

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



JANUARY 2017

SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

COMING TO AMERICA: REFUGEES & THE INTERFAITH COMMUNITY

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt..." Leviticus 19:33-34



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UCICC EVENT: January 19th 6:00—7:30P
**The Spiritual Approach to Meeting the Needs of the
Refugee/Re-Settlement Population**

See page 11



About the **Union County** **Interfaith Coordinating Council**

Our Mission

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council works to facilitate regular interfaith meetings in order to make way for the building of bonds within the interfaith community.

We respect and encourage the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability. We strive to be proactive on social issues.

Our Goals

- To grow the network of faith-based organizations in Union County.
- To encourage representatives from all faiths to join the Interfaith Coordinated Council including those of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Islamic, and other faiths.
- To be engaged in:
 1. **Community Building** within faith-based organizations and the general Union County population.
 2. The advancement of **Social Justice**.
 3. The intentional **inclusion** of others regardless of gender, faith, race.
- To be active in activities that are inclusive and community building.

Our Objectives

- Sponsor regular engagement opportunities that facilitate the building of bonds within the Union County interfaith community and their congregations.
- Strengthen the Union County religious congregations through involvement, action and education in self-help.
- Build working relationships between Union County religious organizations and Community Access Unlimited that create opportunities for youth and people with disabilities and their support staff.

Potential Advantages to Joining the Interfaith Community

- Develop interfaith solidarity.
- Avail yourself of increased visibility within the interfaith community and build opportunities to share educational and community events with the group.
- Build religious membership.
- Gain exposure for you and fellow congregation members to educational opportunities regarding entitlements, housing, and other services, including but not limited to: programs for seniors, youth, people with physical and developmental disabilities, etc..
- Create full and part time employment opportunities for congregation members with CAU.

UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

Pastor E. Crawford—Chair Emeritus
Ebenezer AME
Rahway

Deacon Tim Williams-Vice Chair
First Baptist Church
Kenilworth

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director of CAU

Rabbi Joel N. Abraham
Temple Shalom
Scotch Plains

Ayaz Aslam
Muslim Community Center of UC
Elizabeth

Pastor H. Bryant
Townley Presbyterian Church
Union

Denise Fernandes
La Via al Exito

Erich Han William Kussman, Jr
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Springfield

Pastor Mertz
First United Methodist Church
Westfield

Michelle Mobley
Director of Youth Service
Residential

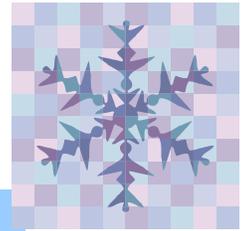
Pastor Carmine Pernini
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rahway

Fr Michael Saporito
The Parish Community of St. Helen
Westfield

Roderick Spearman
CAU Consultant

Elder Arthur “Skip” Winter
Cranford Presbyterian Church
Cranford

message



from the Chairperson Emeritus

In 1939 M-G-M produced an American Movie Classic titled *The Wizard of Oz*. In this movie, the main character, Dorothy, spends every waking hour of her day trying to get home to Kansas. Not because home was a lavish place, not because home was perfect, not because home was a location with GPS coordinates, but because home was a place of comfort, peace, familiarity and security.

Dorothy was anguished about being displaced and diligently worked to get back home because she knew there was a home to go back to. Have you ever thought about how different this American Classic would be if she couldn't go back home? What if she was forced to make the obscure place known as Oz her permanent residence? A place that was foreign to her with people unfamiliar to her.

The reality is, the pleasant suspense of this movie results in a happy ending because Dorothy can go home and resume life as she knew it. However, that is not the happy ending of so many who have been displaced by the storms of life. Storms greater than the tornado that rolled through Kansas. Storms like political unrest, civil war, religious oppression, gender injustice and economic repression.



Oz was a transitional place for Dorothy. Oz is not where she wanted to be, but it was a temporary refuge for her until she could get back to the place she wanted to be. America, for so many who have been and will be displaced, is not where they want to be, but it is a transitional place for them. Maya Angelou once said, "The ache for home lives in all of us." Thus, most refugees want to be home, in a familiar place, a place of safety, a place of peace, but for many that place no longer exists; and so we are called to challenge ourselves.

