



**AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER
September 2023**

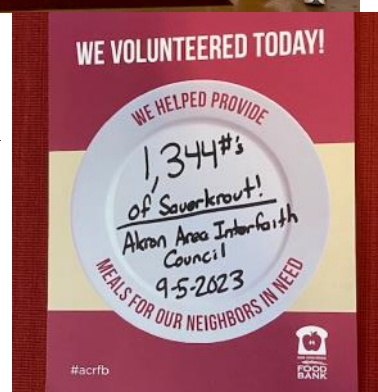


In remembering the 9/11 attacks and all those who lost their lives on this date as well as all those who still grieve the loss of friends and loved ones, let us also remember those who experienced the brutal backlash of immense islamophobia that occurred in many of our communities. As we struggle today in our nation with an epidemic of gun violence and hate crimes targeted toward our Jewish, Muslim, Black and LGBTQ brothers and sisters, we encourage local efforts toward creative solutions that will help us examine our biases, increase understanding and respect for all differences, address systemic inequities and increase respect and dignity for all.

*Susan Gallagher, President
Akron Area Interfaith Council*

More Than a Meeting

Seven members of AAIC stayed at the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, following the September monthly, and took the opportunity to volunteer. This group put labels onto sauerkraut containers, sealed boxes, then piled them onto a loading device, so they could be shipped out. They helped provide 1,344 pounds of sauerkraut to assist neighbors in need.



The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3, at the Dominican Sisters of Peace Motherhouse, 1250 W. Exchange St.

AAIC OFFICERS

President – Susan Gallagher
President-Elect- Tom Bodie
Vice-President – Marty Belsky
Secretary – Conni Dubick
Treasurer – Judy DiNardo



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Spiritual Life- Tom Bodie
Education – Conni Dubick/Elizabeth Fesler
Social Media/Public Relations -
Kathy Ress/Reesá Matthews
Finance – Judy DiNardo
Social Justice & Peace – Joyce Penfield
Hunger Walk – Nancy Williams

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Since the last newsletter, the Board approved a contract with Round River Consulting, to assist AAIC in joining other members of the faith community in an intentional conversation about certain issues facing the city as the new administration takes office in January of 2024, presumably led by Shammias Malik. The goal, besides simply meeting in dialogue with one another, is to offer what thoughts and policy initiatives the faith community of Akron can to the new mayor's team. The presumptive mayor is interested in the project and has indicated that he would be most interested in hearing our thoughts on the issues connected to public security. Since then, members of the Spiritual Life Committee have met with Rev. Nanette Pitt, from First Congregational Church and someone who worked hard on the new mayor's election, and Rev. Robert DeJournette, from St. Ashworth Church and a member of Shammias Malik's transition team. There are a couple of more meetings to be held to get the initial process in place, so there is not much to ask of everyone, yet—rest up, there will be! In the meantime, we probably should make sure that our congregations are on notice about the project so that there will be people available and, we should make sure that our public relations machine is in working order so that we can pull off the publicity.

- Tom Bodie

988 SPANISH TEXT AND CHAT ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Proyecto Raices Presents

3RD ANNUAL AKRON LATIN FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 16 | 3 - 9 pm
Cascade Plaza | 122 S. Main St.
Sábado, Septiembre 16 | 3 - 9 pm
Cascade Plaza | 122 S. Main St.

Proyecto Raices Presenta EL 3ER FESTIVAL LATINO DE AKRON

PROSECUTOR

SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

PRESENTS

2023 CITIZENS ACADEMY



"Criminal justice touches our lives in ways that most people might not think about."

- SHERRI BEVAN WALSH



prosecutorwalsh



SummitCountyProsecutorOffice

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

Learn how to balance the scales of justice. Be a part of the Citizens Academy! These FREE classes will begin September 13, 2023 and cover:

- Gun Violence**
- Police Shootings & Body Cams**
- Child Support**
- Sex Crimes**
- Human Trafficking**
- Grand Jury**
- Domestic Violence**
- Ethical Decisions**

For more information, contact:

Elliot Kolkovich

Community Outreach Prosecutor

ekolkovich@prosecutor.summitoh.net

330.643.7751

Scan to register!



Registration ends August 30, 2023



Young Adult Kayaking River Clean-Up on the Downtown Cuyahoga River

Saturday, September 30—10:00 a.m.-Noon
A required brief safety orientation will begin at 9:30 a.m. Group size is limited to 15, for those who RSVP. This is open to young adults in their 20's to mid-30's, the Social Action Office is partnering with the West Side Creation Care Team on this fun and hands-on environmental service experience. Equipment and trash bags are provided to collect small river debris. Participants are asked to bring their own work gloves. For more details, email DSAO staff Jeff Campbell at: jcampbell@ccdoble.org.

