

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



MARCH 2017

SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Highlighting the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!" — *Maya Angelou*

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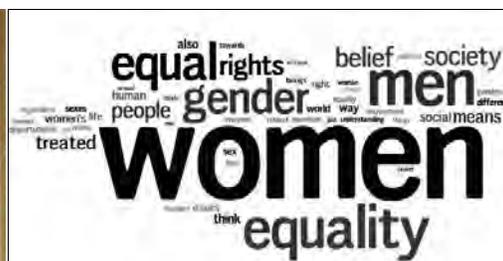
-BARACK OBAMA



Susan B. Anthony



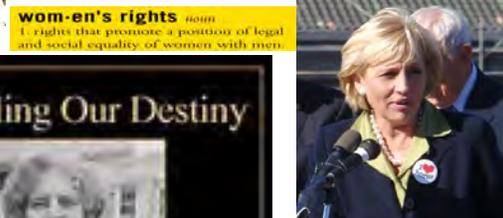
Rosa Parks



wom-en's rights noun
1. rights that promote a position of legal and social equality of women with men.



Gloria Steinem



Kim Guadagno



Lucy Stone



Oprah Winfrey



Harriet Tubman



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



HOUSING SUMMIT ! : 7:00P—8:30P

Join UCICC and local Non-Profits as we discuss the issues of Housing and Homelessness.

See page 7



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

Deacon Tim Williams-Chair
First Baptist Church
Kenilworth

Pastor E. Crawford—Chair Emeritus
Ebenezer AME
Rahway

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

"The best thermometer to the progress of a nation is its treatment of its women." -Swami Vivekananda

As we journey through the month of March, we do so amidst great discussion, discourse, and debate around gender equality and justice. Yet the month of March, Women's History Month, gives us the opportunity to intentionally look at our sometimes repressive, suppressive and oppressive acts, laws and traditions as people of faith, houses of faiths, employers and communities.

Since the 1980's, through a Presidential Proclamation, issued by President Jimmy Carter, The United States has used the month of March to lift up the great achievements and contributions of women to our nation. However, we must caution ourselves not to look at our celebration of women through rose colored glasses failing to see how we many glass ceilings remain unbroken and how many paradigms have yet to shift.



It has often been said that the advancement of gender equality in our religious communities is a slow and painful process that we continue to struggle with worldwide. Our verbal declarations and decrees about serving a God of justice are no longer sufficient. We must give those declarations life by asserting without apology that God's justice is applicable to the world AND our houses of faith; and that the justice of God is the justice of God's people – ALL of God's people. Thus it would behoove us to examine the impact of our sometimes patriarchal religious practices based on misinterpretations of sacred text, antiquated cultural norms and or own insecurities and indiscretions.

Let us challenge ourselves by asking "if it is wrong for a race to be relegated to the back of the bus, wrong for employers to discriminate against our faith in the workplace or wrong for people to be excluded based on their socio-economic status, how can it be acceptable to discriminate, restrict or deny women those same fundamental rights in our houses of faith?"

Let us ask the more difficult questions, What would our house of faith look like without women? What would our offerings look like without the finances of women? What would our music ministry look like without the gifts of women?

Perhaps we've easily turned a deaf ear and blind eye to justice in our houses of faith because we don't know the true worth of the women among us, which make up 60%-70% of most congregations;
Perhaps it is because we deny the rich history of women and how they have shaped us as a people;
Perhaps we forgot that the Daughters of Zelophad were law changers;
Perhaps we forgot that Khadijah was the Mother of Believers;
Perhaps we forgot that Esther saved the Jewish Nation;
Perhaps we forgot that Mary carried the Savior;
Perhaps we forgot that Dhammadinna was a great teacher of the faith; or
Perhaps we forgot that it was the women who stood at the cross when the disciples abandon Jesus and a woman was the first to proclaim the gospel.

As we journey through Women's History Month, let us ask ourselves how we as a community of faith can walk in partnership with God's daughters? or Let us ask ourselves how we perpetuate injustice against God's daughters?