This nation was founded for and perhaps by refugees -people who were escaping other nations and governments for a myriad of reasons in search of safety and freedom. Freedom is a fundamental human right that we, as people of faith, should want for all of God's people, not just ourselves. Isn't freedom what the first refugees to these now United States came in search of? We refer to them as pilgrims, as settlers, as Europeans and a countless other names and titles, but weren't they refugees to the Native Americans?

Let us look in our hearts, set aside politics, popularity and our hidden agendas and move with God's justice and compassion, while praying and working to protect those whose lives are in danger for being who they are, where they are. We are called to insulate the most vulnerable refugees, helping them build new lives and reuniting them with their families in safety and freedom. We must advocate for the protection of refugees and assure that displaced people are treated with the dignity they deserve.

Editorial

Syrian Refugee Resettlement: Choose Welcome, Not Fear

Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney

One of the main themes of the Bible is hospitality and welcoming the stranger. In the Hebrew scriptures, God reminds the people of Israel that they have a responsibility to the stranger, the alien, the one without a country, because they too were strangers in the land of Egypt.

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

There are both stories and laws pertaining to the importance of welcome. In fact, the Hebrew word *ger*, the closest word to our concept of an immigrant, appears 92 times in the Old Testament alone. God's people must not ignore the needs of those who do not have a home.

In the New Testament the theme of welcoming strangers continues. Although few church Christmas pageants include the terrifying story of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus fleeing for their lives, this is part of the Jesus' early life. Jesus himself was a refugee. He fled as a small child to Egypt when there was a tyrannical king threatening his life. In the gospels, there are parables about who are welcome at wedding feasts (spoiler - not the powerful in palaces). And finally, as the early Christian communities struggled with various doctrinal beliefs, wrestled with divisions within the house churches, and faced persecution, we read in the letter to the Hebrews:

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

So as a Christian I don't really have a choice but to welcome refugees.

I believe there is a theological and moral imperative to help those who are fleeing violence, persecution, war, and suffering. In the face of the most calamitous refugee crisis since World War II, the United States has finally been granting refuge to displaced Syrians, although it is still unequal to the problem's scale and the United States' capacity.

For the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2016, the White House said the administration had exceeded its goal of 10,000 by resettling 12,587 Syrian refugees this year, according to U.S. Department of State data. The modesty of the numerical goal is insufficient with the weight of the challenge posed by more than 4 million Syrian refugees.

The U.S has a history of resettlement. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese were resettled in this country after the war there. More than 120,000 Cubans came to the United States in the course of a few months during the Mariel boatlift in 1980. As former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has noted, if the United States, a country of 320 million, granted asylum to 65,000 Syrians, it would be statistically akin to adding 6½ people to a baseball stadium holding 32,000. (*Washington Post*, 9/2/16)

Although there has been strong rhetoric by some politicians to depict the refugees as a grave threat, most of those who have been resettled are finding jobs, going to school, learning English, being welcomed by neighbors, and starting a new life. The political headwinds have more to do with xenophobia, especially regarding the Middle East and Muslims, and a generalized fear of terrorist attacks, than with any specific or real threat posed by Syrian refugees.

While most Syrian refugees resettled in the past year are children and women, it is impossible to assure that none of them, may pose a security threat, now or in the future. Still, Syrian asylum-seekers have been subjected to intensive and enhanced security vetting, including face-to-face interviews by U.S. officials, scrutiny of social media accounts and other screening measures, usually lasting 18 months to 2 years.

Previous waves of immigrants and refugees — Irish, Italians, Jews and Vietnamese — have been despised, feared and shunned by some Americans, much as Syrians are being vilified by some Americans now. Yet like their predecessors, Syrians will make new and productive lives that ultimately add to America's rich cultural diversity.

In New Jersey, we have the opportunity to get to know these new neighbors who are currently being resettled in Jersey City, Elizabeth, Roselle, Princeton, and Highland Park. People of many faith communities are working together in this historic moment to do what is right, to do what is ethical, to do what is faithful. I hope you will join me in this effort of choosing welcome.

