by giving

1. Long-grain white rice (large bag)
2. Black and/or Pinto Beans (large bag)

no cans please

3. Toothpaste
4. Bars of soap

or

\$25 gift cards to:

Dollar General, Aldi, or Walmart

Please, drop donations off at:

New Covenant Community Church

1587 W. Exchange St., Akron

By 11/30

(NCCC Office hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

If you want to make a donation, but don't think you can afford it, please consider dropping off a gently-used hoodie for a boy, girl, or teenager (so adult sizes from small to extra large). Apparently the kids do not want to wear winter coats, only hoodies.

Place hoodies in the box, on the back pew.

All donations will be collected until December 3.



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



**ILENE
SHAPIRO**
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