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

Editorial

By Marie-Marthelle Guervil

In honor of Women's History Month, I would like to thank a few notable women who fought for the rights many women have today: Cleopatra (69 BCE–30 BCE), Sojourner Truth (1797 – 1883), Margaret Fuller (1810–1850), Marie Curie (1867–1934), Coco Chanel (1883–1971), Mother Teresa (1910–1997), Billie Holiday (1915–1959), Indira Gandhi (1917–1984), and Wangari Maathai (1940–2011).

The women I mentioned above lived in a time when women were seen as the lesser gender. Their talents and natural gifts were shunned. Nonetheless, they fought and conquered whatever barriers were on their path. These women will remain icons for their bravery, and persistence. Due to the perseverance and consistency of countless women, we now live in a world where women have accomplished feats that were once unimaginable 50 plus years ago. Today, women are astronauts, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, professional athletes, lawyers, doctors, senators, entrepreneurs, vice presidential candidates, best-selling authors, mayors, soldiers, law enforcers and more.

The difference between the roles that women had before and have now is: choice. Years ago, women didn't have the option of obtaining an education; only a small amount of girls of a certain socioeconomic class were given the opportunity to go to school. Therefore, women's lack of educational exposure lessened their chances of getting a job. Without access to fair and good education, women could not receive a fair advantage in exploring "the world" as their male counterparts.

Deliberate changes in reshaping women's roles within family life, religion, government, and employment have benefitted both women *and* men. However, more still needs to be done for women's economic and social rights. Over the years, more laws have been created to protect women, but they are not always enforced. Additionally, more women are receiving degrees in higher education, outnumbering men at colleges; yet women are still underrepresented in the highest-paid industries, political offices, and management ranks. Even at this very moment, women continue to face constraints in the workplace. For example, while paid maternity leave is now common in many countries across the world, that is not the case in the U.S. Only three states in the United States provide paid maternity leave: California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

This ongoing issue of gender inequality is not only a concern for women, but for humanity. Women and men must continue to work together to affect change using our democratic process: through meetings, petition drives, lobbying, public speaking, and nonviolent resistance. Empowering women to participate fully across all sectors is essential in building a stronger economy to develop and to sustain a better quality of life for women, men, families and communities.

Marie-Marthelle Guervil is a political organizer who is equally passionate about organizing as she is about politics. Marie-Marthelle has an extensive community organizing, program/event logistics, and fundraising experience background, but is best known for her relationship building skills. Marie-Marthelle sits on many boards fighting to educate and ensure equality education, housing equality, union rights, and health care affordability for all. Marie-Marthelle has been an advocate on woman's right issues, immigration reform, and voting right issues. She is a true champion for change. Marie Marthelle Guervil is the 2016 Humanitarian Award of the Urban League of Union County Young Professional and in the 2016 Emerge class. Marie-Marthelle is an Associate at Parano's and Associates, a political firm that specializing in field organizing, voter registration, campaign management and public relations. Prior to joining Parano's and Associates, Marie-Marthelle volunteered in several municipal races, the gubernatorial campaign in 2013, and worked on Senator Cory Booker's 2014 NJ Senate campaign. She is currently on the Phil Murphy for governor campaign, the 2017 gubernatorial campaign. She is a trilingual operative (English, Creole, and French). Marie-Marthelle earned her Bachelor's degree from Montclair State University and her Master's from New Jersey City University.



Member Spotlight

The Most Reverend Kelvin C. Brooks, A.A., B.A.

Presiding Bishop, The Anglican Churches of Pentecost; Senior Pastor, Kingdom Life Cathedral

Passionate about his purpose, trendsetting in his approaches, and consistently striving for excellence in all he does, Bishop Kelvin C. Brooks is a notable Christian leader for our time. After being reared in both the Baptist and AME Churches, Bishop Brooks was baptized in the Baptist church at the age of seventeen. That same year he responded to the call of ministry on his life and preached his first sermon at Aeon Baptist Church of Vauxhall, New Jersey. After a few years of itinerate preaching, he formally began operating in ministry and leadership in Shekinah Glory Christian Church of Newark, New Jersey under the covering and direction of Bishop Loretta Smith-Johnson. After a few years of serving as the Minister to Youth in Shekinah he was ordained to presbyter in 2006 and served for over seven years.