Member Spotlight

Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney
Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains

Pastor Cynthia Cochran-Carney began serving as Pastor of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains in April 2006. Willow Grove is a smaller, vital congregation committed to worshipping God in ways that creatively engage people's hearts and minds.

Spiritual formation is central, providing ways to share the story of God's love in Christ with children, young people, and adults. It is a mission-centered congregation that serves neighbors near and far suffering from homelessness and hunger. Willow Grove is a host congregation for Family Promise. They have Food on the First collections for local food banks. Each year the congregation has a large International Concert and Dinner fundraiser for international disaster relief and local housing organizations.

Born and raised in Southern California, she has served Presbyterian churches on both coasts and in the Midwest. Prior to coming to Willow Grove Church, she served congregations in Bloomington, Indiana and Wausau, Wisconsin. Her husband, Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney, is also a Presbyterian pastor. They started new churches in Elk Grove, California and Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. While in Pennsylvania, she founded a non-profit after school program for latch-key students. Cynthia and Jeffrey have two young adult sons - Jackson, who is a senior at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, and Joshua, who is a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Pastor Jeffrey currently serves the First Presbyterian Church in South Amboy.



Pastor Cynthia holds a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California and a B.A in English from the University of Oregon Honors College. She served for two years as the President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium, an active interfaith group that meets each month. It is comprised of clergy and leaders of many faith communities as well as leaders of non-profit organizations and municipalities. She has enjoyed being involved in the UCICC prayer service and other projects.

Pastor Cynthia is a dynamic teacher and preacher who has had some of her sermons published. She is a singer and enjoys music of all varieties, visual arts and drama. She enjoys listening to young people's questions and is one of the leaders of Willow Grove's youth group. Hands-on service projects that make a difference are central to her ministry. Planning and leading women's retreats and intergenerational worship services are a great joy for her.

In September 2015, she helped establish Refugee Assistance Partners (RAP) in Scotch Plains-Fanwood, in response to the humanitarian crisis of more than 4 million Syrian refugees fleeing their country. The group works with IRC (International Rescue Committee) based in Elizabeth and CWS (Church World Service) based in Jersey City along with other interfaith groups in New Jersey and across the United States. RAP is committed to providing facts about the process of refugee resettlement and helping new families as they arrive. RAP includes leaders and members of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, Temple Shalom, Fanwood Presbyterian Church, Muslim Community Center of Union County, Oasis Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in addition to people from neighboring communities. Pastor Cynthia has felt called to this ministry of welcome and hospitality at a time when the need is great and there is a growing resistance to helping refugees.

On Fridays, which are her Sabbath days with her husband, she can be found walking, exercising, or reading a novel. Going to plays and concerts are her favorite outings. She is passionate about her Scottish heritage and looks forward to another trip to her homeland.



January Spotlight on Faith: Muslim

By: Wail Rasheed, President, ICUC

The Muslim community is based on sincerity, purity of human feelings and fulfillment of rights and needs to every member.

The Muslim has a mission in life. Within the community he teaches the people about Islam with good preaching and the best character. He teaches from what he learns and deals with those whom he comes in contact with based on Islamic values and morals. All this is done seeking the pleasure of Allah, the Exalted, while striving to attain the reward of His Paradise.

Wherever the Muslim is, he should be a beacon of guidance and a positive source of correction and education, through both his words and deeds.

The true Muslim has a refined social personality of the highest degree, which qualifies him to undertake his duty of teaching others. He demonstrates the true values of his religion and the practical application of those values by attaining beautiful Islamic attributes. His distinct social character represents a huge store of Islamic values, which can be seen by the way in which he interacts with the people around him.

