

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

OCTOBER 2017

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4th Annual Day of Prayer and Reflection Unifying Our Community Through Prayer

Union County Day of Prayer
October 24, 2017
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**The Parish Community of St. Helen
1600 Rahway Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090**

Please join the UCICC and Father Michael Saportito as we come together through readings, prayers and songs of all faiths that bring together the interfaith community and honor people of all faith communities.

Working to facilitate the building of bonds within the interfaith community, promoting the respect, inclusion and welcoming of others.



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 Sholom
Scotch Plains

Ayaz Aslam
Muslim Community Center of UC
Elizabeth

Pastor H. Bryant
Honorable Retired

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

Father Michael Saporito
The Parish Community of St. Helen
Westfield

Roderick Spearman
CAU Consultant

Reverend Ronald C. Thomas
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit

Elder Arthur "Skip" Winter
Cranford Presbyterian Church
Cranford

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 Coordinating 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.

message

from the Chairperson Emeritus

In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth. In the beginning, God created day and night. In the beginning, God created male and female.

In the beginning, God established humanity, not races. In the beginning established God community, not territories. In the beginning, God established covenant, not opposition.

In the beginning, there was God and the people of God. There was God



and the love of God. There was God and faith in God.

In our quest, as loving faith-filled people of God, we must be bold and courageous enough to move counter-culturally. We must be willing to look and go unapologetically backward to a place where the only thing that matters is what God created and established. We must be willing to work together, live together and pray together for the Healing and Wholeness of our families, our communities of faith and our world.

When God established community, a common-union in God was knit and fasten together that we must collectively hold together through our works, witness, and prayers. The diversity of Gods people worshiping, working, praying and living together reflects the beauty of a quilt. Each patch brings with it a uniqueness that tells the story of an all-powerful and all-wise God. Each patch when threaded to another adds to the beauty of other, revealing both their differences and similarities. In that likeness, every faith brings with it a uniqueness that tells the story of an all-powerful and all-wise God. Each faith, when threaded together with the power of prayer bridges the beauty of one faith to another.

As we celebrate how prayer unites our faith, let us ask ourselves, how our faith reflects the power of God and adds to the beauty of religious diversity that tells the story of our God

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

Editorial

Why Host a Countywide Day of Prayer and Reflection?

Reverend Carmine Pernini

There are many occasions for division in our communities and nation today. Just as there are many causes of division, there are just as many responses to division for the sake of unity. For many, divisive rhetoric, intentions, acts, and laws must be met with direct action in the form of public demonstrations, lobbying/advocacy, get out the vote campaigns, and awareness raising theater. The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council (UCICC) has led and participated in all such activities. Still, in our world today, these actions potentially change laws and perhaps even the positions of elected officials and their constituents, but they hold little sway over hearts. Generally speaking, it is a common perception that rights that are exercised by one group are taken from or infringe on another's rights – gun restriction laws, police accountability legislation, and laws related to refugees and immigrants for example. This type of zero-sum-gain thinking, where rights from one group are perceived to be taken from another, leaves the answer to our present challenge of a divided society with equally divided hearts beyond the boundaries of the current field of play of advocacy and public demonstrations.

The fault line of such divisions is no less apparent among our religious communities. Such that is, despite divisions among religious traditions, there are commonalities. Prayer is one such commonality. It has been said, "To know the heart of a person, listen to the prayers on their lips." We may retort, "Actions speak louder than words!" But such a statement presumes that we all do what we want to do all of the time as well as assumes that all people share the same degree of freedom to act in ways that they would like. If that were the case, one of the other categories of commonality between some religious traditions, that is Sin (secularly, imperfection), would always be intentional or even more, not exist because we would all be perfect (and sinless)! However, even if you are optimistic about the power of the human will, it must be conceded that our intentions do not always correlate to our actions and vice versa. The category of Sin/imperfection exists because there is dissonance between our actions and intentions, and more importantly, God's intentions and our hearts. But, on the other hand, our prayers often reflect the world not as it is, but as it could be, perhaps even what God wants it to be. Do you ever wonder what might happen if people from all religious traditions prayed for peace? What might happen if people from all religious traditions prayed for the ability to forgive one another? What, I wonder, might happen if people from all religious traditions pray for a more just society?