While in Shekinah, Bishop Brooks became involved in Covenant Ecumenical Fellowship and Cathedral Assemblies (CEFCA), where Bishop Smith-Johnson served as the Second Assistant Presiding Prelate to Bishop Donald Hilliard, II, the Presiding Prelate. In 2008 he was appointed to be CEFCA's First Adjutant General, and was consecrated to the prelature as an Overseer in 2009, serving as the youngest prelate of the fellowship. Over the years, Bishop Brooks has distinguished himself amongst the senior leaders of the church as a trusted source for ecclesiastical reference, and as a committed servant, prone to reverent worship.

In January of 2009, Bishop Brooks began Order In The Kingdom Ministries, committed to offering consultation, training, and resources for those in ecclesiastical ministry and the Adjutancy. His senior pastorate began in 2012, when he and his wife began developing Kingdom Life Cathedral, a church-plant, in his hometown of Scotch Plains, New Jersey. In 2014, his ministry took on a new level of impact when a small group of clergy leaders, who were sitting under his covering, came together to form a communion with him as their leader. Consequently, Bishop Brooks was consecrated to the Episcopacy on August 1, 2015 and serves as the Founder and Presiding Bishop of The Anglican Churches of Pentecost, a reformed Anglican, convergence communion of clergy, churches and ministries, where he provides spiritual covering, covenant and connection for those within the communion.

An author, Bishop Brooks published his first book in October of 2010, entitled "Munchausen By Pastor: Redefining Spiritual Paternity." Since then he has followed up with a pocket guide on ecclesiastical vestments entitled "Clothed in Humility," and he is actively writing several other titles for future release. His various ministry ideals and initiatives are fueled by his personal call to ministry, "To affect a relevant change to the body of Christ." Though, with a heart for social justice and drive for social engagement Bishop Brooks seeks other venues whereby he can serve communities, to include; serving as a Police Department Chaplain for the City of Plainfield, membership in the non-profit organization **Social Justice Matters** and being a member of the **Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium** where clergy, community leaders, and local officials meet regularly to work together in communication and support, to best serve the communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. As of September 2016, Bishop Brooks began his two-year term as the President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerium.

Bishop Brooks works full-time in Public Safety as a 911 Communications Officer and an Auxiliary/Special Police Lieutenant. In addition, he is currently completing his third academic degree, with aspirations to begin law school in August of 2017. Above all, he is most blessed by the love, life, and ministry he shares with his wife, Lady Shonda-Reneé Brooks and their three children; Aislinn Victoria-Jon'Nae, Justus Wesley-Alexander, and Chloe Naomi-Grace.\



March Spotlight on Faith: Buddhism

A religious perspective by: Venerable Klint Kunachawo

What is Buddhism?

In the Merriam-Webster dictionary, religion is defined as the service and worship of God or the supernatural. Buddhism does not worship a god or supernatural being, but instead, we Buddhists praise a great teacher (the Buddha) who taught us a way to live together peacefully with others no matter what sex, race, religion, or social status. So in the sense of the definition of religion, Buddhism itself is not. Instead, Buddhism is a way of life. A way to live our lives finding success using moral principles to help guide us toward peaceful living.

Some very basic Buddhist principles are: 1) not to do bad, 2) do good, and 3) purify the mind. Not to do bad is not to harm or hurt other beings in body, speech, or mind. Doing good is to be helpful or generous to other beings when you are able also by body, speech, or mind. All beings can be affected by the good or bad that we put upon them, so instead of kindling a fire of hate, anger, or revenge, let us add the refreshing cool water of love, friendship, and generosity. Purifying the mind can be done through meditation. Our state of mind is important in how we live our lives. If we live our lives being negative and pessimistic, our lives will be pulled down from our own thoughts. But if we learn to center the mind, having our mind calm and peaceful, we can think clearly and choose to do only good deeds which we know will return to us in this life or the next.