The Muslim, as Islam meant him to be, is a unique and remarkable person in his attitude, conduct and relationships with others at all levels. He treats them well by being friendly with them, humble, gentle of speech and avoiding offence. He likes others and is liked by them. He tries to follow the example of the Prophet (peace be upon him) as he was the best of people in his attitude towards others. He (peace be upon him) said: **“Nothing will weigh more heavily in the Balance of the believing slave on the Day of Resurrection than a good attitude towards others.”** [At-Tirmithi]

Because Islam is based on truthfulness, the Muslim is always truthful with all people. Truthfulness leads to goodness and goodness leads to Paradise. Therefore the Muslim strives to be true in all his words and deeds.

The Muslim never gives false statements, because this attitude is forbidden in the Quran. Allah, the Most Glorified, Says (what means): **“...And shun the word that is false.”** [Quran 22: 30]

The Muslim seeks to offer sincere advice to everyone he comes in contact with. It's not just the matter of volunteering to do good out of generosity; it is a duty enjoined by Islam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said **“(The essence of) Religion is (offering sincere) advice.”** [Muslim]

By the favor of Allah, the Muslim is a guide for others to righteous deeds, whether by his actions or words. He never cheats, deceives or stabs in the back. These shameful acts are beneath him, as they contradict the values of truthfulness. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **“...whoever cheats is not one of us.”** [Muslim]

When the Muslim promises something, he means to keep his promise. This attitude stems naturally from truthfulness, and indicates the high level of civility attained by the one who exhibits it. Allah Says (what means): **“And fulfill every engagement, for [every] engagement will be enquired into [on the Day of Reckoning].”** [Quran 17: 34]

One of the worst characteristics that Islam abhors is hypocrisy, therefore the Muslim can never be a hypocrite; he is frank and open in his words and opinions. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **“One of the worst people is a double-faced man, who comes to one group with one face and to another group with a totally different face.”** [Al-Bukhari]

Islam does not approve of begging. It makes it a sin that a person should beg when he has enough to satisfy his immediate needs. Therefore, the Muslim does not beg. If he is faced with difficulty and poverty, he seeks refuge in patience, whilst doubling his effort to find a way out. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: **“Whoever refrains from asking from people, Allah will help him...”** [Al-Bukhari & Muslim]

A sign of one's excellence in Islam, is his ignoring what does not concern him. The Muslim should only participate in what concerns him, such as anything that is his property, right, obligation or under his control. To be concerned with something entails preserving and taking care of this thing that one is allowed to be concerned with. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "A sign of a person's being a good Muslim is that he should leave alone that which does not concern him." [At-Tirmithi]

The Muslim never searches for people's faults or slander their honor. He doesn't slip into the error of pride, boasting and showing off. He judges fairly, is never unjust (even to those whom he does not like) or biased by his own whims, and avoids suspicion. He does not rejoice in the misfortunes of anyone. He carefully avoids uttering any word of slander, cursing, malicious gossip and foul language.

He does not make fun of people but is gentle, kind, compassionate and merciful, strives for people's benefit and seeks to protect and help them.

One of the virtues of such a great value and importance that Islam, not only recommends, but also orders Muslims to characterize themselves with, is generosity. Therefore, the Muslim is generous and gives freely without waste to those who are in need. When he gives, he does not remind people of his generosity. He is patient, tries hard to control his anger and is forgiving. He does not bear grudges or resentments, and is easy on people, not hard.

One of the worst diseases of the heart is envy, which leads to foul conduct and bad behavior. Therefore the Muslim is not envious, because he knows that the pleasures of this life are as nothing in comparison to the reward that Allah has prepared for the believers, and that whatever happens in life happens according to the decree of Allah.

The Muslim, who truly understands the teachings of his religion, is gentle, friendly, cheerful and warm. He mixes with people and gets along with them. He is humble and modest; and does not look down at other people. He is lighthearted and has a sense of humor and does not disdain others. His jokes are distinguished by their legitimate Islamic nature. He is keen to bring happiness to people. It is an effective means of conveying the message of truth to them, and exposing them to its moral values, because people only listen to those whom they like, trust and accept.

The Muslim keeps secrets; keeping secrets is a sign of maturity, moral strength, wisdom and balanced personality. He is concerned about the affairs of people in general. He is happy to welcome his guests and hastens to honor them.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "Every religion has a (distinct) characteristic and the characteristic of Islam is modesty." [Ibn Maajah] The Muslim adheres to the principle of modesty in all things. He does not accept every custom that is widely accepted by others, for there may be customs which go against Islam.