Would you be surprised if I told you that they already do? Either weekly, daily, or five times daily, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs pray for these things all the time. Heck, even if people don't pray, surely we all long for a more just and peaceful world, right? But, unless you were to overhear one of these prayers how would you know?

You might say that such prayers are ineffective because of all the violence and division in our society. Fair enough. But, ponder the wisdom of a 19th century Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, who said, "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather, to change the heart of the one who prays." You have to wonder, what if *you* heard someone from another religious tradition pray for peace for *you*? What if *you* heard someone from another religious tradition pray for mercy for *you*? What if *you* heard someone from another religious tradition pray for justice for *you*? Granted, such a prayer will not necessarily change a law or affect a national or local election, but might such a prayer change *your* heart? What might it be like to hear the heartfelt prayerful intentions of faithful Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs? Sometimes our intentions are best expressed in our prayers, songs, and reflections on Sacred Scriptures. In so doing are we all not acknowledging our imperfections, that is, the hopes not only for the world, but ourselves even? What might our community be like if we were to listen to each other's prayer for peace, mercy, and justice? Might our hearts be changed? Do we not pray for changed hearts? Would we simply have greater empathy for one another after having listened to each other's prayer for a more peaceful, merciful, and just society, a society which, despite our actions or inactions, always seems to be just beyond our grasp? Upon hearing the prayers of people from different faith traditions, might we finally realize that we share a common hope deep within the inclinations of our heart? And, maybe with changed hearts and greater empathy, might our community be more peaceful, merciful and just? That, my friend, is the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council's intention, or prayer if you will, for the Union County Day of Prayer.

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council cordially invites you to come and listen to the prayers, songs, and meditations of Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists at the Union County Day of Prayer: Unifying Our Community Through Prayer on Tuesday, October 24 from 7-8pm at the Parish Community of St. Helen, 1600 Rahway Ave.,

Westfield, NJ.

Member Spotlight

The Most Reverend Manuel A. Cruz, D.D., Titular Bishop of Gaguari and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, was born in Havana, Cuba on December 2, 1953 to the late Juan and Caridad Cruz.

He came to the United States in 1966 with his parents, spending a year in Florida before moving to Union City, NJ. There he attended Union City public schools.

Bishop Cruz is a graduate of Seton Hall University and studied for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, NJ. He was ordained a priest for service in the Archdiocese of Newark on May 31, 1980 – the first Cuban-born priest ordained in the Archdiocese. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and a Master of Arts degree in Sacred Scripture from Seton Hall University.

Following his ordination in 1980, Fr. Cruz served as a parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Parish in Elizabeth. In 1982, he was appointed a parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark. In 1986, he was appointed to the Archdiocesan Vocations Committee. From 1991 to 1993, he served as Dean of Deanery 19, Northern Newark.

In 1995 he became a chaplain at Saint Michael's Medical Center and later was named director of the Archdiocese's Office of Pastoral Care in 2003. In this position, he directed the full range of Catholic chaplain and pastoral care services at all hospitals and medical centers within the Archdiocese.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II bestowed upon Fr. Cruz the honorary title Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title Monsignor.

In 2005, Newark Archbishop John J. Myers named Msgr. Cruz vice president for Mission and Ministry for Catholic Health and Human Services, the health care and social services arm of the Archdiocese.

He has served as a member of the Institutional Review Board of several New Jersey hospitals, as a member of the Ethics

Committee of Saint Michael's Medical Center, and as a member of the New Jersey Catholic Conference's Committee on Ethics, and is a lecturer in neuropathology at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Newark.

On June 9, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Cruz Titular Bishop of Gaguari and an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark. His Episcopal ordination was held on September 8, 2008. Today he serves in the Archdiocese as Regional Bishop of Union County, Vicar for the Archdiocese's Hispanic Apostolate, and Rector of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.



Reverend Manuel A. Cruz

October Spotlight on Faith



Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, New Jersey has a 100+ year history of commitment to social justice ranging from climate activism to racial justice, education equity, pacifism, reproductive rights, advocating for reducing gun violence, homelessness and hunger....