There are more terms associated with Buddhism which may or may not be in other religions like reincarnation (believing that we had a previous life and are born again after this life we are currently living) and karma (understanding of cause and effect of our actions: when you do good, good things happen; when you do bad, bad things happen). These terms are more complicated than how I just summarized for you, but in a Buddhist view of life, we work on the 'now' to ensure a nicer 'future'. We are all living now in this lifetime, this moment. What we do today will affect tomorrow. Some people keep thinking of the past which cannot be changed. Regrets and resentments that are now having an effect on their lives. In the Buddhist view, the more you think about it, the more it will take effect. Why harm yourself by thinking of your past mistakes and slip-ups? We are human, we make mistakes. But we can change that now, taking steps to let go of the past and finding happiness now in the present. So let us keep the negative feelings or regret and resentment behind us, as we walk forward, one step at a time, in our journey of life toward the goodness we will share and do together.

Venerable Klint Kunachawo

Born in the California, USA, Ve. Klint grew up with a normal American lifestyle. He was introduced to Buddhism at 10 years old and began to do short term ordination programs (being ordained as a novice monk for a few weeks to practice meditation, learn morality, and train self to gain better habits). Ven. Klint did this every year until he was 23 and made the decision to become a monk. Since ordaining, he has been teaching meditation classes twice a week while training and studying to further his education. Currently a Drew University student studying Psychology to get an understanding of both western and eastern perspectives of the mind to better teach meditation. The temple motto is "World Peace Through Inner Peace", if everyone can find inner peace, we can truly have World Peace. He plans to continue to work towards that goal one person at a time.



Please Join Us!

On March 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Housing Advocates are holding a Housing Summit, "Let's Build a Thriving Union County."

The event provides an opportunity for all Union County residents to attend and learn more about the Housing and Community Development Network for New Jersey's "Let's Build a Thriving New Jersey" campaign and how Union County civic, faith-based, non-profit leadership can make a Thriving Union County.

Currently, Union County has an affordable homes crisis which impacts everyone.

DID YOU KNOW? A Family needs an annual income of \$52,960 to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Union County!!

Let's Build a Thriving Union County

Union County has an affordable homes crisis which impacts everyone.

A Family needs an income of \$52,960 to rent a two-bedroom apartment.



Join us on Wednesday March 15, 2017 at 7 PM to
Build a Thriving Union County
Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
695 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ

For more information: coneill@monarchhousing.org or call 908-272-5363 X 234

Register online: <http://wp.me/PegFK-92L>

Sponsored by:



There are *so* many! -But here are just a *few* more important women in US history....



Margaret Sanger, She organized a birth-control movement which openly championed the use of contraceptives in the 1920's.



Edith Wharton is the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize, 1921.

Amelia Earhart is the first woman to cross the Atlantic in an airplane, 1928.



Activist Alice Paul proposes the Equal Rights Amendment for the first time, 1923.



Pearl S. Buck was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1938.

Marian Anderson, 1897-1993. One of the greatest concert singers of her time. First African-American to perform at the Whitehouse.



Eleanor Roosevelt., 1930's FDR's wife and New Deal supporter. Was a great supporter of civil rights and opposed the Jim Crow laws.



1st African American woman elected to Congress (NY), Shirley Chisholm, 1968.



Katharine Graham was the first female Fortune 500 CEO, as CEO of the Washington Post company, 1972.



President Ronald Reagan nominates Sandra Day O'Connor to be the first woman on the Supreme Court, 1981.

Madeleine Albright becomes the first female Secretary of State, 1997.



Nancy Pelosi, in 2007, was the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.



Maya Angelou, author, actress, and a civil rights activist, 1928—2014.

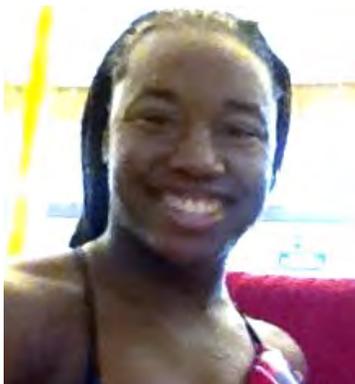
Kathryn Bigelow, the first woman to receive an Academy Award for Best Director for 2009 film, *The Hurt Locker*.