The Muslim does not enter a house other than his own without seeking permission and greeting people. He sits wherever he finds room when he joins a gathering. He avoids whispering and conversing privately when he is in a group of three. He gives due respect to elders and those who deserve to be respected (like scholars etc.).

The neighbor holds a special status in Islam. Islam encourages Muslims to treat their neighbors in a gentle way that reflects the true and genuine spirit of Islam as exemplified in its tolerant aspect especially with people of other faiths. It makes no difference whether the neighbors are Muslim or non-Muslim.



Mr. Wail Rasheed, President of ICUC (Islamic center of Union County), has lived in Union, NJ of the past 33 years. He is a husband and the father of two girls and one boy.

Mr. Rasheed serves on the Human Relation Commission and is a Chaplin for Operation Rebound in the state of New Jersey, serving our Veterans. He is employed as a medical device development director at Merck.

Mr. Rasheed is known as a community leader, with a vision is to bring all faith communities together to spread peace and love.

"Pursue opportunity over convenience."

FAITH IN ACTION!



Reading of Names and Candle Lighting



HOMELESS VIGIL IS HELD AT HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH ON DECEMBER 21ST.

Homeless Memorial Day Vigil Remembers Homeless in Union County Over Fifty Homeless Remembered at Homeless Memorial Day

On December 21, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., over 175 people, including homeless families, a group of non-profit agencies and interfaith congregations, gathered for a Union County Homeless Memorial Day Vigil, hosted by Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springfield.

This event, open to the public, was held on the longest night of the year and chosen as a time to remember all homeless people who died during the past year due to their lack of shelter or care.

Community Access Unlimited, Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless, Family Promise of Union County, HomeFirst, Monarch Housing and the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council organized this event.

The Union County Homeless Memorial Day Vigil was the culmination of the first Homeless Sabbath which engaged twenty-four congregations in Union County as well as three outside of the county to change the conversation about homelessness and seek solutions to end homelessness.

Participation in the Homeless Sabbath included:

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains, performing "No Room - Now and Then," a Christmas drama presented in worship December 18, 2016;

Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield, hearing from Monarch Housing's CEO Richard W. Brown about how we can and will end homelessness;

Msgr. Tim Shugrue of St. Michael's Church in Cranford, writing a column about homelessness;

Pastor David Knecht from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springfield, publishing a pastoral letter entitled "Tis the season to remember the homeless in our area."

The Union County Vigil included a reading of almost fifty names of those who died during the past year, music and interfaith readings.

Among the clergy who participated were:

Pastor J David Knecht, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Springfield

Rev. Vicky Ney, First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

Rabbi Renee Edelman, Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield

Deacon Jerry Bongiovanni, St. James Roman Catholic Church, Springfield

Malika Jafri, Islamic Religious Leader

Rev. Caroline Unzaga, First Presbyterian Church, Cranford

Deacon Laverne Williams, Union Baptist Church, Montclair

Rev. Carmine Pernini, Zion Lutheran, Rahway

Rev. Jane McCreedy, Faith Lutheran, New Providence

Msgr. Timothy Shugrue, St. Michael's R.C., Cranford

Organizers in Camden, Bergen, Hudson, Mercer and Middlesex Counties held similar homeless memorial and vigil events on December 21.

Homelessness continues to be an issue in Union County and all of NJ. On the night of January 26, 2016, 513 people, including 62 people without shelter, experienced homelessness in Union County, per NJ Counts, the Point-In-Time Count.



Email your photos and a summary caption to UCInterfaith@caunj.org by the 11th of each month.



THE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD MINISTERIUM HOSTS A COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 21 AT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS IN SCOTCH PLAINS.



PASTOR CARMINE PERNINI & IMAM ALVI ATTEND A MEET & GREET EVENT HOSTED BY THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY CENTER OF UNION COUNTY ON NOVEMBER 18TH.