In January 2017, Rev. Robin Tanner arrived to serve as the Minister of Worship and Outreach at the Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, New Jersey. Rev. Tanner's arrival was part of a strategic commitment to more deeply invest in social justice outreach at Beacon and beyond their walls. Two years before the congregation rearranged their governance to replace the senior minister model with a

leadership team of three people. One of those positions (which Rev. Robin now fills) was dedicated to worship and outreach.

In the last year, Beacon has put up a Black Lives Matter Banner in partnership with Fountain Baptist Church including continuing their commitment to city-wide and internal dialogue to dismantle racism. They've also begun advocating for immigrant rights and created a Refugee Response Ministry Team. In June, they became a sanctuary congregation with the intention of opening their doors wider to include sanctuary to an immigrant in our community. They have continued a decade-long partnership with Chancellor Avenue Elementary School in Irvington which includes supporting the bi-weekly tutoring program,

coat and book drives, renovations to the library and community game nights. Their climate activism team took to the streets to march in D.C. and also recently completed a congregation-wide month of assisting folks in going green.

Currently, the congregation is committed to focusing in three areas of social justice: climate activism, refugee response and immigrant rights and racial justice. They are focusing in order to say a deeper "yes." This year their congregational theme is "social change through spiritual transformation," which means they will spend time cultivating the spiritual practices and theologies necessary for committed activism. Having a minister whose portfolio is dedicated to outreach has meant trips to D.C. to witness for healthcare, local organizing to break down the silos of social justice ministry, and hosting events in the congregation to utilize space to serve the movement.

Beacon is committed to amplifying the light in our world for another 100 years to come.

Special Edition

The news about the rescinding of the DACA program by President Donald Trump was expected and it is worth considering it for what it really means, understand how we got here and what we need to do.

Let's start by understanding how we got to this point. On December 16, 2005 The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 (H.R. 4437) also known as the "Sensenbrenner Bill" was passed by the United States House of Representatives, but did not pass the Senate. This bill proposed to increase the power of immigration authorities, cooperation with local authorities to prosecute, detain and deport undocumented immigrants and made a crime to help undocumented immigrants. For example under this bill any one conducting regular business dealings such as renting an apartment, providing transportation or assisting undocumented immigrants in any way was considered breaking the law and could end up in prison. This bill gave raise to huge immigrant's protests in 2006 through various major cities. As a result "Sensenbrenner Bill" was not passed and the immigration narrative was changed to "Compressive Immigration reform". The Democratic Party and the immigrant community made an implicit agreement to elect a Democratic Party candidate in 2008 presidential elections and with it pass a "Compressive Immigration reform" to provide legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants.

In 2008 President Obama, candidate at that time, promised immigration reform and was elected president with overwhelming support from the immigrant community. Although the Democratic Party won the presidential elections and had majority in the congress for two years, President Obama failed to deliver on his promise. 2012 presidential elections came and the immigrant community gave a second chance to president Obama to deliver on his promise and he did not deliver for a second time. Under pressure by the undocumented youth, the Dreamers, president Obama issued the executive order known as DACA. DACA protected young immigrants who met certain conditions from deportations, allowed them to work legally, get a driver license and enroll in college. They are not eligible for financial aid or government loans to pay for college or any other federal programs except social security and Medicare with 10 years of work history, paid taxes, and reach retirement age.

With DACA the dreamers could travel inside and outside the US, pursue better employment opportunities, visit their families on their countries of origins and enroll in colleges paying in state tuition with their own money because they did not qualify to receive student financial aid or government loans. Some states like Arizona and Georgia went to court to force dreamers to pay out state tuition and on June of 2017 a three-judge panel from Arizona overturned a 2015 decision by a trial court judge that said deferred action recipients were considered legally present in the U.S. under federal immigration laws and therefore qualified for state benefits. DACA recipients have thrived and their families have made the best under these conditions. Tom K. Wong in the 2017 National DACA Study (<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/08/27164928/Wong-Et-Al-New-DACA-Survey-2017-Codebook.pdf>) indicates that the DACA program has been a great success for the American economy. It is estimated that 45 % of DACA recipients are currently in school. Among those currently in school, 72 % are pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher. 65 % purchased their first car, 16 % have purchased their first home after receiving DACA. Among 25 years and older, this percentage rises to 24 %. (<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>)