Sonia Maria Sotomayor, becomes the first Hispanic Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of Hispanic heritage, 2009.



Mary Barra, the first female CEO of a major global automaker (General Motors), 2014.



Simone Manuel, first-ever individual Olympic gold medal for an African-American female swimmer, 2016.

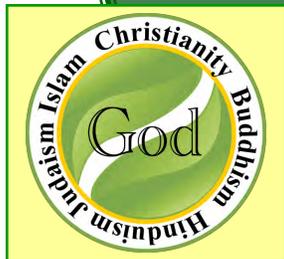
Hillary Clinton becomes first female presidential nominee of a major party, 2016





On February 8th, UCICC members rally alongside the Faith in New Jersey clergy caucus at the Rodino Federal Building in Newark to stand in support of Catalino, an undocumented immigrant. To read more: http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2017/02/priest_rabbis_and_ims_gather_to_defend_one_man_f.html

FAITH IN ACTION!



UCICC hosts, "Spiritual Approach to Finding Common Ground During Times of Political Discord" on February 16th at Christ Fellowship in Elizabeth, featuring speaker, Sarah Cullinane of "Make the Road."

Music on a Mission!



SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFE

at TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 829 SALEM ROAD, UNION, NJ

PROUDLY PRESENTS

PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 8:00 PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM ADMISSION: \$20.00 STUDENTS \$10.00

Admission includes snacks, beverages, tea, coffee & desserts, art gallery



For their 3rd return engagement at the Roadhouse Café, Piktors' Metamorphosis takes you on a journey back to the solid sounds of the Jazz/Rock fusion era injecting their improvisational craft.

Piktors will be performing classic compositions spanning Pat Metheny, Return to Forever, Mahavishnu Orchestra, Jan Hammer, Barry Miles, and David Sancious & Tone.

PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS is:

Neil 'NAIL' Alexander (Piano/Synths), Danny Pagan (Drums),
Brian Mooney (Basses), Monroe Quinn (Guitars)

Website: www.piktorsmetamorphosis.com Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/PiktorsFusion>

Original artwork will be on display at the
ROADHOUSE GALLERY OF FINE ARTS

Show proceeds benefit the Union County YWCA's Domestic Violence Programs

Shows are featured on UNION TV34's "UNION AFTER DARK" nightly music series
Plenty of free parking in our two lots and on the street

SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ 829 SALEM ROAD UNION NJ 07083

PHONE: 908-686-1028 (leave message) E-MAIL: salemroadhouse@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.roadhousecafe.org FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/salemroadhouse

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتكم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.



Perhaps you have seen these signs
scattered around on the lawns of
houses of worship, social service pro-
viders, or private citizens...

We are living in a time when more
than ever we must show our love for our neighbors in the face of an in-
creasing climate of hate.

Signs are available for order locally for \$15, a portion of which will sup-
port efforts of sanctuary in New Jersey.

More information about the signs can be found at
<https://www.facebook.com/welcomeyourneighbors/>

“We’re glad you’re our neighbor” signs — \$15

Available from Pastor Kathryn Irwin

PastorKatIrwin@gmail.com

610-780-0141

A portion of each sign sale goes to support sanctuary efforts in New Jersey.

2017 Marriage Conference

and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Mark 10:8



And they shall be  ONE ...

Workshops include:

- **Communication** – Talking to each other and not at each other different.
- **War Room**- Praying to God and Let Him Lead you.
- **Sexy at 60**– Mature and loving Godly.
- **Barber Shop Talk**- A Husband's authentic headship in his marriage.
- **Beauty Shop Talk**- Can anything good come out of Pandora's Box?
- **Health**-Couples helping each other stay healthily.