Is your House of Faith:

- *Advocating for Peace, Acceptance, Communication?*
- *Sharing your Faith?*
- *Supporting Social Initiatives?*

Share it with the Interfaith Community!

FAITH IN ACTION!



Email your photos and a summary caption to UCInterfaith@caunj.org by the 11th of each month.



Save the Date!
January 19th, 2017

You are Invited to Join the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council for:

A brief time of Interfaith Prayer

Followed by a discussion on the topic:

**The Spiritual Approach to Meeting the
Needs of the Refugee/Re-Settlement
Population**

**First Unitarian Society of Plainfield
724 Park Avenue • Plainfield, NJ 07060**

6:00P—7:30P

Light Refreshments will be provided ~ Sign-in begins at 5:30P

Featuring Guest Speakers:

**Reverend Cynthia Cochran-Carney
Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, Scotch Plains**

**Reverend Seth Kaper-Dale
Reformed Church of Highland Park**



80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(908) 354-3040

Please Reserve Now!

E-mail or phone your RSVP to:
UCInterfaith@caunj.org
(908) 354-3040 x4324

What are you doing on January 16?

Make the day count.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday,

Participate in the 4th Annual

Cranford Community Service Project Fair

Monday, January 16, 2017

4:30-6:30p.m. at The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford



In preparation for the fair, the Interfaith Community Service is looking for donations of:

- Single serving healthy snacks
- Single serve juice boxes`
- Single serve 1%low-fat milk boxes-non refrigerated, like Parmalat **(most needed!)**
- Single fruit or applesauce cups
- Single serve sugar free cereal boxes, such as Cheerios, Rice Krispies, etc.
- Single serve microwaveable pop- top meals like stew or mac and cheese(no Ramen type noodle cups, please)
- Any house cleaning products, such as spray cleaners, multi-purpose cleaners,toilet bowl cleaners, sponges, etc.
- Disposable baby diapers, any size

Donations can be dropped off at any House of Worship in Cranford. With everyone's support, we hope to make this year's service fair even more successful than our last, as we continue to establish this tradition for our community.

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

Janice Grevious, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Committee

The Cranford Clergy Council and the Interfaith Human Relations Committee

Any questions, contact

Janice at jansport2@verizon.net or Cindy at cindy@patwin.com

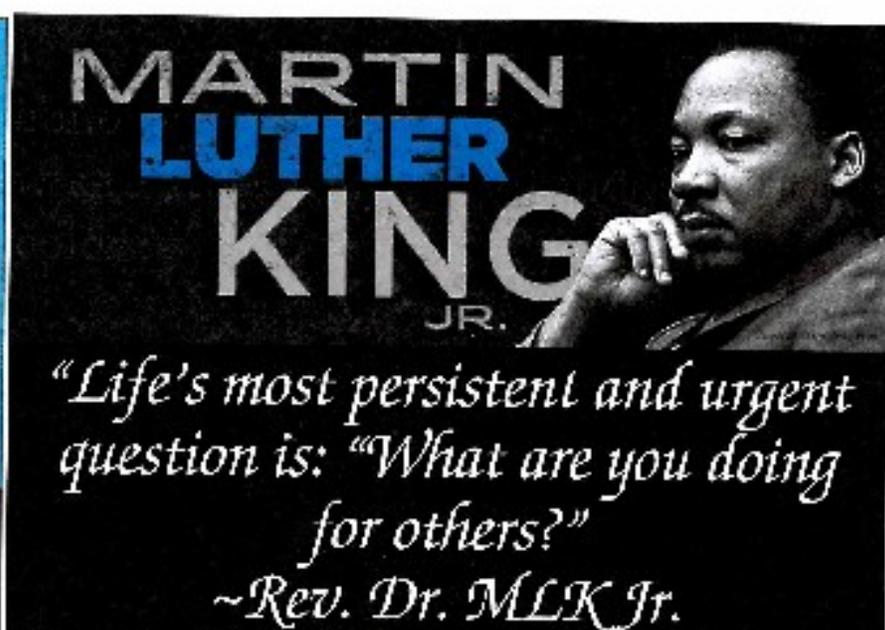
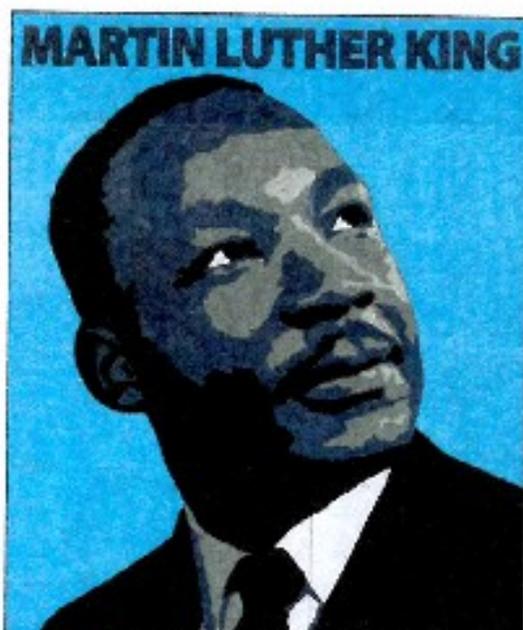
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE OF ELIZABETH