This success have made DACA recipients to be admired by the some of the public, media and politicians. However, a second counter narrative is being put forward by some insinuating that is the fully adoption of the American way of life and the compassion of the United States of America that has helped the dreamers succeed under DACA versus the support of their undocumented parents, siblings, relatives and friends. This narrative of praising DACA recipients and categorizing the rest of undocumented immigrants as undeserving law breakers enforces the idea that anything different than main stream America is inferior and undesirable. The dreamers are being used by the media and politicians to communicate to the American public that American culture, economic system, consumerism, traditions, way of life and style are exceptionally good and as such they need to be revendicated by partially protecting those that have been integrated in the system since they were children because they will produce the highest return on investment for replicating American way of

Special Edition (cont'd)

life in general. All others that are undocumented proud of their own culture and origins and do not fit into the main stream America popular culture and Anglo-Saxon values are considered undesirable, law breakers, prompt to lawlessness and as such need to be harassed, prosecuted and deported.

We must oppose this narrative because the 800,000 dreamers are not different than the remaining 10 million undocumented immigrants. They come from the same families, communities, neighborhoods and culture. Both contribute and provide value to the United States economy. DACA has become a smoking screen for pundits to present a false humanistic dimension to their prejudice views against minorities, the poor, refugees and disenfranchised people.

DACA should be seen as to what it truly is “a small temporary victory that benefits 800,000 people that should be defended”. DACA cannot be defended by throwing under the bus the rest 10 million undocumented immigrants. The greatness of DACA recipients is not any different than the greatness and contributions of their undocumented parents, friends and relatives. Dreamers reflect good communities and families where they come from and behind every dreamer there are undocumented family members and friends that have played a major role in making them into good people. Undocumented parents, relatives and friends of dreamers deserve the same type of respect, dignity and permanent protection. Just as the DACA recipients, most of the undocumented immigrants did not come to this country through their own fault or desire. They were forced to leave their countries and families due to poverty, violence, political prosecution and lack of opportunities. We have 11 million dreamers that have shown with their hard and honest work that they contribute to this economy and without their labor the USA cannot function.

Undocumented immigrants file taxes every year and it is estimated that they pay a total 12 billion dollars a year in local and state taxes(<https://itep.org/immigration/> , <https://www.thenation.com/article/undocumented-immigrants-contribute-over-11-billion-to-our-economy-each-year/>) . About 13 billion in federal taxes (<http://money.cnn.com/2017/04/19/news/economy/undocumented-immigrant-taxes/index.html> , https://www.ssa.gov/oact/NOTES/pdf_notes/note151.pdf) for benefits they cannot claim. They can't get Medicare, Medicaid, SS, unemployment, financial aid, housing assistance ...etc. The 13 billion a year in federal taxes has helped the social security fund to be solvent. They are financing the benefits that many Americans get without being eligible to claim any benefits in return. They work hard in the farms growing our food, in the restaurants cooking and serving meals, work as baby sitters taken care of our babies and health care workers taken care of our disabled and elderly, they build houses and take care of gardens. They work on jobs that Americans don't want to do. There is nothing illegal about contributing to the economy. What is immoral is how our system exploits and harasses them. They are undocumented because our political system does not want to give them the opportunity to formalize their status. There is no line to legalize their status.

The USA does not have any moral authority to selectively enforce laws that harass, persecute, call illegal and law breakers to 11 million hard working honest undocumented immigrants when to this day under the pretense of liberty the USA harbors racist, Neo Nazis and white supremacist groups. The USA government does not have any moral authority to claim to be the defender of justice, law and order when it allows its police force to murder innocent black people and corporate greed to destroy the lives of millions of American people with full impunity.

As we defeated the “Sensenbrenner Bill” in 2006, It is time that we reorganize to demand dignity, permanent protection and respect not only for DACA recipients but for the entire 11 million of undocumented immigrants that contribute and bring value to the USA economy and are already part of the fabric of this nation.