\$60 PER COUPLE OR \$30 PER INDIVIDUAL

**MAKE CHECKS TO SPEARMAN CONSULTANT SERVICES
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED
SATURDAY APRIL 29TH, 2017
8AM-4PM**

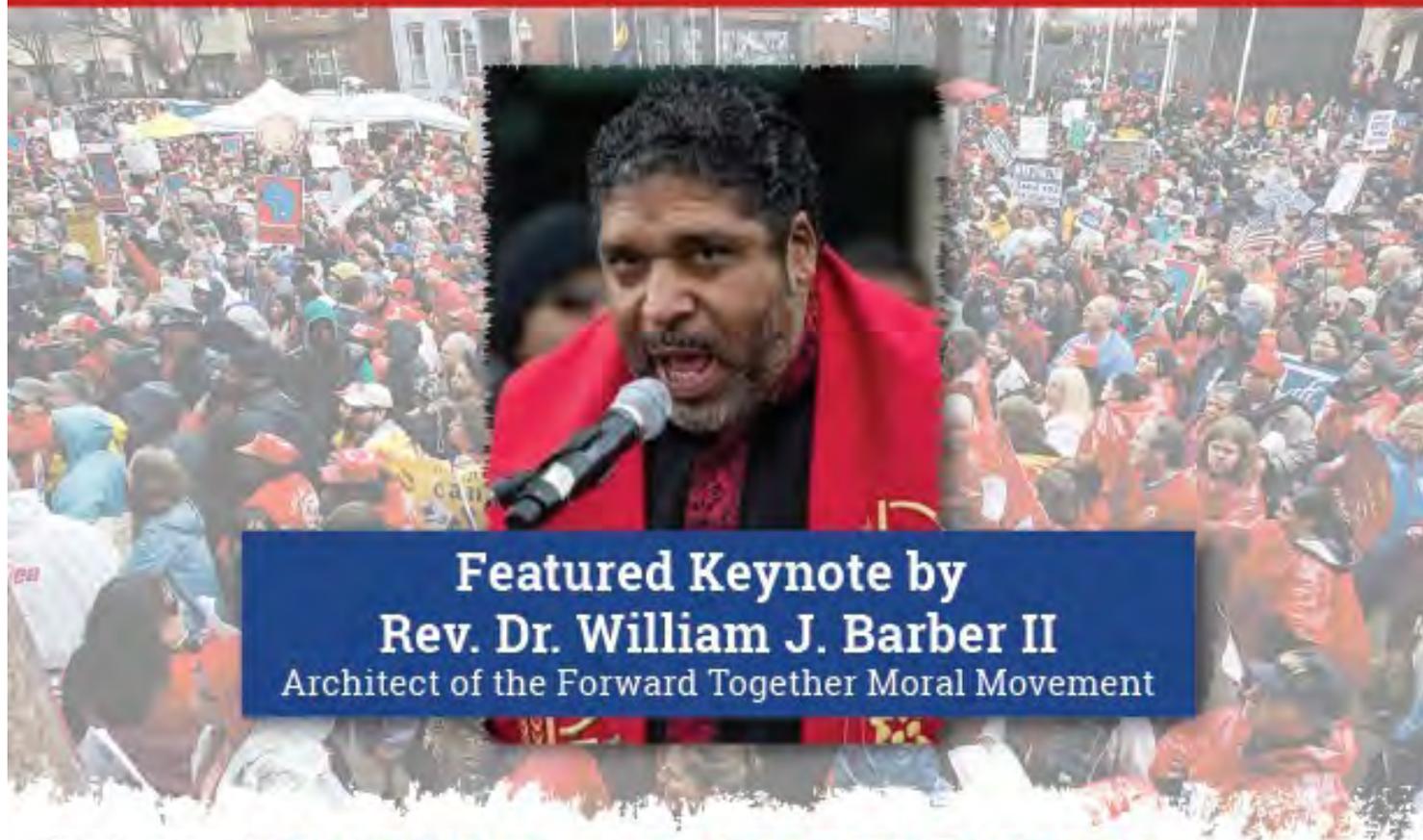
**MT. TEMAN AME CHURCH 160 MADISON
AVE, ELIZABETH, NJ 07202**

Sponsored By: Spearman Consultant Services,
Dr. Cliff Burt and MT. Teman AME Church