DSAO 3rd Annual Season of Creation Virtual Celebration

Tuesday, October 3

7:00-8:00 p.m.—via Zoom

Share in a Season of Creation prayers and hear motivating local care for God's creation success stories in area parishes, schools and women's religious communities! Watch videos and connect with fellow people of faith seeking to care for God's creation and for the poor. RSVP to DSAO staff Jeff Campbell at jcampbell@ccdoble.org or Shawn Witmer at smwitmer@ccdoble.org. (Note: A Zoom event link will then be sent to registrants)

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

**WE
CAN
ALL
SAVE
LIVES**



**SUN. SEPT. 17TH
3PM-5PM**

TOOLS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION & GUN SAFETY

We will learn tools for suicide awareness and prevention, such as Be SMART and the QPR (Question Persuade Respond) method. Tailored to the needs of the BIPOC community, this event is for parents, educators, volunteers, pastors, and members of the interfaith community.

Light lunch will be served.

SPONSORED BY: ADM BOARD | GRACE ACADEMY OF SMALL WONDERS | MOMS DEMAND ACTION



FREE EVENT!

HOST CHURCH
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
442 Bell Street | Akron OH 44320
PASTOR JEFFREY DENNIS



On July 18, Ohio marked five years without an execution. The event was marked as Day of Hope by Ohioans to Stop

Executions.

Currently, legislation is in committee in the Ohio Senate. It is hoped that when the legislature returns from summer recess the bill will be moved out of committee and voted on by the full Ohio Senate and sent to the House. It is also anticipated that the Ohio House will have a similar bill introduced. The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the death penalty "inadmissible" and Pope Francis has called for its worldwide abolition.

Upcoming Events

Anti-Death Penalty Mobilization Week
September 11-15, 2023

Join the No Death Penalty Ohio Coalition for a week of action to welcome the legislators back to session. Each day will feature a different action YOU can take to help end the death penalty. Let's continue to make ending the death penalty a priority.

Day 1—September 11

Ask a friend to join you for the action week. There is power in numbers when we come together. They can [sign up for our mailing list here](#).

Day 2—September 12

Share one of our graphics on social media and spread the word about the anti-death penalty movement. [Download a graphic here](#).

Day 3—September 13

Send your legislator an article from the co-victim press event and tell them why you want to end the death penalty.

[Find your legislator here.](#)

Day 4—September 14

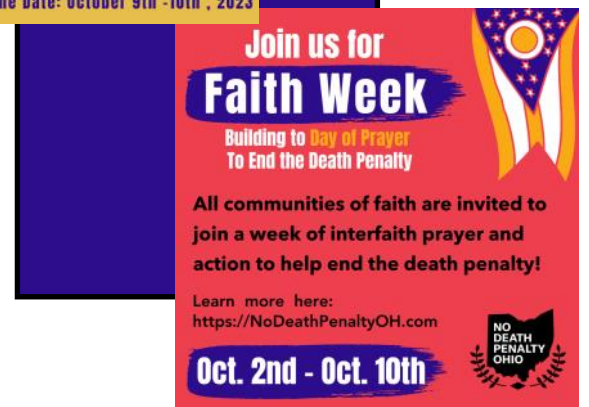
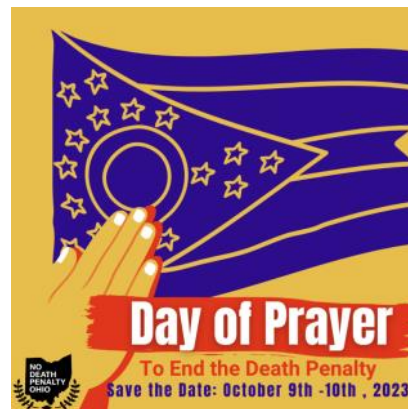
Thank the cosponsors of the bill for supporting the abolition of the death penalty. Send in a handwritten note, an email, or [use this tool](#).

Day 5—September 15

Send in a letter to the editor about the anti-death penalty movement and why you support ending it. [Click here for samples](#).

2-10 October Faith Week

We are organizing a full week of action for faith communities, which will culminate in a Day of Prayer. We invite faith communities across the state to participate by hosting an educational event, organizing a letter-writing party, making death penalty abolition part of your service, or joining the 24 hour Day of Prayer vigil at the statehouse in Columbus. [Click here for resources and to register](#).





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