Alejandro Jaramillo, Cosecha Volunteer Organizer www.lahuelga.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Register Now! Sign up for Day of Prayer and RSVP by October 19th at <https://uciccedayofprayer.eventbrite.com> or call 908.354.3040 x4371

4th Annual Day of Prayer and Reflection

Unifying Our Community Through Prayer



Union County Day of Prayer



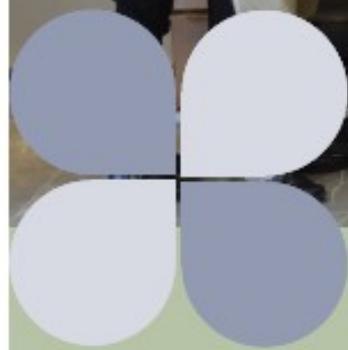
**The Parish Community of St. Helen
1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, NJ
07090**



Working to facilitate the building of bonds within the interfaith community, promoting the respect, inclusion and welcoming of others.

Sponsored by: Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council and Community Access Unlimited

BUILDING SUPPORTS FOR OUR KIDS



You're Invited

5th Annual Union County Youth Networking Conference

**October 25, 2017
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Community Access Unlimited
80 West Grand St
Elizabeth, NJ 07202**



For More Information Contact
Tanya Johnson at 908-354-3040 x4251 or
tjohnson@caunj.org

JOIN OPERATION WARM HEART

The Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless

Interested in providing hospitality for the homeless
in your church/center on Sunday evenings?

December 1st - March 28th



In the winter of 2003-2004, the Elizabeth Coalition organized and coordinated a group of concerned churches to create OWH. They addressed the needs of the street homeless, particularly in harsh winter weather. Each cold winter night, a partner church provides a warm meal and a place to sleep for up to fourteen guests.

This winter, we are in need of a hospitality partner to host Sunday nights. The Coalition will provide staff supervision, transportation, and access to our other Project Gatekeeper advocacy services. Each winter, we serve over 100 individuals through OWH. Through our intensive case management, we aim to move guests from the streets to traditional shelter, with the goal of permanent housing and a support system.



ERICA RODRIGUEZ
OWH COORDINATOR
908-355-2060 EXT. 304
ERODRIGUEZ@THEELIZABETHCOALITION.ORG



First Baptist Church of Cranford

Established 1887

130th Church Anniversary

"What a Mighty God We Serve"

Celebrating 130 years of Blessings and Service

with a luncheon at:

The Westwood

438 North Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Time: 12pm – 4pm

The Anniversary Keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. John H. Spencer, Jr.,
Immediate Past President of the New Jersey Convention of Progressive Baptists and
PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ENGLEWOOD

Adults \$65 Youth (under 12) \$45

For reservations information please contact Paula Lynn Reddick 908-406-0427

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL
CHARITIES

Music with a Mission!



SALEM Roadhouse CAFE

2017 SHOW LINEUP

FEBRUARY 11 - MICHAELA McCCLAIN BAND Original rock/pop tunes with a jazzy overtone, her music is hot, intelligent and extremely well crafted. Amazing musicianship on the part of each member of the band.

MARCH 11 - PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS Fusion jazz/rock ala Weather Report & others, technically brilliant with a HUGE sound, these guys define fusion. To see it performed right in front of you is a treat!

APRIL 8 - RICH KUBICZ, DAMN THE TORPEDOES & FRIENDS Various rock performers in an energetic show that is always fun and exciting. Tom Petty tributes plus Rich's originals and covers of other classic rock tunes.

MAY 13 - JAMES DEAN's WHISKEY CAFÉ JAZZ QUARTET Pure jazz quartet with big band sound, these are some very seasoned jazz musicians who come together to bring out some of the finest big jazz band sounds.

JUNE 10 - JOE LISA & QUARTET High quality modern jazz with some fusion overtones—more details coming!

JULY 8 - GEOFF GALLANTE & TRIO Geoff's fourth return to the Roadhouse, this young star mesmerizes audiences with his naturally talented trumpet playing accompanied by an all-star backup band.

AUGUST 12 - RIVA JEAN TRIO, the thinking mans trio, with opening by vocal sensation **SAM BRADY**. Riva Jean brings a big Broadway sound to the small stage with amazing composition and performance.