Keynote Presenters include:

- **Dr. George Thornton**, Headmaster of The DuPont Adventist School, Washington, D.C
- **Terry Benjamin**, Professor, Union County College
- **Pastor Eldridge Spearman**, Senior Pastor, Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland.
- **Reginald and Peachie Williams**, Speakers, Facilitators, Trainers, Behavioral Interventionist.
- **Dr. Barry Levinson**, Head of Triantis Regional Medical Center,

MORAL THURSDAY RALLY



Featured Keynote by
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
Architect of the Forward Together Moral Movement

**“WHEN WE FIGHT FOR 15
AND A UNION AND
UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE
AND PUBLIC EDUCATION
AND IMMIGRANT RIGHTS
AND LGBTQ RIGHTS, WE
ARE REVIVING THE HEART
OF OUR DEMOCRACY.”**

-Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

THURSDAY MARCH 9

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Shiloh Baptist Church

340 Rev. S. Howard Woodson, Jr. Way
Trenton, NJ 08618

For more information contact Estina Baker
at 609-278-6597 or ebaker@cwa-union.org

CWA

**REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH**

**NJ
RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT**

Would members of your congregation benefit from/be interested in learning more about gun violence prevention?

Moms Demand Action offers a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation (called Be SMART) that promotes and teaches safe gun storage in the home to prevent child deaths from unsecured guns. Be SMART also touches on the warning signs of teenage suicide and safety during playdates. If you are interested, we would love to bring Be SMART to your congregation, in whatever way makes the most sense.

Please contact Dryden Watner, Faith Outreach Leader of Moms Demand Action, Union County at drydenw@msn.com or 908.233.0371 for more information.

Living Out His Legacy Shouldn't Be Confined to Black History Month

**JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON Martin Luther King, Jr.
AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE:
"KING AS A CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST OF JUSTICE WHO
PROMOTED PEACE"**



Keynote Speaker and Workshop Facilitator - Hashim Garrett

Hashim Garrett is a nationally acclaimed anti-violence educator and consultant. As a survivor of gang-related gun violence, Garrett has a powerful message of refusing retaliation and choosing forgiveness. His practice of forgiveness has led him to work closely with the Guardian Angels and "Breaking the Cycle"— an award-winning conflict resolution program. He has a passion for reaching youth and shares his message of nonviolence with students in the Elizabeth Public School System and diverse audiences throughout the state. His peacemaking work embodies King's message of peace and justice for the hip hop generation.

The Workshop will also Feature...

A Teach-in on The Relevance of King as a Resister and Social Agitator
An Audience-Participation Session on Conflict Resolution Skills led by Hashim Garrett
A Teens and Tweens Promoting Peace Presentation

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 2016

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELIZABETH

401 UNION AVE. (at Corner of Prince St.) ELIZABETH, NJ 07208

Rev. Diana Brown, Pastor

A Light Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Please RSVP - 908-352-0519 or firstbaptistchurchce@verizon.net

***"True peace is not merely the absence of conflict: it is the presence of justice."
Martin Luther King, Jr.***



FAITH INTO ACTION

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Union County citizens are searching for a faith community within which to worship.

Perhaps you have what they are looking for! This is an opportunity for your house of worship to meet members of the community looking for a faith home, and to share with them what you are all about!

Please join us as clergy and congregation members from all different faiths as we meet and welcome potential new fellow worshipers.

The **Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council** invites you to an interfaith reception on :

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Suburban Golf Club
1730 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ

Will you join us?
Please contact us at:

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



AS NEEDS GROW HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF FIRST FRIENDS ARE CHALLENGED...