32nd *City-Wide Ecumenical Service*

Celebrating the *life & legacy* of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 16, 2017

10:00 AM



Location: Christ Fellowship Church

1121 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth, NJ

Keynote Preacher: Reverend George E. Britt

Pastor, Mt. Teman AME Church

**THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ASSOCIATION OF WESTFIELD
30th ANNUAL**

**INTERFAITH
SERVICE**

“Bridging the Divide”



Monday, January 16, 2017 at 1:00 pm

The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity

315 First Street, Westfield, NJ

Also, Join Us in Our March to the Service

March begins at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument (located between the Town Bank and the traffic circle). Meet at 12:15 pm. The March will begin at 12:30 pm.



FISH Hospitality Program

Serving Middlesex, Union, and
Somerset Counties in New Jersey

FISH Hospitality Program (FHP) is an affiliate of *Family Promise* and was developed in 1990 using the Interfaith Hospitality Network model. *Family Promise* now has nearly 200 Affiliates in 42 states. IHNs help achieve lasting independence at a third of the cost of traditional shelters, with nearly 80 percent of families nationally transitioning to long-term housing. FHP assists families and single women who have become homeless. Our 14-bed shelter rotates through a network of 15 churches that provide a secure and supportive environment for our clients to stay overnight where they are welcomed as "Guests".

JOIN THE FISH FAMILY OF HOST CHURCHES

The FISH Hospitality Program is looking for congregations to host FHP families.

What are the benefits of getting involved?

FOR GUESTS

- Safe, homelike shelter where families can stay together
- Guests cite the caring of volunteers as one of the most important benefits: "I never knew so many people cared."
- Intensive case management by a social worker to assist in finding housing and jobs and in meeting other needs
- About 70% of guest families secure permanent housing

FOR CONGREGATIONS

- Opportunity for outreach ministry (within the congregation's own facilities) focusing on the needs of people in the community
- Opportunity for participation in a community project with other faith based organizations
- Increased sense of community among members as they work together in shared mission
- Catalyst for renewed faith and further mission effort

From Interfaith Hospitality Network Guide to Recruiting Host Congregations

To learn more about becoming a host church, contact the FHP office:

Telephone: 732-968-5957

Office E-mail: fishhosp@verizon.net

Website: www.fishhospitality.org



Ask the Clergy: Coffee & Clergy Jewish-Christian Dialog

with

**Pastor David Knecht (Holy
Cross Lutheran Church)**

and

**Rabbi Mark Mallach
(Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael)**

Join us for our 6th year in an informal & enriching series of discussions based on timely topics and **Biblical texts.**

Where: Barnes and Noble, Rt. 22, Springfield, NJ

When: Thursday evenings, from 8-9pm

2016: ~~October 13, December 8~~

2017: February 23, April 6, June 8



NEXT MEETING FEB. 23



Questions contact:
TBAY 973-376-0539
office@tbay.org

Or: Holy Cross
973-379-4525
office@holycrossnj.org



*Open your heart
and your home*



All that is missing is **YOU!**
Become a foster or adoptive parent
Be part of the ride.