SEPTEMBER 9 - RAY POWERS AND FRIENDS Original and covers, rock, pop and other styles, Ray and friends always deliver a fun, exciting and energetic show. This years show will have talented players from all around to liven up the stage.

OCTOBER 14 - MELANIE MITRANO Brazilian/Portuguese jazz that's cool, sassy and sexy. Melanie has captured the essence of the Brazilian Bossa Nova style, with a salsa overtone. Melanie says that she will have musicians from Brazil on hand to accompany her and the band.

NOVEMBER 11 - TBA We're working on something really big here, keep watching.

Shh! The Roadhouse may be the best-kept secret in Northern New Jersey — the area's best jazz, rock, and even the occasional folkie in an intimate coffeehouse venue. The Roadhouse only opens to the public on the second Saturday evening of the month. It's where the area's musicians go to hear other musicians, and you might find yourself sitting next to a famous jazz drummer or a vocalist from Australia. You never know.

Musicians love the audience that takes the time to find the Roadhouse, and when musicians love their audience, they play their hearts out. Why does it take time to find the Roadhouse? We've cleverly hidden it in a church basement, where audience and musicians are within touching distance of each other. The acoustics are great.

The Roadhouse serves real coffee and tea — it's a coffeehouse, not a bar, after all. Hot and cold snacks and desserts are included in the admission. There's art, too, because art and music go together. You can sip your coffee while perusing original works available for purchase at the Roadhouse Fine Arts Gallery. Works change with each opening. Show proceeds always benefit local charities. Union TV34 records the shows for broadcast — so check out past shows on cable. Ask around. You might be surprised to find who knows about the Roadhouse.



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 8:00 PM, DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

SALEM Roadhouse CAFE @ Townley Presbyterian Church

829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083 Ph: 908-686-1028

E-mail: salemroadhouse@gmail.com Website: www.roadhousecafe.org

Facebook: facebook.com/salemroadhouse



500 Years Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

YOU ARE INVITED

Date: *Sunday, October 29, 2017*

Time: *4:00 pm*

Place: *Santa Isabel Lutheran Church*

908 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ

Email: pastorsantaisabel@yahoo.com

Tel: (908) 351-5999

There will be dinner and music after Worship

A Continuum of Caring Approach to the Criminal Justice System

Rev. Ron Thomas & Rev. Angelita Clifton
Fountain Baptist Church

IF NOT NOW THEN WHEN... What would happen, if all God's children got together? What could happen, if we got together as one community? What should we expect, if together we unified our efforts without feeling the need to be uniform, instead providing a wide range of comprehensive ministerial services. Imagine an expansive service delivery system with a continuum of caring meeting the underserved exactly where they are, providing exactly what they need.

Ministry in the Criminal Justice Context provides a Continuum of Caring approach to what is a major social justice issue in America. When we look at the issue in its entirety it appears complex and daunting. Yet, we believe that when we look closer it is possible to see that there are distinct areas that need to be addressed and in fact, in virtually every case these areas are being addressed. The challenge for the faith-based institutions is to decide where to focus and be effective. Further, there is no need for you to invent the wheel because, most likely, some other institution is already doing something.

There are many pre and post challenges created by the criminal justice system calling Faith-based Communities to rethink the way we do Prison Ministry while expanding the services we provide. The commitment requires a holistic approach encouraging Kingdom life while touching the least, the last and the left out with transforming love. There are so many spiritual communities standing in the gap, preaching and teaching about the Good News. There has always been a massive cloud of witnesses, dedicated people, working in food pantries and clothes closets in and around the area. Numerous conversations about providing a variety of services in a more coordinated way take shape regularly. Yet, as quickly as the idea of developing a comprehensive network surfaces, it sinks. Often sabotaged by the complexities inherent to developing an effective service delivery system with multiple stakeholders.

On November 15 2017, come join the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council at New Covenant Church of God Plainfield, to participate in the Think Tank to create [a Continuum of Caring](#) response to the hidden needs in our communities. We will gather together and begin strategizing to develop a sustainable service delivery system. We will begin by rethinking, who we serve, how we serve and what coordinated services we can develop. There are many vineyards to labor in while addressing the needs of the underserved. Whether choosing to serve populations in Station House Adjustment, Pre-Trial intervention (PTI), Probation, Parole, the Intensive Supervision Program, the Drug Court, State and County Corrections Facilities or re-entry programs, there is much work to be done. Remember those who can go inside the institution are few, but there are many who can serve in other vineyards. Let's come together to work together, building relationships for the greater good of the Kingdom. Join the fellowship, as we rethink the way we do ministry. If not now then when? We are blessed to be a blessing...come be a part of this Think Tank, you won't regret it!