OF NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK
dignity & compassion for immigrants

...WE NEED YOU TO BE A FRIEND



BE A VOLUNTEER



BE A VISITOR



BE A PEN PAL



BE A DONOR

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANYWAY PLEASE CONTACT: FIRST FRIENDS

53 HACKENSACK AVENUE, 2nd FLOOR, KEARNY, NEW JERSEY

PHONE 908.965.0455 Email: info@firstfriendsnjny.org

First Friends NJ and NY

The mission of First Friends of NJ and NY is to uphold the inherent dignity and humanity of asylum seekers and detained immigrants. Through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance and advocacy, we provide compassion and hope to those in need.

Asylum seekers come to the US for many reasons, from teens fleeing gang violence in Central America, risking their lives to cross the border, to people from religious or ethnic minorities facing persecution and threat of death in other continents. Rather than a friendly welcome, they're met at the border or airport, handcuffed, shackled and put into detention.

Undocumented immigrants living in the United States are also picked up and held in detention. More than 400,000 people are detained annually in the U.S. for immigration violations with that number expected to grow. Those in detention are denied the rights we grant jailed criminals.

After the trauma of being incarcerated and treated as a number, detainees come to look forward to visits from their First Friend volunteers who listen to their stories and work to better their conditions. About 300 detainees are in the visitation program this year, more than ever before. First Friends also distributes phone cards and writing materials to detainees through their Stamp Out Despair program. They engage in advocacy and give resettlement assistance when detainees are released.

The need for the work of First Friends is growing. Following the election, detainees called First Friends in record numbers, unsure of the future and fearing deportation. Currently there are about 2,200 detainees held in the Northern New Jersey area, with expectations that that number will increase. First Friends continues in its seventeenth year connecting visitors with people in detention desperate for company and conversation.

To learn more, First Friends is always available to speak to congregations or other groups about the work and how volunteers can help support our mission of compassion and upholding human dignity for all.

For more, visit our website or see the contact information above
www.firstfriendsnjny.org



SAVE THE DATE !

SUNDAY MARCH 26, 2017
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 SPRINGFIELD AVE. CRANFORD, NJ
10 AM



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN WELCOMING
PCUSA MISSION CO-WORKER,

**REV. MARK ADAMS
OF
FRONTERA DE CRISTO**

FRONTERA DE CRISTO IS A PRESBYTERIAN BORDER MINISTRY LOCATED IN THE
SISTER CITIES OF AGUA PRIETA, SONORA AND DOUGLAS ARIZONA.
REV. ADAMS WILL BE SPEAKING ON HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS A PCUSA
MISSION CO-WORKER ALONG THE BORDER OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND A DISCUSSION PERIOD WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
AT (908) 276-8440



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.cauni.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

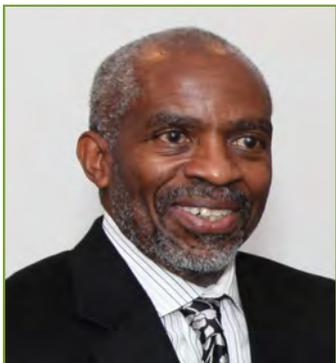
The Cafeteria at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Don't forget your resume and come prepared to fill out an application

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@cauni.org.

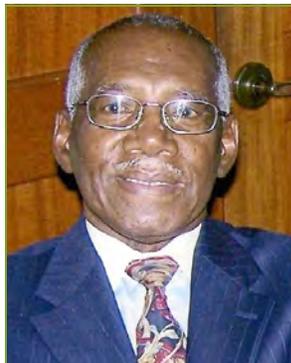
UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,
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*Roderick (Rod) Spearman
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
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*Pastor Carmine Pernini
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*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



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 225
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

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

Full UCICC Event
Housing/Homeless Summit
March 15, 2017 - 7 PM
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Mountain Avenue, Springfield, NJ

UCICC Steering Committee

April 6, 2017 at 10:00am
See Right side

UCICC Combined Full/Steering Event
Spiritual Roots to Exercising Compassion and Justice
April 6, 2017 - 10 AM
Location TBA

UCICC Steering Committee

May 4, 2017 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

Full UCICC Event
ACLU: "Church and State"
May 18, 2017 - 76PM
Location TBA



Rod Spearman
Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council
c/o Community Access Unlimited
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