For more information contact:

(877) NJ FOSTER, www.njfoster.org, (800) 99 ADOPT, www.njadopt.org



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Community Access Unlimited welcomes those with a big heart! Due to our continuing expansion, there are a number of **full time** and **part time** openings for those interested in guiding people with disabilities and youth at risk who are on the road to independence.

For those looking for part-time positions, CAU offers available house on the weekends and overnights! Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purpose
- Original High School Diploma/GED/College Degree

Experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or youth at risk are a plus! Of course compassion for the work and a flexible schedule is also required when providing support to our members.

Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website www.caunj.org for more information and current openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CAU Hosts a weekly Open House Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM

The Cafeteria at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

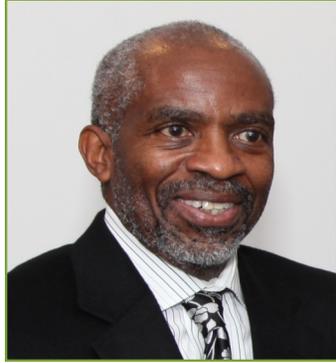
Don't forget your resume and
come prepared to fill out an application

To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to rwright@caunj.org.

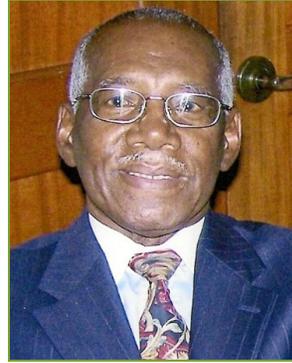
UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,
Executive Director
Community Access Unlimited
sblanchard@caunj.org*



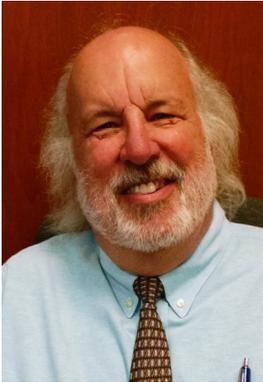
*Roderick (Rod) Spearman
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
rspearman@caunj.org*



*Pastor Howard A. Bryant,
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
hbryant@caunj.org*



*Pastor Carmine Pernini
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
cpernini@caunj.org*



*AH 'Skip' Winter
UCICC Steering
Committee Member*



*Michelle Mobley
CAU Director of Youth
Service Residential
mmobley@caunj.org*



*Cynthia Manno
UCICC Administrative Assistant
cmanno@caunj.org*

Join & Be Active Today!

- Attend monthly meetings.
- Invite other community leaders to attend our meetings and events.
- Support or host fundraising programs to support the Record Expungement Grant Program.
- Sign up for our mailing list.
- Share useful information about your organization.

Advertise in the UCICC Newsletter!

Have an exciting event or program happening?

Reach out and build bonds with members of the interfaith community in Union County by advertising in this newsletter!

Please send all print-ready ads to Rod Spearman at rspearman@caunj.org by the **13th** of every month to save a space!



Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council c/o Community Access Unlimited
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: (908) 354-3040 x4324 • Email: UCInterfaith@caunj.org

www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil



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Elizabeth, NJ

80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629
Fax: 908-354-2665 www.caunj.org

Community Access Unlimited's Mission: *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

UCICC & STEERING COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

UCICC Steering Committee

January 5, 2017 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

UCICC Steering Committee

February 16, 2017 at 10:00am
See Right side

UCICC Steering Committee

March 2, 2017 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

Full UCICC Event

The Spiritual Approach to Meeting the Needs of the Re-Settlement/Refugee Population
January 19, 2017 — 6P—7:30P
Plainfield Unitarian Society
724 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ

Spiritual Approach to Finding Common Ground During Times of Political Discord
February 16, 2017 - 10 AM
Christ Fellowship Church
1121 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ

Faith-In-Action:

House of Worship & Community Meet & Greet Event

Stay tuned for more details!!



Rod Spearman
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