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council



presents

A Continuum of Caring Think Tank:

Ministry in the Criminal Justice Context

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

5:30 Registration

6:00 – 8:00 PM Workshop

New Covenant Church

225 E 7th St

225 E 7th St, Plainfield, NJ 07060

For Further Information, Contact

Elder Rod Spearman - 908-377-0143 Rev. Ron Thomas - 908-477-4203



UCICC –CAU COMMUNITY HELP LINE



**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH FOOD? HOME HEALTH OR PERSONAL CARE
HOME AND PROPERTY CARE
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

Call CAU's Information and Referral Office at
908-354-3040 [X 4272] for answers and resources.

CAU's community service mission includes providing direct services to people in need as well as information on how to locate services provided by other agencies.

This month we highlight **three CAU services available to qualified recipients** in our Union County communities.

1] Free home delivered meals [6 week program; one meal per person per day] for Union County residents who are US citizens and their families who need food and who are:

- *Age 59 or younger [head of household];
- *Living in low income households;
- * Unable to access adequate food for themselves and their families.
- * Documents and interview are required to qualify.

Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.

2] Homemaker-home health aide personal care assistance in home for persons who require help to live independently at home. Services are provided at \$20/hour but may be free for those who are low income and age 60 or over, or any age with a disability. Services include light housekeeping, meal preparation, errands and personal care assistance.

Contact Bill Webb X 4206.

3] Home and property care services are offered at reasonable fees to assist home bound residents with yard and lawn care, leaf and snow removal, deep cleaning and clutter removal, home maintenance, handyman repairs and home improvements. There are no age or income requirements for these services and costs are based on which services and projects are selected. **Contact Bill Webb X 4206.**



NEW COVENANT
CHURCH
INSPIRING, EQUIPPING & SERVING

PRESENTS
FAMILY CONFERENCE 2017



Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Cindy Trimm

Sunday, October 15th , 2017

**9am - 3pm, Doors Open @ 8:30 am
225 E 7th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060**

GENERAL ADMISSION IS FREE

VIP Registration is \$30 (VIP includes hot breakfast, swag bag, special seating, child care, and access to seminars)

To Register, Please call 732.692.7881

Or Visit www.newcovenantnj.com or www.eventbrite.com

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

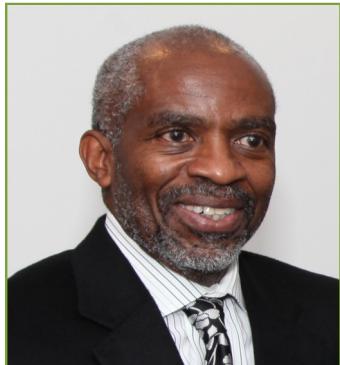
To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to rwright@caunj.org.



UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



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



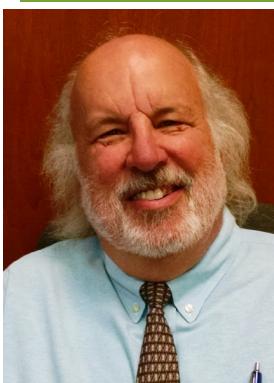
*Roderick (Rod) Spearman
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
rspearman@caunj.org*



*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*

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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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 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

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

Full UCICC Event

October 24, 2017 7 – 8 pm
“Day of Prayer”

The Parish Community of St. Helen
1600 Rahway Ave, Westfield NJ 07090

UCICC Steering Committee

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

Full UCICC Event

November 16
“Prison Re-Entry”

Stay tuned for more details

UCICC Steering Committee

December 7, 2017 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

Full UCICC Event

December 21
Time to be announced
“Homeless Vigil”

The First Presbyterian Church
11 Springfield Ave, Cranford, NJ 07016



Rod Spearman
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